



City of Niagara Falls, New York

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Office of the City Council

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Falls council to pass ordinance opposing hydraulic fracturing and treatment of “fracking water” in city facility

City lawmakers to send message to Governor by resolution

The Niagara Falls City Council, at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday March 5, 7pm at City Hall, will review and consider for passage two resolutions regarding hydraulic fracturing in New York State and its potential environmental impact upon Niagara Falls.

“Let this day – March 5, 2012 – go down in the history of the City of Niagara Falls as the day our City Council went on record as opposing hydraulic fracturing and the treatment of water resulting from that process in our city. And let this day stand in sharp contrast to those tragic environmental mistakes of our city’s past that resulted in disease and death within our community,” said Niagara Falls City Council Chairman, Sam Fruscione.

At the meeting the council will address two resolutions: 1) a city ordinance titled: “Niagara’s Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance,” and, 2) a resolution to be sent to Governor Cuomo titled, “Dangers of Hydraulic Fracturing in New York State.”

City council member, Glenn Choolokian said, “We won’t let the temptation of millions of dollars in reward for out-of-town companies, corporations and individuals to be the driving force that puts the health and lives of our children and families at risk from the dangers of hydraulic fracturing and its toxic water. I will not take part in bringing another Love Canal to the City of Niagara Falls.”

Hydraulic fracturing is a natural gas mining method that drills deep wells after which large quantities of chemically treated water is pumped into the well to “fracture” the earth and release the gas within the shale. The water pumped into the well is a blend of chemicals drawn from a base of approximately 600 various toxins. A large portion of the water is returned to the surface and is highly contaminated, requiring treatment.

“To those who see the treatment of fracking water as a money-maker, I ask: How do you justify the cash received from poisoning our river against the disease and death that will result from that act? You can’t un-poison a water supply, toxins have consequences,” said Robert Anderson, Jr., a three term member of the city council.

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The Niagara Falls Water Board and water treatment plant executives have recommended, in the recent past, that the City of Niagara Falls consider accepting – for treatment – the chemically contaminated “fracking” water as a money-maker for the water facility. Environmental groups and concerned citizens from both the United States and Canada have vigorously gone on record as opposing any plans for treating hydraulic fracturing waste water in Niagara Falls.

Council Chair Fruscione stated, “Accepting hydraulic fracturing waste water for ‘treatment’ is a fool’s errand. Can we put a price tag on fresh water? Can we perform a profit and loss calculation on the health of a single human being? Haven’t we learned our lesson since Love Canal broke into the national media over thirty years ago? It’s very upsetting that we have individuals in this community working behind the scenes to put millions of gallons of poisoned water through our treatment facility.”

Environmental leaders have detailed the health dangers of releasing the fracking toxins into the Niagara River for eventual exposure to millions of water users downstream of the water treatments facility. With each hydraulic fracturing company having their own unique “brew” of water (the chemical contents of which they are not currently forced to reveal to the public) it is impossible to determine exactly what toxins are in the water. Additionally the hydraulic fracturing process causes natural occurring radiation in the shale to blend with the water and return to the surface further contaminating the water.

“Our once great city and all the families of Niagara Falls have been through so much over the years. With Love Canal alive in our memories we aren’t going to allow another environmental tragedy to happen in our city, not today, not ever,” said Glenn Choolokian.