

This would be a serious and negative invasion to our environment. Has caused many problems in other areas where gas drilling occurred and hope this does not happen here. [12]

Stop twisting the facts, using unfounded scare tactics to further your agenda. [Question 2]
Absolutely Not. [18]

Gas drilling is very hazardous to the environment and to one's health. I am totally against it! [24]

Why does any town have the right to ban drilling? [25]

KEEP MY WATER CLEAN!!! [28]

People complain about foreign energy, then balk if production comes to their community. Our state needs jobs, our economy needs influx and we need more abundant energy. [33]

Duke University study - fact not fiction

“Gasland” exposé - fact not fiction

Numerous gas drilling catastrophes - fact not fiction

Corporate greed, to hell with humanity - fact not fiction

We DO NOT need this gas. Stop Greed - start Green

Please stop them from destroying America. We need fresh water not chemical laden water. [54]

Drilling is no different than wind towers. It will benefit a few and cause numerous problems and expense for everyone else. If the state thinks it is a good thing, then let it be done on state land not private property. There are too many questions and not enough honest answers. [55]

Responsible, transparent alternative energy is a good thing. Fracking as currently available is not responsible or transparent. The risks to the environment with irreversible consequences are too high. [55]

Yes, we should absolutely have the power to BAN gas drilling here!! [69]

I cannot believe that with all the bad press about gas drilling and the towns that let the gas companies in and all the bad things that have resulted from it. And how unhappy a lot of people are with the gas drilling that anyone in the town of Meredith would even consider entertaining the idea of gas drilling. There is more to life than \$\$!!! Did we learn nothing from the wind turbine ordeal? [71]

To the town board: please ban hydrofracking in Meredith. If fracking comes to Meredith, we will move our farm elsewhere. [75]

How the gas companies protect my water, health and property values directly affect how I feel about gas drilling in Meredith and surrounding towns. Meredith has long been a farming community and our water feeds those farms and those farms feed us and many more. We need to protect both our water and farms. [81]

In the case where drillers cannot be banned, they must provide escrow funds to cover the purchase of all residential properties made uninhabitable by polluted water caused by said drilling. [84]

I would agree to gas drilling in our town if it would benefit in any way the residents of the town of Meredith. [91]

Back in the 1960's there was a gas well drilled between Meridale and North Franklin near Rte. 28. There is no trace of it seen now. There is a house on the site. So much for horrible environmental damage. A town ban on drilling should be labeled an "Act for Enrichment of the Legal Profession" since the lawsuits will be endless. NYS DEC regs will preempt any local law anyway. [104]

[NO FRACK SIGN] [105]

This is as bad an idea as the wind turbines were/are. We need to treat this the same way. [106]

While drilling may benefit the local economy in the short term, I'm not yet convinced that this activity won't have an adverse effect on our land and well water. Of course I'd like to see my neighbors prosper, but not at the possible expense of the community as a whole. The Town should retain the right to ban any potentially harmful activity. [110]

Every proposal would have to be evaluated to determine if the project benefits outweigh the risks. Could be a hard thing to do without a list of priorities, such as priority #1 - protect groundwater #2 - protect infrastructure #3 - protect quality of life, etc. This is very similar to the wind turbine issue. The gas is not going to disappear so I would prefer to have Meredith wait until after at least ten years of data from PA is gathered and analyzed. As with most things the gas extraction process should improve as experience is gained. [119]

Just the very threat that this region will be fracked will lower our property values if drilling starts in Meredith and no one will be able to sell his/her property. Fracking will destroy livestock farming and make the town into an industrial zone. I could think of hundreds more reasons why we should not destroy our beautiful Catskills with fracking. [125]

I am worried about what fracking would do to our water supply, which would affect every home and business, from farmers and their crop and livestock, to families with young children, and the schools kids attend, to seasonal visitors like hunters. [128]

We would also favor a statewide ban. [136]

We do NOT need more regulations about anything! There are enough FEDERAL and STATE laws and regulations to choke a hippo! Enough is enough! I know you won't be showing this response to the Board or if you do they won't even acknowledge that there are opponents to any more regulations! [144]

We are strongly opposed to gas drilling that would adversely affect the quality of our lives, our drinking water and our property value. [148]

I am of the opinion that the potential downside outweighs any upside. If even one person is exposed to chemicals it is not worth it. [149]

I feel we have way too much government telling landowners what they can and cannot do with their land. It seems like my neighbor has more say on my property than I do. [154]

I feel there is not enough info on the end results after drilling for ten years to allow it to happen. Also questions like: what will eventually happen to our property values and more importantly our realty need to be answered. [158]

I feel it will cause a major risk factor as well as causing long-term health effects. [158]

Environmental disasters have already occurred! Water is precious, this town should do everything in its power to prevent drilling. New York City will filter its water supply - what about the rest of us - are we going to have a filtration system? We need to protect our water supply!!! [160]

