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## **New York State Council of Professional Geologists**

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[www.nyscpg.org](http://www.nyscpg.org)

### ***PRESS RELEASE***

## **Developing Natural Gas from Shale in New York State (NYS)**

Many New Yorkers are concerned about the potentially adverse environmental impacts of proposed methods for extracting natural gas from the Marcellus shale and other shale formations in NYS. The New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG) recognizes the importance of maintaining public safety and practicing sound environmental stewardship for future generations, as well as the importance of securing affordable energy for a stable economy. NYSCPG neither supports nor opposes a particular policy regarding energy development in NYS, such as the development of natural gas from shale formations, but insists that this and other important environmental and energy policy decisions be based on reliable science provided by competent professionals, including geologists.

NYSCPG maintains that the professional experience and technical expertise of geologists are critical for addressing the energy development concerns of the people of NYS. For example, geologists in NYS routinely locate, test and evaluate water supply wells; assess the availability, integrity and quality of surface and ground water resources; analyze conditions to minimize soil erosion and pollution; monitor the adequacy of drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations to protect water systems, watersheds, and basin-wide hydrologic balance; coordinate solid and liquid waste handling and disposal; find and certify aggregate resources for roads and construction; evaluate the significance of potential impacts to ecosystems; monitor chemical use, handling and storage; investigate and remediate spills; evaluate soils and slopes for reclamation; and, prepare, review, and approve permits.

NYSCPG emphasizes that sound geologic science is essential to address the challenges presented by expanded shale-gas development in NYS. The development of these resources has the potential to provide positive economic benefits to the citizenry of the state, but the benefits must be assessed relative to the potential environmental costs. The decision to proceed or not to proceed with shale-gas development is a public policy decision that must be informed by the best available science and technology. Policy based on unreliable science puts the public at risk.

*NYSCPG promotes the passage of licensure for geologists in NYS to establish high professional standards and accountability for geologists who are addressing the environmental, resource, and energy needs of the people of NYS.*

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