

County of Shenandoah

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DISTRICT 1 - DICK NEESE 540.740.3414
DISTRICT 2 - STEVE BAKER 540.477.3550
DISTRICT 3 - DAVID FERGUSON 540.984.8777
DISTRICT 4 - SHARON BARONCELLI 540.459.4165
DISTRICT 5 - DENNIS MORRIS 540.436.9149
DISTRICT 6 - CONRAD HELSLEY 540.481.6167

600 N. Main Street, Ste 102
WOODSTOCK, VA 22664



Tel: 540.459.6165 Fax: 540.459.6168
www.shenandoahcountyva.us

OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

DOUGLAS C. WALKER
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MARY T. PRICE
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution to the U.S. Forest Service on the George Washington Natural Forest Plan, Drinking Water Resource Management and Hydraulic Fracturing Natural Gas Mining

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service is preparing a draft forest plan and environmental impact statement for release in January 2011 that will govern management of resources within the George Washington National Forest (GWNF) for the next 15 years, and

WHEREAS, water sources within the GWNF serve an estimated 8,452 residents in the Shenandoah County towns of Strasburg and Woodstock, and

WHEREAS, the Shenandoah Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on May 12, 2009 calling on the U.S. Forest Service to provide comprehensive management and protection of drinking water resources in the Forest, and

WHEREAS, nearly all of the GWNF on the western border of Shenandoah County is underlain by the Marcellus shale geological formation, a potential source of natural gas that is mined by a drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing, and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing requires from two to 10 million gallons of water per well, combined with sand and numerous chemicals, to break up shale and access natural gas, a drilling and mining process that has been linked to surface water and drinking water contamination, air pollution and soil contamination in a dozen states, and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing gas mining has been linked to other significant adverse environmental impacts, including massive water withdrawals, gas migration from new and abandoned wells, the inability of public treatment plants to adequately treat millions of gallons of gas mining waste water, underground injection of brine waste water, improper erosion and sediment control, improper cementing and casing of wells, over-pressurized wells, significant increases in industrial truck traffic with subsequent increases in accidents on rural roads, and other accidents and spills, and

WHEREAS, Congress' 2005 Energy Policy Act exempts the hydraulic fracturing drilling process from long-held environmental regulations such as the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Superfund law and other environmental regulations, and

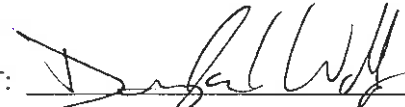
WHEREAS, the exact chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process are currently considered 'proprietary' and therefore are not disclosed to federal, state or local health officials or the public, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the midst of a two-year study of effects of hydraulic fracturing gas mining on water quality and other resources, to inform the development of regulations and recommendations to reduce environmental impacts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Shenandoah Board of Supervisors requests that the U.S. Forest Service, in the revised management plan for the GWNF, act to aggressively protect drinking water resources, and prevent other significant environmental harm, by prohibiting hydraulic fracturing natural gas wells or mining in the National Forest.

Approved on a motion by Supervisor Helsley and seconded by Supervisor Morris and by a vote of 6-0 at a regularly scheduled meeting by the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors on November 9, 2010.

ATTEST:


Clerk to the Board


Chairman of the Board of Supervisors