



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **INJECTION WELL DISPOSAL OF DRILLING WASTE WATER IN FINGER LAKES REGION “IS ENVIRONMENTALLY DANGEROUS”.**

**These environmentally ... high risk proposals and must be rejected through appropriate legal means at the national, state and local levels.**

Today the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA) sent letters to organizations and municipalities in the Seneca Lake watershed expressing deep concern about proposals to inject the hazardous waste water resulting from drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale into injection wells in the Finger Lakes area. SLPWA points out that injection wells as a means of disposing hundreds of millions of gallons of hazardous waste water from the hydraulic fracturing process poses a very high environmental risk. The geologic formations of the Finger Lakes are not homogenous in terms porosity or permeability therefore the pathways of the injected waste water is unpredictable.

This letter was sent to individual board members of the following organizations: Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative, Town of Pulteney Town Board, Town of Pulteney Planning Board, Yates County Legislature, Steuben County Legislature. In addition, copies were sent to Congressmen Eric Massa and Michael Arcuri, Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Region 2 EPA Administrator Judith Enck, NYS DEC Commissioner Peter Grannis and Governor David Patterson.

SLPWA has three major concerns with the Chesapeake Appalachia proposal that pose high environmental risk to the Finger Lakes area: (1) predicting injection well performance in the Finger Lakes geology; (2) burial of drilling wastes not only from future drilling in New York State but from other states such as Pennsylvania in the Finger Lakes region; and (3) environmental impact of the trucking that will be required to deliver 200,000 gallons per day for ten years of hazardous waste water to the proposed well in the Town of Pulteney through other surrounding towns.

The SLPWA letter urges the immediate, active support of municipal and county officials and community organizations for more stringent regulations to protect our communities and their environments from the hazards of the natural gas drilling processes proposed for the Marcellus Shale play.

SLPWA supports environmentally and fiscally responsible drilling for natural gas. SLPWA opposes drilling for natural gas under the proposed vague guidelines and monitoring proposed by NYS DEC.

The Seneca Lake watershed contains 18% of the total water in the Oswego River Basin, a land area of 5,100 sq miles. Over 100,000 people depend on the water from the Seneca Lake watershed. Downstream from the Seneca Lake watershed is the Seneca River, Cayuga Lake, the Oswego River and eventually Lake Ontario. Whatever pollution affects the Seneca Lake watershed will eventually affect every body of water downstream from it.

SLPWA is an organization of over 270 property owners and residents in the Seneca Lake watershed formed in 1991 to promote the understanding, preservation and improvement of the water quality, natural habitat and general environmental conditions of Seneca Lake and its watershed. The association's website at <http://www.senecalake.org/> has current information regarding its activities.

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