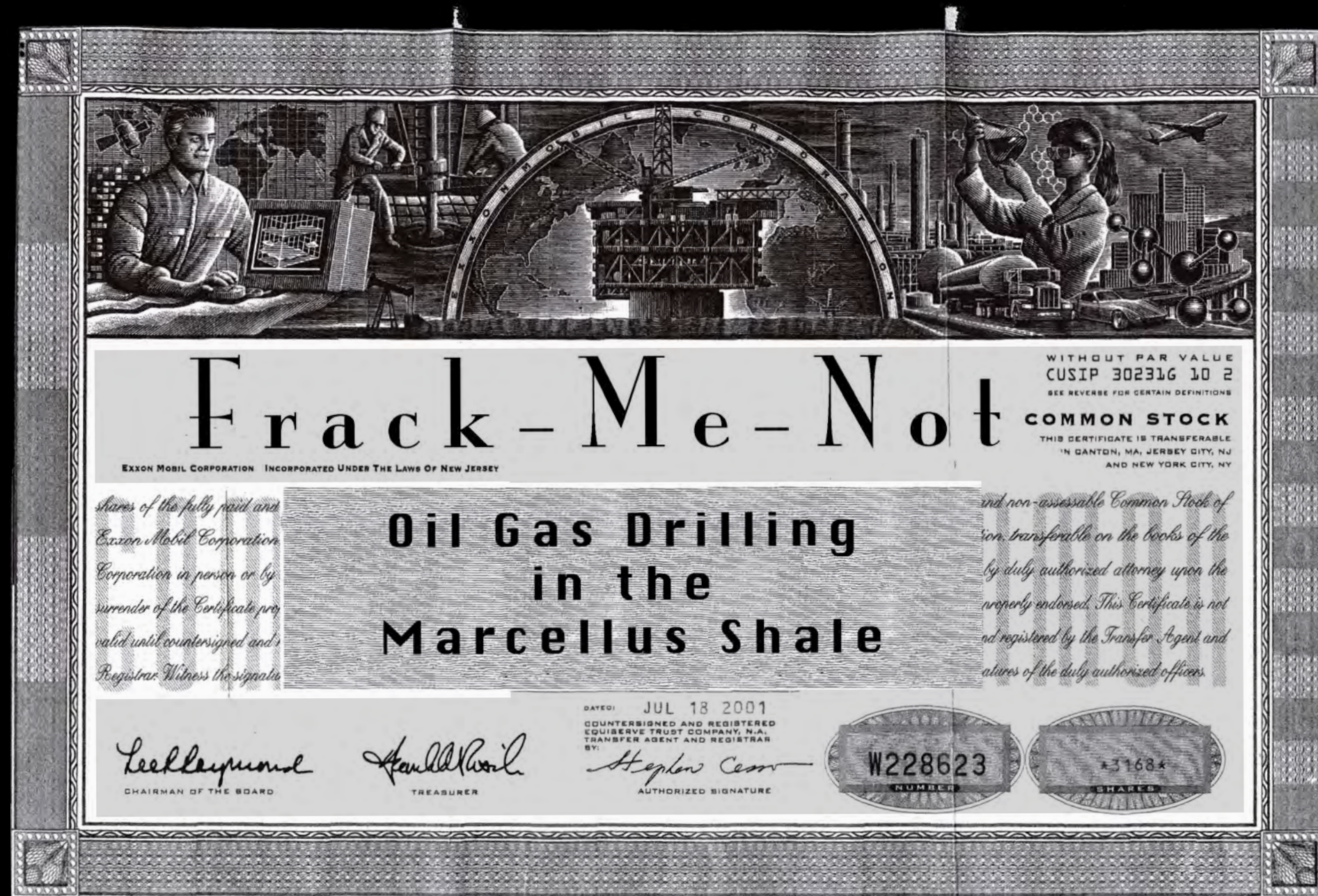


FRESH WATER IS WAY MORE VALUABLE THAN OIL!

- + The 20th century was the age of oil. The 21st will be the age of water.
- + Water is a \$400 billion dollar global industry.
- + Water scarcity is now a bigger threat than the financial crisis.
- + Of the 6 billion people on earth, 1.1 billion do not have access to safe, clean drinking water.
- + New methods of natural gas drilling require vast amounts of water and leave it poisoned, at least one third of the fresh water used becomes chemical waste and must be disposed of as hazardous, removed permanently from the water cycle.





Previously considered inaccessible, deep below New York, Pennsylvania Ohio, and West Virginia, lies the huge Marcellus shale formation promising dirty fossil fuel profits for companies ready to turn historic farmland into a wasteland of oilrigs, trucks and waste pits. This would strangle a resurgent agricultural movement, just now recovering from decades of neglect and abandonment by government policy favoring large scale industrial agriculture.



On the surface, natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale appears to be a viable solution to reliance on foreign sources of oil, occurring 2 miles below the surface of the land, and with the ability to reach out horizontally. However, for each of the thousands of proposed wells, Hydrofracking involves pumping between 2-9 million gallons of fresh water, sand, and some 250+ chemicals into the ground, first vertically, and then horizontally through the rock, violently exploding fissures across the rock and drawing more natural gas than could be tapped by a vertical well.



A most disturbing consequence is the consumption of fresh water, which is ruined with harmful fracking fluids, and then traveling underground; often leaching out into groundwater or into ponds or wells. Hydrofracking also releases heavy metals that were (and should remain) buried in the shale deposits. Basically, hydrofracking is about taking pure water and turning it into toxic waste!

Additionally, fracking fluids seep into the soil, affecting and poisoning food and agricultural crops as they disrupt and poison aquifers permanently and for all time.