Please let us know how we can help prevent gas drilling here! [168]

Let us not have a repeat of the environmental and biological catastrophes of Pennsylvania in our town. [169]

There should be no gas drilling until it has been thoroughly studied and deemed 100% safe for [drinking] wells and the environment and the companies divulge what chemicals are used. [172]

Please do whatever you can to NOT let this happen & destroy our beautiful way of life. Thank you! [174]

Our town should have a no drill in Meredith. Why should the state have the final say? We are seniors and want to continue living in our town where we can drink the water and enjoy the rest of our life in our home. So the board should put down drilling, which I hope they do. No drilling in all of Meredith. The town board should make a stand. No drill in all of Meredith. [183]

Other towns have passed regulations banning gas drilling so I would like to know why we have not done so too? This is our home and it is beautiful and we want to keep it that way. I want my children and grandchildren and on in the family to be able to enjoy this beautiful place. Please let us keep it so. [192]

I enjoy my spring fresh water! [199]

We do not want this in our town. NO. [200]

Water will soon be the most valuable commodity in the entire country. I am confused as to why lawmakers are so short-sighted and do not understand this. Home rule is imperative - we are in a water percolation (therefore purification) area - we cannot jeopardize this!!! I guess Albany just figures when we run out of safe water we'll just get it from China. [206]

Drilling for gas would be beneficial to our economy. There should, however, be safe drilling practices made. [211]

We have lived here 25 years and enjoyed very good water. Please don't allow these outsiders to come into our area and destroy our fine way of life. [212]

I believe that if enough people agree to ban gas drilling in Meredith, then the town should be allowed to ban it. I understand though that many people are broke right now and those dollar signs are looking pretty good. Who am I to say what somebody else should, or should not, be

allowed to do with their own property? It's a tough call. I can definitely say though that I DO NOT WANT DRILLING! [217]

All taxpayers should have a right to vote on this issue. [218]

We're extremely worried about gas drilling in Meridale. I've heard many horror stories about water contamination and health problems occurring as a result. I would like to be notified of any drilling that occurs in the town. Thank you. [225]

We all know because of the previous governor, the new governor has no money for the state. Therefore they will pass gas drilling!! After drilling, when the water gets polluted, the people who do not drill (like me) - is the state going to buy my house/property because without water there is no home or survival on my property? People do not realize the drilling goes 9000 feet below the surface and across. We all are going to get polluted if they drill. [226]

1) we are not against drilling for gas but are against putting any chemicals into the ground. 2) we also question if it is safe why is the state restricting its use in the watershed and other places? [227]

Keep our water supply safe. Don't let the \$ ruin our town. I don't believe a word the profit driven gas companies say as far as safety is concerned. [228]

Decisions should be left to the individual landowners as to what they want to do regarding drilling on their property. [229]

The ownership of real property conveys certain rights in that property which include:

1. The right to possess and occupy
2. The right to improve and profit from
3. The right to lease in whole or part
4. The benefits of the contents of the property ie: mines, minerals, oil, gas, etc.
5. The right to transfer to another any or all of the above rights.

To deny land owners of any of those rights without just compensation is unconstitutional in my opinion. [233]

Once gas drilling is allowed and perhaps, it poisons all our water, there is no turning back!! The damage is done forever and we'll be shafted. No good water. [239]

The risks do NOT outweigh the benefits. I am extremely concerned about protecting the quality of my well water as well as the quality of life in the Town of Meredith. I'm sure I could never sell my house with a gas drilling site nearby. And by the way, if this procedure is so safe, why is it banned in the New York City watershed? [243]

Any procedures or chemicals should be detailed before gas companies even ask to drill and neighbors should be informed and allowed to object if a neighbor is thinking of allowing drilling on their property. [260]

Drill Baby Drill [262]

Not all landowners are full-time residents and therefore cannot vote on it if a proposal was made to be voted on at the next election. And not all voters are land owners so they do not have a vested interest. [263]

We still think we should have allowed Wind Energy in the Town. It is green energy that we wouldn't have to rely on overseas Oil!! We could have started a Meredith Electric Coop. We could have had cheap electric being we were in the area that would allow the turbineer to function properly! [268]

Highly opposed of gas drilling... especially in my area. [277]

It's a subject that needs more study. Nobody knows for sure, not the DEC or me. [281]

Totally against any drilling. It causes problems in our water supply and wildlife. The state should not have the power to decide on where to drill. We had problems in the past with the possible industrial wind turbines coming into the town of Meredith. We do not want to go through this fight again. It creates problems with neighbors at war with each other. Our town is just fine the way it is. That is one of the reasons we chose this town to live and raise a family. Not only should the town board make any decisions, it should be a majority vote from the taxpayers as well. [283]

