

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR KARA HAHN



FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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DON'T FRACK WITH LONG ISLAND

Legislators Hahn and Horsley file bill to prevent toxic hydrofracking waste from coming to Suffolk County

HAUPPAUGE, NY – Despite Long Island’s considerably comfortable distance from the frontline on the national debate over hydraulic fracturing, in a still draft environmental impact statement on the process being prepared by the State’s Department of Environmental Conservation, Suffolk County’s Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant in West Babylon was identified as a potential site to process the chemically laden *flowback* waste products produced during extraction. In response, Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) and Deputy Presiding Officer Wayne R. Horsley (D-Lindenhurst) this week filed a bill that will prevent the acceptance of the hydrofracking wastewater by any of the County’s sewage treatment facilities. Four other locations in Nassau County were also cited as potential dumping sites for this waste.

“It dumfounds me how anyone could think such an environmentally sensitive area like Long Island, and specifically Suffolk County, would be a good place to bring the toxin filled wastewater produced by hydrofracking,” said Legislator Hahn. “Our facilities are not equipped to deal with the kind of chemical concoction used at these sites and would ultimately result in this waste being untreated and discharged directly into the Atlantic Ocean.”

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“To think that Bergen Point on the Great South Bay is a viable dumping site for wastewater produced from Hydraulic Fracturing is simply unconscionable,” said Deputy Presiding Officer Horsley whose district includes the treatment facility.

As the waste produced by hydrofracking is comprised of water and chemical additives, such as biocides, surfactants, viscosity-modifiers emulsifiers and other known carcinogens, the bill introduced by Legislators Hahn and Horsley is seen as a proactive approach to protecting both the health of Suffolk County’s residents and its unique and fragile environment.

At the heart of this debate are detailed accounts from the neighbors of hydraulic fracturing sites highlighting both the health and environmental devastation caused by a toxic brew of chemicals used to extract gas from deep within the earth’s crust. In a growing number of communities above the gas-rich Marcellus Shale, locals are doing something never thought possible, setting their drinking water alight. As the process expands from West Virginia and Pennsylvania to interior New York and beyond, so too does the possibility of its byproducts being exported to places like Long Island, making now a critical time to confront this possibility.

The measure will be introduced at the Legislature’s next full meeting on March 13th. From there it will be before the Public Works & Transportation Committee on March 20th and could be up for a final vote by March 27th.

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