

New York state officially bans fracking

Posted by Joan Russow

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"High-volume hydraulic fracturing poses significant adverse impacts to land, air, water, natural resources and potential significant public health impacts that cannot be adequately mitigated."

Elizabeth Henderson, an organic farmer in Newark, speaks out against fracking at a rally at today's New York State Fair. (*Glenn Coin* | gcoin@syracuse.com)

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Albany, N.Y -- It's official: New York has banned [fracking](#)

After more than seven years of study, the state Department of Environmental Conservation today issued [the final document](#) needed to ban the controversial drilling practice, known formally as high-volume hydraulic fracturing

"Prohibiting high-volume hydraulic fracturing is the only reasonable alternative," said DEC Commissioner Joe Martens in a prepared statement. "High-volume hydraulic fracturing poses significant adverse impacts to land, air, water, natural resources and potential significant public health impacts that cannot be adequately mitigated. This decision is consistent with DEC's mission to conserve, improve and protect our state's natural resources, and to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state."

Today's finding statement has been in the works since December, when [Martens said he would ban fracking](#)

because too little was known about the potential health impacts. Last month,

[the DEC released a 1,448-page report](#)

on fracking that began in 2009. Today's findings statement is based on that report.

The fracking ban is not permanent, and could be rescinded. Proponents and opponents of the

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ban both said they expect lawsuits to be filed.

Fracking has drawn more scrutiny than any other environmental issue in New York. The study released in May drew 260,000 public comments. More than 300 pages of the final study were devoted to responding to those comments.