



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

ANTOINE M. THOMPSON
SENATOR, 60TH DISTRICT
213 MAHONEY STATE OFFICE BUILDING
65 COURT STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202
(716) 854-8705
FAX: (716) 854-3051
ROOM 902 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-3371
FAX: (518) 426-6969
WWW.NYSENATE60.COM
EMAIL:
ATHOMPSON@SENATE.STATE.NY.US

CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
COMMITTEES
CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS
FINANCE
HEALTH
INSURANCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TOURISM, RECREATION
& SPORTS DEVELOPMENT
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY &
MILITARY AFFAIRS

December 28, 2009

Hon. Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 14th Floor
Albany, New York 12233

Dear Commissioner Grannis,

This letter is written in response to the impending December 31, 2009 deadline of the comment period on the Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DSGEIS) governing potential natural gas drilling activities in the Marcellus Shale formation. Your previous 30 day extension of the comment period is greatly appreciated and allowed for much needed time to review and digest the DSGEIS. After further investigation it has become clear that additional time to comment is critical to ensuring proper and adequate analysis of all potential impacts and policies being proposed. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to extend the comment period an additional 60 days, to February 28, 2010.

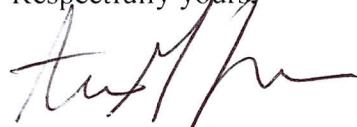
The complexity and sensitivity of the issues involved require that every step in the process be carefully adhered to and made available to all New Yorkers. Potential impacts to our environment, the health of our families and community require that we allow everyone interested adequate time to thoroughly read and respond to the DSGEIS, and fully participate in this process.

My own review and investigation into the process afforded me the opportunity to tour a drilling site in Towanda, Pennsylvania and speak with residents who've been impacted by drilling in Dimock, Pennsylvania. After my tour and discussion it has become even more apparent that there are still many issues in need of further examination.

We must thereby afford citizens, representatives of environmental groups, industry representatives and public officials, a longer opportunity to comment and participate in this process. Your receptiveness to my two previous requests for an extension are appreciated, but I again must request that the period in which DEC will be receiving comments be extended to at least February 28, 2010.

Thank you for your time & consideration. I look forward to working with you on this important matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Antoine M. Thompson', written in a cursive style.

Antoine M. Thompson,
New York State Senator, 60th District

Amt/rm/kng

Cc: Governor David A. Paterson
Hon. Malcolm A. Smith, Senate President Pro Tem
Hon. John L. Sampson, Democratic Conference Leader
Hon. Pedro Espada Jr., Senate Majority Leader
Ms. Cathy Calhoun, Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive Chamber
Ms. Julie Tighe, Deputy Director for State Legislative Affairs, Department of
Environmental Conservation