



**TALKING POINTS FOR
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL TOWN HALL MEETING
SUBJECT: HYDRAULIC DRILLING IN NEW YORK STATE
TESTIMONY BY ARDEN DOWN
ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE CHAIR
WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF NY
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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1. Natural gas drilling generally and fracking in particular should be subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act, as they both were before 2005.
2. The hydrofracking of horizontal wells in shale gas formations is a relatively recent development in fracking technology that has not yet been studied to determine the environmental threat that this drilling technique poses to aquifers and drinking water throughout the US where shale deposits are found.
3. If the frack hits any vertical fault lines, the faults could become pathways for gas and fracking fluid to enter strata above the shale, including aquifers. This hazard is of particular concern in New York because the lower tier of the state is riddled with likely major faults and with localized faults that still need to be mapped.
4. Seismic data should be collected and analyzed on each lateral area to be fracked. Seismic data will show if any faulting is present in the target fracking zone and if that faulting communicates with any aquifers.
5. As part of its comprehensive two-year study on the effects of hydrofracking, the EPA should study samples taken from gas drilling sites to determine the chemical composition of the frack fluid and how those chemicals interact with minerals in the ground.
6. The EPA must also gauge the healthcare costs that will result from hydrofracking. Contamination is a public health problem as much as an environmental problem, and the EPA's stated mission is "to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment."
7. The Deepwater Horizon disaster in Pennsylvania has demonstrated how little we understand about the risks that we are taking. We need to understand those risks thoroughly before we can develop protocols that would allow us to develop this natural resource in a safe way.