

# Cracked Lake

K E E P E R

SPECIAL EDITION

## Industrial Scale LPG Storage On Seneca Lake?

*By Joseph Campbell*

In Dr. Seuss's famed story, "*Horton Hears a Who*", the poor miniature Who's are desperate to defend their homes, churches, and schools from the blind giants who simply cannot hear their pleas. Try as they might, they can't seem to make enough noise to be noticed- when their very lives are in peril.

We here in the Finger Lakes are facing a similar assault. When it comes to describing, adequately and forcefully, an issue as dangerous to humans, the watershed region and agri-tourism as storing Liquefied Petroleum Gas in salt caverns lying beneath or near our lakes- how can words be used to capture a reality that heads off a giant like Inergy, LP and their corporate greed? How can mere words and facts be used as a call to action? How can words be framed to ignite a momentum that causes a groundswell of concern that stops an abomination from happening? How can words be used to build a momentum of purpose that can head-off what we know could mean the ruination of much that we have come to love and respect?

Seneca is at a crossroads.

Not to overly criticize some well-intentioned citizens who are complacent about the issue, or those few who accept the impending realities as a done deal, (excessive truck traffic, open air brine pits overhanging Lake Seneca, and irretrievable damage to our way of life), the question begs an answer... are we like the shirker in Horton who refuses to speak up about the devastation to the environment from injecting LP Gas under intense pressure (1,000 pounds per square inch) into depleted salt caverns under or near the most voluminous fresh water source in the region?

Are we willing to accept the possibility of brine leachate entering the lake and our neighbors' wells, irreversibly damaging their source of potable waters? Are we going to shrug our shoulders when property values plummet in the face of an industrial landscape on the shores of an otherwise beautiful lake? Will we fail to hear the cries when local businesses wither and die because patrons can't (or won't!) negotiate the nightmare of heavy truck traffic?

On the one hand there is a long history of industry in the Finger Lakes. The adventurous frontiersmen and women who first came to this area saw a wealth of natural resources and they proceeded to exploit them with a vengeance. Unfortunately, early industry wasn't always kind to the environment. It was common practice to simply dump industrial waste into streams and lakes, and our waters are still recovering from that and from indiscriminate pesticide use. Are we now to make the same short-sighted decisions and allow this fragile ecosystem to become further industrialized in the name of corporate profits?

Google "Finger Lakes" and you'll find phrases like, "World class wine", "Stunning scenery", "Quaint towns" and "Pristine Lakes". The Finger Lakes are a fragile, irreplaceable resource and we tamper with them at our peril.

Seneca has been spared some of the ravages of rampant pollution by virtue of its sheer magnitude. Still, the Deep Water Horizon debacle in the Gulf will pale by comparison to an "accidental" spill of liquid petroleum gas or tens of millions of gallons of brine into this Class AA drinking water source for nearly 100,000 people. Do we trust this company to use all the resources at their disposal to prevent a catastrophic accident from happening? Did the people of the Gulf trust BP?

In the immortal words of Dr. Seuss, just before the Who's were to be boiled in beezlenut stew--The mayor of Whoville rushed through the town until he found a shirker...

"He rushed inside, and he grabbed the young twerp! He climbed with the lad up the Eiffleberg Tower. **"This", cried the Mayor "is your town's darkest hour! The time for all Who's who have blood that is red- to come to the aid of their country!" he said. "We've GOT to make noises in greater amounts! So, open your mouth, lad! For every voice counts!"**



This is a call to action. When out of state giant, Inergy, LP, calls **OUR** Finger Lakes **THEIR**, "Gas Transportation and Storage Hub for the Northeastern United States", we know that it is time to fight to preserve our homes, our land, our lakes and our heritage for our children.

Don't be a shirker! Go to <http://gasfreeseneca.com> Sign the petition, join the list serve, get informed and GET INVOLVED!

# Health and Safety

## ***Salt Cavern Gas Storage Safety (sic)***

Storing millions of gallons and billions of cubic feet of highly volatile compounds deep underground, and transferring them back and forth to loading and unloading facilities multiple times a year carries a certain amount of risk. Accidents happen. Spills occur. According to John Hopper, President and CEO of Falcon Gas Storage, in 2002 there were 407 underground gas storage facilities in operation in the US and only 7% of them were salt cavern storage facilities. Since 1972, there have been 11 instances of catastrophic failure of underground gas storage facilities and each one has been a salt cavern facility. Many have included explosion with fire and loss of life, and some have required the evacuation of entire towns as much as 3 miles distant.

[http://www.falcongastorage.com/filelib/FileCabinet/Articles/article\\_singlepointfailurerisk.pdf?FileName=article\\_singlepointfailurerisk.pdf](http://www.falcongastorage.com/filelib/FileCabinet/Articles/article_singlepointfailurerisk.pdf?FileName=article_singlepointfailurerisk.pdf)

A few examples:

-August, 2004. Moss Bluff, Texas- A surface pipe gave way (brine is extremely corrosive) and natural gas exploded, burning for 6 days and forcing the evacuation of a 3 mile radius.

