

## Press Release

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Contact: Doug Wood, Grassroots Environmental Education  
(516) 883-0887 or (516) 423-6021

# Educational Website and Social Media Spur Comments to DEC on Fracking

*"Thirty Days of Fracking Regs" attracts thousands of  
participants who submit science-based comments*

(Ithaca, NY) Dr. Sandra Steingraber, Distinguished Scholar at Ithaca College, in association with Grassroots Environmental Education and other environmental and health organizations across the state, has created a new online initiative called "Thirty Days of Fracking Regs" which helps participants understand and comment on the regulations proposed by DEC for fracking in New York State. The public comment period runs from December 12th to January 11th.

The online initiative (on the web at [www.ThirtyDaysofFrackingRegs.com](http://www.ThirtyDaysofFrackingRegs.com)) takes an Advent Calendar approach to commenting on the draft regulations - known as the "regs." Each day, Dr. Steingraber selects a new regulation and explains what it means and the scientific reason why it is inadequate or insufficient to protect public health. Participants then formulate their own comments and submit them to the DEC electronically.

"Each day throughout the 30-day comment period, we'll open up a door into the book of regs and see what's on the other side," explains Dr. Stiengraber on the home page of the web site. "I'll bring some plainspoken English and, when I can find it, scientific data, to illuminate our daily explorations. Then, in your own words, you'll create an informed comment and send it to the DEC."

"We loved this idea right from the start, and we're thrilled to be working with Sandra," says Patti Wood, Executive Director of Grassroots, who, with her husband Doug, created the web site and manages the Facebook and radio aspects of the campaign. "The people of New York are smart, savvy and dedicated, and Sandra is the perfect teacher. The DEC wanted science-based comments? The Governor wants to make this decision based on science? That's what they're going to get!"

To date, topics for examination and comments have included Section 560.4 dealing with proposed setbacks, Section 560.7(i) which concerns radioactive waste, Section 560.7 with more details on waste management and reclamation, Section 560.6 (c) (28) which deals with the practice of lighting off excess gas, or "flaring," and Section 190.8 which concerns drilling underneath state-owned lands.

The educational campaign, which includes an active social network strategy coordinated with a state-wide radio campaign using both commercial and public radio stations, is being funded by contributions from individual donors.

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*About Grassroots:*

*Grassroots Environmental Education is a registered 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit organization based on Long Island. The organization's mission is to educate the public about the links between common environmental exposures and human health impacts. More information is available at the organization's web site, [www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org).*