Absolutely - it should be a decision made by each individual land owner. [286]

The state of New York or the federal government should have no power or right to control the rights of the Town of Meredith to have the power to ban gas drilling within the town's borders!! [288]

If the drilling companies can guarantee no spills, then we should explore drilling here. If they cannot, NO! (I don't trust the state to make the decision. Intelligent people who live here should make the call.) [303]

Natural gas extraction would be yet another example of corporate theft of local resources - aided and abetted by federal and state politicians. We sold our water to NYC for next to nothing and now most of our gas would be a shipped off to Europe or the highest paying offshore markets. Any sustainable future will be dependent upon uncontaminated water for our growing and drinking (which includes NYC). Water is the new gold. A state-wide ban in of hydrofracking is the only way to secure the future for our families and children and to preserve our precious environment. [309]

Thank you all once again for time and effort put in by all of you. Our main concern is our water. Methane gas buildup emissions can cause explosions. National Academy of Sciences tested 26 wells setting on Marcellus shale - some within one kilometer of wells and some farther from drill site - all contained signs of methane gas - 9 contained levels above what the Department of Interior called "requires immediate attention"! Where will the million gallons of water come from if not from our water - the ground prep will cause chaos - traffic from heavy trucks - the land will be permanently scarred and wildlife will be destroyed. [312]

Before we can make any decision in regards to GAS DRILLING, we need qualified experts to educate and inform us about gas drilling. Some of the questions we need answered are:

1. Does it pose a threat to the environment? If, YES, what are the threats? ANSWERS NOT FROM EXPERTS PAID BY CORP. GAS COMPANIES.

2. Are there any existing GAS Drilling areas that experience a procedure that was SAFE to the environment? Can we study their system of gas drilling and how long have they been doing Gas drilling? Our water ways MUST BE PROTECTED!

3. Can we have a team made of town locals and other individuals to attend workshops/classes to teach us about the procedure of gas drilling.

4. God forbid something happens, who will assume full responsibility and liability? Lease the land for 3-5 years, if the Town of Meredith decides to go forward with the gas drilling. Hire a highly skilled contract lawyer. Make sure the gas drilling site be monitored periodically for safety and adhering to governmental regulations.

5. What are the financial benefits to the Landowners of the Town of Meredith? Will they sell us Stock Shares in the company and give us a percentage of the profits?

I trust these questions will point us in the RIGHT DIRECTION in regards to GAS DRILLING.

P.S. Another issue we must address is the FLOODING in this area!

Thank You [314]

If fracking is so safe why prohibit it in the watershed? [315]

The State of New York should not be able to make laws or rulings governing local communities. The residents and local officials know and best understand local needs! [326]

This technology is highly invasive, polluting the environment and resulting in negative health problems where it's been done. Cradle to grave health, environmental/economic costs have not honestly been measured and evaluated by the industry or government scientists. Yes, we need energy, but need to consider and use safer alternatives. [328]

There has been successful gas drilling in northern Pennsylvania and it has been very good for the local economy. In addition, the gas companies improved the roads in the area. [329]

You did not want the windmills! Now look what might be shoved down your throats!! [332]

Why destroy the environment, as well as the land value, to benefit only a few of our landowners? [339]

There are too many unknowns in gas drilling. It cannot be done safely. At stake is our water supply. If we don't have gas, we will still live. If we don't have water we will die. [350]

I think the future of Meredith should be in tourism, agriculture and a combination of both. I.E. Hamden Brook Farm. Gas drilling will benefit the gas companies 1st and foremost. It will be a short term boost to the folks who sell out. It will be nothing but bad for those of us that want to grow old here and that depend on our food. Look around the country to compare our backyards to those that have allowed mega corps to do as they wish. [374]

Gas drilling can be harmful to local drinking water. Some areas that have approved this drilling can actually set their water on fire. [376]

To whom it may concern, gas drilling, from what I've heard, is not a good idea. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that putting toxic chemicals into the ground through our water table is

not a benefit to anyone. Furthermore no gas company can guarantee containment of spills and even the cleanup is never 100%. In 50+ years, I have learned, government, business and money don't always have a good outcome. As parents and residents we have or should have the responsibility to keep our land clean and safe for the future. We need to make good choices! Geothermal, hydro-electric, solar. We also should stop being spoiled and learned to be conservative! I vote no to drilling. [376]

Fracking is not safe for our area plain and simple! Ban it NOW! [379]

Until the drilling technology can be guaranteed safe, the risk of permanent contamination is too great. This resource has been there for millions of years, why not leave it for our children when future technology is sound? [389]

The disastrous practice of high-volume hydraulic fracturing presents toxic conditions on so many fronts: air, water, roads, noise, real estate value, health, community character and relationships, etc. No amount of money could possibly mitigate these consequences. [391]

