



A Message from the Tioga County Landowners Group

11/26/2009

Hundreds of your friends and neighbors have been working hard to form a coalition throughout Tioga County. We are an all-volunteer organization of landowners working together to benefit our community. No one in the organization is being paid for their services or expenses. We have increased our negotiating strength to where we represent **1425 families** who own nearly **103,000 acres of land in Tioga County**. This puts us in a position to be able to negotiate with Energy Company executives not the land man a subcontractor. We are working toward a common goal which is a landowner friendly lease, generated by the group's attorney, representing best industry practices. We need to all work together to provide a fair and equitable lease agreement which will protect our land and our area. In addition to the DEC SGEIS governance over the energy company is accomplished by the terms of your lease. The NYS Attorney General's Office has recently recognized the industry-prevalent misleading and deceptive tactics being used to obtain leases from landowners. A much needed clean-up of existing energy company practices is underway.

Next year will bring major changes to our county. Natural gas development will bring much needed jobs and financial growth to our county allowing our children to find work here at home. Since January we have been focusing on reaching new members to provide a more consistent governance of natural gas development. We need every landowner to work together to our common good. **We have added 220 more families who own 15,000 acres in the past three weeks. Keep up the good work!** The lease you sign will set the stage for area development and, when your well is established, will form a relationship with your partner, the drilling company. That relationship will continue to benefit your family for generations to come. This represents the largest decision we will make in our lifetime.

The DEC will close by year end the comment period for the impact assessment allowing the permitting of horizontal wells in Marcellus to occur next year by second quarter. The local market should get going again so early next year we need to put forth our offering. In the mean time we will continue to investigate and attract interested customers.

Please join us now either online or with the sign-up sheet. **You are under no obligation, commitment, or cost and if you don't like your lease you don't have to sign.** Only if you sign your lease will you have to pay our attorney \$20 per acre of your signing bonus.

Nick

Nick Schoonover, Chairman