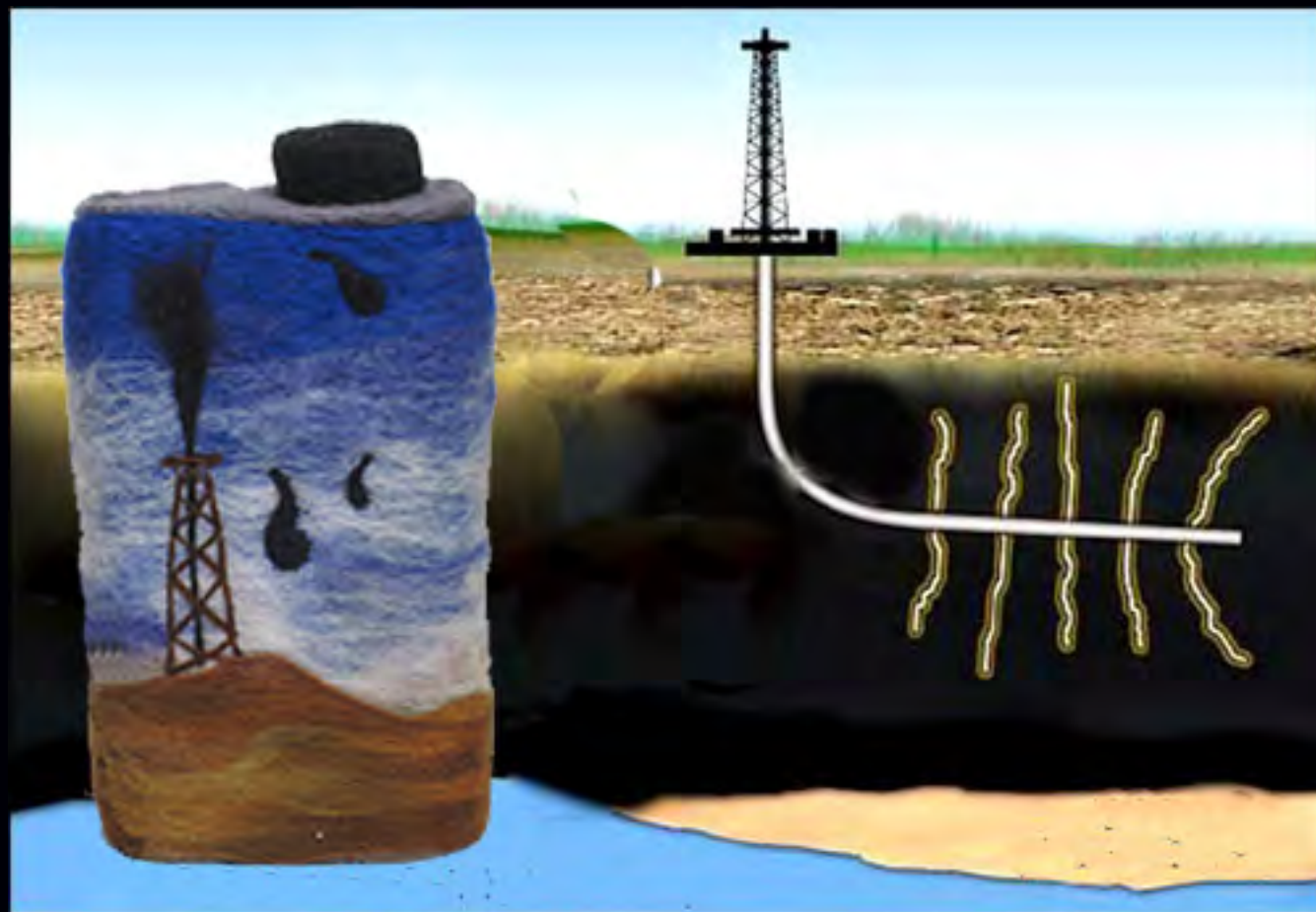
The gas companies really want to get under New York State. If we don't ban hydrofracking in NYS, the public health of millions of residents will be traded for seemingly cheap energy. In demanding a statewide ban, we make a statement for the rest of the country that this practice is unsafe, and represents short term gain at the cost of forever turning farmland into industrial wasteland. High teck Hydrofracturing makes a lot of fast money for the drillers but residents will grapple with health issues including cancer, birth defects, organ damage, neurological and respiratory impairment for generations.

We need to start thinking of ecological metrics in the same way we think about economic metrics and put public health at the center of the debate.



We must therefore push for a statewide ban of the process, and work towards a regional, and federal ban. While NYC residents share a huge watershed, everywhere is actually a watershed. The NYC watershed covers just 4% of the state's Marcellus Shale deposits. NYC residents have the opportunity and obligation to stand in solidarity with people living with the fear and threat of natural gas drilling in their communities. We have to stand up to the gas drilling companies, as well as to the individuals seeking to profit off of their land to the detriment of their neighbors.

A divide-and-conquer strategy that saves NYC's watersheds at the expense of the rest of the state is unacceptable.



RESOURCES

- + www.ogap.org - Oil and Gas Accountability Project
- + www.endocrinedisruption.com - Endocrine Disruption Exchange (effects of chemicals in drilling/fracking)
- + www.un-naturalgas.org - CDOG (local volunteer group for Chenango/Delaware/Otsego Counties)
- + www.damascuscitizens.org - Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (volunteer group in the Delaware Basin NY/PA)
- + www.chenangogreens.org - Chenango Greens (Chenango County)
- + www.squidoo.com/fracbusters - Fracbusters
- + www.splashdownpa.blogspot.com/2009/09/fracking-and-environment-natural-gas.html - SPLASH Down, PA (PA-based advocacy group)