We have followed the pros/cons of gas drilling and remain undecided. The problem is the rhetoric. Those opposed to gas drilling become overly emotional and rely on questionable statistical sources. Conversely, those for drilling tend to be represented by big business and the large cities, who we question their true motivation. History has shown (reservoir/mandated septics/NYC water requirements) that upstaters' needs tend to be pushed aside based on the large cities. With that in mind, Meredith needs to be able to police itself in allowing/banning gas drilling. [397]

I would really like to see gas drilling in our town as long as it is done by regulations set up by the state. Along with windmills our town is selling us down the tubes. [413]

As much as I think that gas drilling would be horrible for our town, I also think landowners should not be banned from specific uses. Education is the key to keeping the drilling out of our township. [417]

We are so lucky to be living in such a beautiful and resource rich state. It is my desire to protect and conserve our natural bounty instead of squandering it for hopes of a quick dollar and a few jobs (which will more than likely not be given to any Meredith resident). Let's talk wind turbines again. Clean energy now! We must protect our water! [422]

1. I feel gas drilling should be allowed, as long as the experts deem it to be absolutely safe, and all rules and regulations are followed, and enforced. 2. The town of Meredith should have the right to ban gas drilling, as long as all residents are allowed to vote for or against it. [425]

We'd love to see wind turbines! They look so much better than a gas rig! The town board should determine local town issues. However statewide issues are better served under state guidelines. [426]

NO Drilling!!! [431]

Safety issues have to be improved. [432]

I worry about the chemicals and other subjects they use in the process. [438]

We suggest that the Town Board vote to prohibit hydrofracking within the Town of Meredith. Further, if they don't already exist, we suggest that noise and traffic restrictions and road

protection ordinances be passed by the board and bonding guarantees be required by the town for any kind of industrial development. [439]

The landowner himself should be able to do what he wishes on his own property. [442]

I would rather have windmills and cell towers in the town. Please let something into the town! [comment #2] I agree. I would like to see the town of work on responsible gas drilling which may not happen for a few years. Technology changes - it is possible. I just don't think the town should be able to ban it. [445]

Until the extraction method is safe (if ever) I do not want my water well or property value compromised by gas drilling. We in this area have only everything to lose and nothing to gain. When greed is the motivator, that will always be the case. [446]

We are opposed to the current technology used to drill for gas (fracking). However if in the future a less dangerous method of gas drilling becomes available, this issue should be revisited. [450]

Would like public debate with one rep. from each side presenting facts. [451]

As an individual landowner and taxpayer it should be my decision to decide what is best for me and my family on my property, not the Town. Just as the wind power should have been an individual right. To not take advantage of any natural resource, not to mention environmentally safe resource because of someone's view of the hillside is just another reason why it should be left to the landowner not the town to decide! [454]

Gas drilling where people live is unacceptable, shortsighted, and diabolical. [463]

[Question 2] By a vote of the majority of the people. [466]

1) Drilling companies cannot be trusted for safety or remedial help; 2) Unsafe from any aspect! 3) Scars on the environment; 4) Unfortunately they will enact eminent domain - so get ready with firepower. [481]

I happen to live in the NYC watershed area. If drilling isn't safe for the watershed, then it can't be safe for anyone, anywhere. I hope the town will ban drilling in all of Meredith. [496]

I'm hungry for food - you're hungry for more control - I don't think you or the state should decide. I believe it's time for individuals to decide by voting on the issue directly. But first be informed of the facts no opinions, then vote yes or no to drilling. 2nd - the companies that want the gas for profits are out of control to the point that it threatens our security, but with them and all politicians and committees etc. We'll decide everything now! [497, anonymous]

[NO.] WE ARE ADAMANT ABOUT THIS. [505]

1. We oppose the industrialization of Meredith by fossil-fuel extraction corporations.
2. The threat to our aquifers, groundwater, streams and rivers is real and unacceptable.
3. The threat to our air quality, our fields, farms and forests is unacceptable.
4. The threat to human livestock and wildlife is unacceptable.
5. The disruption of our environment, our social fabric, our historic rural character, even our roads, bridges, and traffic, is unacceptable.

