

CROTON WATERSHED CLEAN WATER COALITION

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For Immediate Release*

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**Water Protection Group which Sued to Prevent DEC from
Fracking in NY State Forests Commends DEC's Reversal in Policy**

The Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Inc. (CWCWC) sued the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on April 28, 2011 in NYS Supreme Court to declare High Volume Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHFF) in NY State Forests contrary to the New York State Constitution and applicable environmental laws. On June 16, 2011, the Supreme Court Appellate Division Third Department granted its consent for CWCWC's Constitutional claim to proceed.

Following DEC's June 30th press release "New Recommendations Issued on Hydraulic Fracturing Review" that included a ban on drilling in the close to one million acres of NY State Forests, Fay Muir, President of CWCWC, stated, "We are heartened that DEC determined to adhere to New York's Constitution which guarantees that New York State Forests be forever preserved for wildlife and forest conservation rather than being forever fouled by gas rigs, pipelines and access roads. The value of these forests as silent sentinels protecting our drinking water far outweighs any fleeting monetary reward reaped by a handful of mining entrepreneurs."

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Petitioner Rachel Treichler added: "CWCWC's carefully crafted lawsuit and the outstanding papers prepared by attorney Jim Bacon no doubt played a role in the DEC's decision to ban hydrofracking in our State Forests. I applaud the DEC for recognizing the importance of protecting our State Forests from the harms of hydrofracking."

President emeritus, Marian Rose, noted the important role enacted by ADK's Executive Director, Neil Woodworth, in bringing this matter to the attention of DEC.

The Coalition notes that primary aquifers and only two watersheds, NYC and Syracuse, have also been removed from hydrofracking and hopes that similar reason will prevail in protecting all NYS watersheds as well as foodsheds and sustainable industries.

For legal questions please contact James Bacon, Esq., attorney for CWCWC at (845) 255-2026.

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The Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Inc. (CWCWC) is a not-for-profit organization comprising over fifty community, environmental, religious and housing groups throughout NYC, Westchester and Putnam Counties. CWCWC strives to protect and improve the waters of NYC's Croton Watershed as well as all NYS watersheds. We are an alliance of individuals and groups who believe that safe, clean and affordable drinking water is a basic human right.