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Tioga Farmers Eye Different Method to Frack for Natural Gas



By Emily Lorsch
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Although the state ended a seven-year review process by officially banning large-scale hydraulic fracturing last week, some landowners in Tioga County are not giving up just yet. They're proposing a different method to frack for natural gas. Emily Lorsch explains the process and what supporters are saying it will do for the community.

Some believed fracking would be the economic engine that drives the Southern Tier. then last week the state ban was made official.

"We've been hammered on quite a bit from the state lately," Kevin "Cub" Frisbie, the Snyder Farm Group spokesman.

But in the Town of Barton, there's hope.

"This land is ours. We're the first ones at high risk and we're willing to take that because we believe the process is that safe to do it," Frisbie said.

The Snyder Farm Group and Tioga Energy Partners teamed up and sent an application to the state Department of Environmental Conservation Tuesday to frack for natural gas using gelled propane instead of water. Frisbie said this process has its advantages.

"This uses less than half the truck traffic because it doesn't take as much propane to do the job," Frisbie said. "It's the same truck that delivers propane to my grain dryer and it's the same propane that delivers to churches and schools and in your home if you heat it with propane."

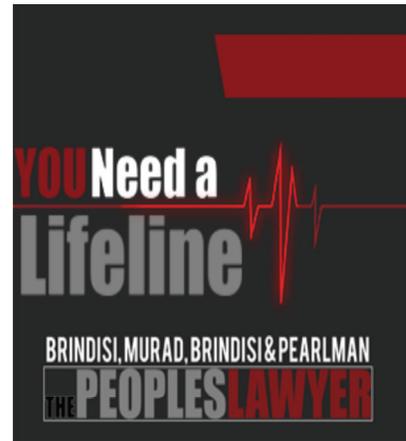
And although Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration banned large-scale hydraulic fracturing, "because we're not using that technology and we're using the LPG or gel propane technology, we're not covered and are outside that ban," said Tioga Energy Partners attorney Adam Schultz.

They said the timing is a coincidence and the proposal is not a loophole.

"This is not something we just jumped into yesterday. We've been working on this for seven years," Frisbie said. "It's been around for many years, it's actually been used at 800 well sites throughout North America," added Schultz.

And partners say it could bring in extra cash to a community that needs it, adding \$250,000 to \$300,000 in tax revenue each year.

The proposal is to develop a 53-acre natural gas well in the Halsey Valley Road farmland in the Town of Barton. The well pad would only occupy about three and a half acres.



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