6. An immediate ban on gas drilling needs to be enacted.
7. The division of New York State into the protected and the unprotected is a political outrage. All New Yorkers' lives are equally valuable.
8. The only reason upstate residents will embrace drilling is economic desperation. As a nation, state, county and town, we need to invest in economic development that is sustainable, environmentally friendly, and is consistent with the idea of renewable energy replacing fossil fuels. [513]

Do you really want to go back to the "horse and buggies"? [515]

It is absolutely imperative that the town board do all in its power to ban gas drilling. We would like to see a pro-active stance against gas drilling similar to action taken in Otsego County. In our lifetime I can't recall anything as dangerous as hydrofracking for natural gas. Our area will never be the same again. The thought of putting at risk our pristine water supply, the air we breathe and the damage done to our town is downright scary and appalling. All the money in the world is not worth selling the beauty of our town for. I plead with the town board to come forth as leaders of Delaware County and ban this totally unsafe activity. [519]

Has the town done anything about road ordinances to protect the roads from permanent damage caused by the vehicles in the event drilling begins? If not, why not? [520]

Not only should we ban gas drillers, all political representatives should be educating themselves and their constituents of the details - why are they silent on a matter which threatens to destroy our source of life? The gas drilling issue trumps all others in significance & threat - this requires serious research and leadership now! [521]

We are extremely opposed to gas drilling. We moved to this area and provide jobs to locals because we like and support rural, clean, quiet life and community. It is not fair that some neighbors should profit at the expense of our drinking water and quality of life. The profits will go to Big oil companies in Texas only benefiting a few landowners in the town. Please fight for the preservation of our homes, roads, land, water and small town, Main Street ideals. We are major taxpayers who always pay our taxes on time. [530]

Can the town board pass a ban that would supersede whatever regulations NY state puts in place? [531]

It's not fool proof. [543]

We support the town's right to determine and plan for future land uses and especially for protection of the water and soil quality for human habitation and agricultural use. It is inappropriate and unsafe to allow gas drilling in any part of the town before the long-term impacts of the extraction process are documented. [544]

I believe that it is the sole right of each individual landowner what should be permitted on their property, whether it be gas drilling, or any other type of drilling or the installation of wind turbines, etc. [546]

It's obvious that every life is of equal value. Please town board: do the right thing and keep all the residents of Meredith safe from the poisons used in fracking for shale gas. [551]

Our drinking water is just as entitled to environmental protection as the water that is consumed by the people of New York City. Fracking waste water will make our wells unfit to drink as has happened in PA. [564]

I am under no circumstances in favor of any kind of gas drilling in or around our community and would support a complete ban in all areas. Hopefully the town board can have a say in controlling gas drilling in our area. [570]

We are opposed to any gas drilling in the Town of Meredith and want our clean water protected. Long-distance pipelines should only be installed for transporting water, then we could sell it to Texas and all the other states that will be dried up from the insane fracking. [571]

It is the landowner's right. Most people against it are the ones having one or two acres. [572]

I am extremely disturbed by the DEC's decision to allow drilling around mine and my neighbor's water supply but not that of the NYC watershed. It appears that the DEC has come up with a double standard. Why is it OK to pollute my water supply but not NYC's water supply? Obviously by not allowing drilling in the watershed area they are admitting that there is a potential pollution situation. Are the residents of Meredith less important than those of the City or is just the power of politics and money at play once again. I believe that the state has opened itself to legal action and that we should file suit immediately. [575]

Real Estate is bad now. If we start drilling we'd have little or no chance of selling if necessity came. Please help keep drilling out. Everything would change for the worse. [576]

Private Property rights should be extended to all landowners. Town should have no say on what I can do on my own property. [576]

We thank the organizers of this survey from making our voices heard. We never want to see gas drilling come to our home - or anywhere in New York State. We consider the risk to our health and land and that of our neighbors to be enormous. [585]

The power to ban gas drilling should be left up to the property owners by vote. [592]

We do not want our well to be contaminated as wells in other locations have been. Once the well is contaminated it is too late and the property will be uninhabitable. If that happens we will just have to walk away from our property. [606]

Any town should have the power to set zoning requirements. Just consider what may have happened with "used frack holding ponds," post 20 inches of flooding rains that just occurred. Who would pay for this clean up? Also keep in mind that Dick Cheney and the boys at Halliburton would not have spent so much time and money to have fracking fluids exempted from regulations under the Federal Clean Water Act, if such fluids were really as safe as they know indicate they are. Total water usage would also drop the water table if such water never made it back to the surface as the model indicates would be the case. [609]

It makes no sense to risk our fresh water supply to the fracturing dangers when we can get all the gas & oil we need from drilling in Alaska and offshore. It's more expense to the taxpayer in the road usage by heavy water trucks, etc. - and who is going to "fix" our water, not if but when it becomes polluted. [611]

Thank you for doing this survey! [622]

This is an issue that will affect the entire community forever. The risks are proven. Look at PA. and the number of incidents of pollution. Our town should have the right to decide on this matter as it will affect our livelihoods, health and the ability to sell our houses. [624]

The area needs the revenue that gas drilling would bring in. I wish the watershed would release its ban. [comment #2] I agree with my husband – the jobs, revenue, etc. would be wonderful, but not at the expense of our water, and environment & safety. I think a ban should be in place until it's proven safe. [635]

[Question 1] Yes. Only if there is some guarantee that our water will not be affected.

[Question 2] Yes. If the town believes our water will be affected by the drilling. [638]

1) The people who own the property should decide individually. 2) The US needs to develop its own energy resources. [647]

I feel it is so important to protect our most cherished natural resource, our water. Not to mention the peacefulness of our small town area. We live in the watershed but are very concerned about the future of Meredith. I/we am onboard to ban gas drilling in NYS, especially Meredith. [648]

I've seen what happens when fracking is done. People lose their homes or get sick. [653]

It's a given that hydrofracking and the chemicals used in the process are detrimental to groundwater. Until the natural gas industry can prove otherwise, I don't think it should be allowed in the town or the state for that matter. If the US needs more fossil fuel, open the Balkans and offshore drilling, don't subject us to this type of drilling - it's not worth it! [657]

I cannot believe that gas drilling is considered in NYS let alone the town of Meredith. I am totally against ruining my drinking water. [658]

I do not believe that NY State has the ability or knowledge to decide that which would be in the best interest of the town of Meredith. [comment #2] Clearly it is up to the local government to determine if exploiting vast natural gas reserves are in the best interest of the town. There are more factors than economic, environment or even the engineering challenges. Albany cannot properly keep its house in order. Let them concentrate on the challenges of the state. [664]

This is a no brainer. Nobody but the people who live in an area should have the power to make such important decisions regarding the quality of life where they live. [665]

There is no amount of money or jobs to offset the risks to the residents health and well-being. [667]

The Town Board should fight the DEC to stop gas drilling. [668]

We should fight drilling tooth and nail! [672]

I am completely against any gas drilling, especially fracking. I will support any ban against drilling. [677]

Please, let us have our country living, fresh air - clean spring water. [679]

I believe that individual property owners should be able to make decisions on how they use their property - whether they put it in trust, use it for farming or for mineral rights. The one exception I see is that the NYC watershed should be protected. [681]

We are adamantly against gas drilling in Meredith. A beautiful rural area does not need to risk its beauty, good water, small roads, etc. for large industrial projects, such as gas drilling. Enough tragedy has been wrought in rural PA. There is no need to put our treasured environment at risk. [689]

I am against any drilling in the town of Meredith. I do not feel any drilling can be done safely. Look at all the problems other states have with drilling. Totally against. [697]

Ban fracking - it will ruin our rural way of life. [comment #2] If gas drilling is dangerous for New York city residents, why is it safe for others? We are being influenced by the “hope” of money, but will be ruined by gas drilling. [703]

This method of drilling has not been time tested and from what I have heard it contaminates the drinking water, and destroys the countryside. I am against this! [704]

[attached letter] First, I have not yet read the DEC Regulations Proposal for gas drilling in NYS. However, as a property owner in the Town of Meredith, I don't just own the surface of the land, I own the mineral rights UNDER the surface as well. Unless the Town decides to exercise it's right of eminent domain and confiscate my property, it can not (constitutionally) prohibit me from extracting the value of those mineral rights, by banning a particular use.

That said, the Town can and should REGULATE how I may extract that value to assure that it is done in a safe manner to protect the values and conditions of surrounding properties and the environment. I believe this standard should apply to the State and the NYC Watershed as well.

If government decides to prohibit me from using my land (all my land) as I see fit, then it must pay an equitable value to me to compensate for that loss of use. Until such time as the Town is ready to take that path, talk of “BANNING” is premature. And the same goes for the State and Watershed as well.

If the Town/County/State is free to impose taxes upon my right to own property, then, within reason, it should allow me to “enjoy” that property. Prohibiting my use of my property in any manner necessarily devalues my property, requiring a corresponding lowering of it's assessed value – you see where this leads.

Regulating the use of my property, however, by requiring that certain standards be met for a particular use, allows beneficial control of that use – think of building codes as an example – that may, in fact, actually increase the value of the property...

The deed to my land, duly accepted by and registered with all required governing entities, states very clearly that said deed conveys to me and my heirs, a right of unencumbered enjoyment of the property, in perpetuity. I signed that deed. The “government” affixed its seal to it. The rules can't change mid-stream. If the Town desires to prohibit such activity as gas drilling, then it may do so on a going-forward basis, if the residents of the Town agree. However, current owners must be grandfathered and specifically NOT prohibited. If a new landowner signs a deed that includes such a prohibition, then he buys the land knowing full-well that certain types of use, ie: gas drilling, are not permitted.

Which gets us around to the Watershed. When I bought my land, 40+ years ago, it was not in the NYC Watershed. The watershed has grown to engulf my property and as a result I am now subject to the whims of, in reality, simply another property owner who's right to use his property as he sees fit trumps mine due only to his size. [706]

We don't need this. It will only make a mess of our land and our roads. Let's keep Meredith the way it is. [707]

We tried to stop demolishing and pillaging our land so our children and grandchildren can enjoy its beauty, and also survive. [707]

The Meredith Town Board should find out what other towns, if any, were affected by a split as a result of the NYC watershed boundaries, together with all the other towns in the watershed, and file a legal suit against the DEC, NY State and New [York] City. Apparently NY State is protecting the NYC water supply which was told by the federal govt. that filtering the water was in order 20 yrs. ago. They decided to go a different route in lieu of a filtering process with some compensation to the towns who joined and embraced the watershed. Well here we are again being victimized with further restrictions and bureaucracy. My take is that if the landowner is to give up something, especially for someone 150 miles away, he should seek compensation & neither the state or town should stand in the way. The town agreed to the watershed boundaries yrs. ago & now it faces the consequence of that decision. We have too many regulations. [717]

Drill for oil and gas in Alaska or stay in Texas. Not residential neighborhoods. [719]

Meredith is a perfect example of the inequality inherent in this regulation. Dividing a small community, saying one half will have protected drinking water and one half won't is insane. The only democratic solution is for the people of Meredith to vote on whether or not to ban hydrofracking in 100% of our town. Thanks for asking! [725]

[attached letter] As a coalition, I would hope you would all keep an open mind to the natural resources that the United States has to offer all of us. It certainly would put a lot of people back to work and help our economy. It would also keep us out of companies overseas that are ripping off the United States with such high prices. We are FOR gas drilling and will support it in our property owned area.

Below are several points that we would like you to consider before making your decision:

Pros:

- (1) What is the current economic status of Meredith and surrounding areas? The oil field pumps money into wherever they drill.
- (2) Drilling can be done safely and our neighboring state of Pennsylvania has proven that.
- (3) Whomever does the drilling will be drilling for natural gas and not oil, so there is nothing to spill.
- (4) The EPA's regulations for drilling means that there cannot be "gas seepage" into peoples water wells.
- (5) Large tax revenue for the community from the oil companies.

Cons:

- (1) in Large influx of people into the area, puts a burden on the local "housing".
- (2) Higher amounts of traffic to the area.

- (3) Roads may suffer from heavy trucks (however, the oil companies are required to pay for this).
- (4) Rigs that stand 200 feet tall in resident's backyards (with their permission).

There is only one real point that needs to be made here. Oil companies have more money than maybe all the residents in Meredith Township and are willing to spend it to be able to drill. We feel the Landowners Coalition is a little early in their actions and need to wait until the oil companies are ready to drill. [732]

One of the reasons I own property is to get away from the pollution & garbage. Let them drill in the gas company CEO's backyard. The township needs to do everything in its power to stop them from polluting our land. [735]

I may be in favor of gas drilling if advancements can be made to make it a cleaner and safer environment, but under present conditions I don't think it's yet, today, a good idea. In the future it may be a great idea. So in saying this I don't think the town should just outright ban gas drilling. [740]

I would need more information on the pros and cons of the project. I do believe that the people of the area should be making the decisions, not someone in NYC. [741]

I am in favor of gas drilling only if it can be done safely for the long-term. We have to make sure that it will not affect the health of our local residents. If there is any doubt, my answer would be no to drilling. [743]

The only thing that would change my decision is if they could get 100% safety to the population and the environment and wildlife. And if we are not told the truth about safety from outside agency, the people involved should be imprisoned for life with no parole. [745]

The state officials have proven time and again that they are not working in the interest of the health or quality of life for NY residents, but were interested in \$\$\$\$. Money cannot buy us safe, clean water or land, nor can it stop cancer. "NO TO GAS DRILLING!!!" Our water is so precious to our life. Yes, to our towns having the final say. [753]

We have a house in Delhi for the scenic value. Drilling is going to destroy the land. If it were to go through, strict restrictions should be in place to ensure that the towns aren't destroyed and that the old wells are just left to rot. Cancer risk and pollution. Contamination of our water is also a concern. [754]

[Yes to drilling] Think outside (beyond) the box!!! [755]

Any industry that can create jobs & add to the tax should be welcomed. [759]

The town should ban high volume horizontal hydrofracturing & wind power facilities. [766]

Gas drilling is a highly polluting process, damaging to the environment and to the character and culture of an area like ours. The limited resources for oversight by the DEP [DEC] only increase the risks. We need a fracking ban to preserve the quality of Meredith's land, water, and air for quality for future generations! [768]

Our research and understanding is this type of drilling will produce toxic end results as well as unwanted invasion of private property and it must be prevented! [769]

This is a complex issue. While I have definite views, it's not a black and white yes or no either. The safety and well-being of all not just the majority should be protected. Sometimes these big companies get sidetracked on making money. At the same time I wouldn't want to restrict a property owner's ability to make a little money for their family etc. Another issue is that when one property owner drills it could affect someone else's property too. And another, there is the effect on the environment, wildlife, risk of making "sink" holes etc. So it really all boils down to whether the gas drillers can perform the process safely and ethically. I think these decisions should be made by the individual property owners. A third party with no profit incentive should have the authority to monitor for safety issues. [781]

I purchased my 50 acre parcel to help maintain agriculture, preserve the beauty of the Catskills, enjoy the peace and quiet, and to one day build a retirement home there. But I don't want to spend my golden years living in the middle of gas fields. If gas drilling comes to Meredith and with the possibility that my dream of peace and serenity should be destroyed, I would then have no choice but to sell or take royalties and move on. Let's take positive steps to protect and preserve Meredith and the Catskills. The clean water and scenic beauty is worth more than all of the gas in the ground. Some things in life are priceless. [783]

There should be home rule over gas drilling. State Senator Bonacic is among several cosponsors to affirm the power of local government to regulate gas drilling through planning and zoning. Communities are forming coalitions with these organizational tools; residents are able to take control of their own communities. Local zoning and ordinances will protect our environment and drinking water. I urge this Board to take all necessary action to put a total ban on gas drilling within the Town of Meredith. [784]

I am against gas drilling. I have friends in Penn. whose property (water) was ruined because of gas drilling. I do believe that the town of Meredith should have the power to ban gas drilling. [797]

The environmental impact of fracking is much worse than the energy companies and most politicians propose. I want to be able to "drink" my water in the future, and am very concerned that this land will be safe for the future generations. [799]

I do not know enough about the impact such drilling has on the environment, more specifically the impact on my own property. [802]

I strongly feel that hydrofracking is a very dangerous process which can have a serious effect wherever it is allowed. [805]

There are safe, responsible methods of retrieving the gas, such as the method used by a Canadian company, GasFrack. Gas is retrieved using LP gas - not water. For more info, go to GasFrack.com. New York needs to ensure that safe methods are used and proper enforcement is in place! [807]

God gave us this great Ouleout Creek Valley. Let's do everything possible to protect this great area. [812]

No way under no conditions for gas drilling. [818]

Based on the information we have read about gas drilling, there are too many factors that are unfavorable. We oppose gas drilling near our water supply and that of others. Where can we get a "No Fracking" sign? [821]

I would like my water to stay the way it is! Thank you for asking. They must find a way to drill without chems. [822]

I'm concerned that gas drilling will have negative effects on my water supply. [824]

Every effort should be made to maintain the pristine nature and rural way of life in our community. Gas drilling will not help us either in the long or short term. A major concern is the effect fracking will have on present and future generations - our health and well-being must be a primary consideration. [828]

I have lived in (East) Meredith since 1971. I've taught theater at the West Kortright Centre and in my barn to children and adults for almost 40 years. I have gardened and walked these beautiful hills all these years. Our water and our land is precious & pure. If gas drilling were to occur near our home, my theater work, growing my vegetables, our peace, our quiet, would all be threatened. Our wells, our roads, are not built for these huge rigs, well pads, traffic. The chemicals used & the gigantic amt. of water - dangerous for our land. [837]

When the Town of Meredith adopted its Comprehensive Plan in 2006, the #1 goal was "to preserve and strengthen the Town's rural character." And the #1 "long-term planning" priority was to "consider adoption of a zoning local law specific to Meredith's needs." Yet here we are looking at the possibility that the Town will be turned into an INDUSTRIAL zone that will utterly destroy its rural character. And for what? So that a few large landowners can get a windfall profit from something they did nothing to earn and did not even know they "owned" until a couple of years ago? Now all they see are \$\$\$ signs and to hell with our "rural character" and their neighbors' property values and drinking water and everything we hold precious and the reason we are all here. If the Town government won't follow its own Comprehensive Plan, then it's time to elect a Town Board who will. [838]

The town of Meredith has done a lot to stop financial growth for many things. That hurts the people in the tax base a lot. Especially everyone that has to work outside Meredith to earn a living. [841]

This is an action that causes a lot of damage to all. The woods are being inhabited by people who believe they can "tame" them. How can we choose to destroy mother nature here in the Catskills taking away from its history of beautiful landscapes. [845]

I would show "Gasland" to everyone and really try to educate folks. This film was very informative and made me sad and angry. My wish would be to ban this gas drilling not only in Meredith and this state of N.Y. But literally everywhere. The short term and long term damage to all living beings as well as the land must not be sacrificed for the greed and profits made by a few who seem to have very bad intentions and actions riddled with misinformation and lies. Times are very tough now and desperate people are being taken - very difficult situation. [Comment 2]: I am all in favor of local communities and townships enforcing the sanctity and quality of basic needs like good water and air. The fact that these companies have in other parts of the country been allowed to drill on public lands and have been exempted from environmental regulations only shows me that the federal government has lost its credibility as a protector of its citizenry. The contract has been broken, and now it's up to local citizens to determine what kind of standards to set. [852]