-January, 2001. Hutchinson, Kansas-Underground natural gas storage facility blows up killing 2 in one of the worst disasters of its kind. Downtown businesses were destroyed and 200 million cubic feet of gas was lost. 8 years later remediation efforts are still ongoing.

-April, 1992. Wesley, Texas-LP GAS leak exploded with the force of a 3 kiloton bomb, killing 3. The blast was felt 70 miles away and measured 4.0 on the Richter scale. The 21 other injured made up one third of the town's population. In a more densely populated area the explosion could have been catastrophic. Many more examples can be found here:

[http://www.coteblanchemine.com/storage\\_accidents.html](http://www.coteblanchemine.com/storage_accidents.html)

And just this year in Mont Belvieu, Texas a salt cavern storage facility exploded. This was just the latest in a long series of accidents at this facility dating back to 1980. See the video here:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7946342>

And there are a host of other concerns. Gas migration can and has occurred. Contamination of groundwater and water wells and the dangers of gas making its way into homes are very real threats. From an article by the Geological Society of London, 2009: "Existing wellbores, including abandoned oil and gas wells, old dry exploration wells and water wells represent primary potential vertical gas migration conduits, which are not always thoroughly analyzed during UGS site evaluation studies. Most abandoned oil and gas wells develop leaks over time, even when plugged in accordance with current (US) government regulations.

Leaking wells in urban areas represent significant health and safety hazards. Many cities including Los Angeles permit construction of new homes directly over abandoned wells, even though state agencies recommend against this practice, thus placing residents at risk. Explosions and fires, along with possible exposure to substances such as benzene and toluene, are possible when gas reaches the surface through leaking wells and accumulates inside building voids. These potential problems are amplified with UGS (underground storage) fields, where operating pressures, already raised above the declining pressures of the field, fluctuate when alternating gas injection and extraction induce cyclic stress on wellbores and caprock sequences".

Communities in states like Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas and, yes, Missouri have lived with massive, industrial scale methane and LPG storage facilities as their neighbors and have, unfortunately, had to adapt to the reality that these are extremely dangerous. They have emergency management plans already in place and equipment and personnel to handle a worst case scenario. Do our First Responders have the training and specialized equipment necessary to manage a catastrophic gas explosion? Serious injuries and even deaths occur every year fighting gas explosions and fires. Are we comfortable putting our mostly volunteer firefighters in harm's way?

## ***14 Acre Open Brine Pond***

The 14 acre surface impoundment is designed to hold nearly 100 million gallons of brine that is many times saltier than seawater. As the brine sits exposed to the atmosphere evaporation will take place concentrating the brine and the constant cycling in and out of the salt cavern will concentrate it even further. This one pond is designed to displace the 2.1 million barrels of LPG that will be stored in the **initial** project. If Inergy plans to more than double the storage capacity, that will require more open brine ponds. What will happen if there is a seismic event or a 100 year flood and the earth berm holding all that salt water fails? What happens to the underlying aquifer and water wells? What happens to Seneca Lake and its Class AA drinking water source for 100,000 people? Salt contamination to potable water supplies is nearly impossible to remediate. Is this a risk worth taking?

## ***Increased Truck and Train Traffic***

The new Truck Depot will be capable of loading and unloading 4 semi-tanker trucks per hour, 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Each loading/unloading means one round trip (that is, 2 trips) on our roads. If this truck depot is operating at maximum capacity, (and time is money in the corporate world), that equals a staggering **70,000 extra truck trips in one year!** (I had to check my math 3 times!!) What could this mean in increased levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and ground level ozone that are dangerous to humans and crops, particularly grapes? Thousands of people live in the valley south of the industrial zone and temperature inversions can occur, trapping the lower layer of air, sometimes for days at a time. Methane is an odorless, colorless gas and diesel engines emit hydrocarbons. Both have potent greenhouse gas effects. What about increased noise levels? Increased congestion on roads and village streets with the increased risk of serious accidents? Can we safely ignore these health implications?

## ***Compressors***

The nature of injecting LPG and methane deep into salt caverns requires machinery to compress the propane and butane and force it into the ground under high pressure. The company hasn't been forthcoming regarding the number or size or type of compressors, so we can only conjecture. All we know for certain is that there **will** be compressors, perhaps large ones, perhaps running constantly. Charles Morgan has investigated Low Frequency Noise (LFN) and associated health risks from exposure. A syndrome called Vibro Acoustic Disorder has been found to be caused by LFN. The scary part? LFN is subsonic, meaning the human ear can't hear it. Read more here:

<https://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AQsxa7SpCLLDZG5zNGh3bl82MGRwOWI4YmN0&hl=en&pli=1>

# What People Are Saying

**Jeanne Fadula, NY**

"Seneca Lake is a vital source of fresh water in a world where fresh water supplies are diminishing. It maintains our region's agriculture and tourism industries. Seneca Lake is already severely ecologically stressed; it does not need any more threats of any kind. Seneca Lake has great beauty and is the heart and soul of our region. It has a very special place in the life of my family and is therefore to me, sacred. I will therefore oppose any further intrusions upon the Lake."

**Jack Ossont, NY**

"Salt Cavern storage accidents are much higher than for other forms of LPG storage. To store this level of LPG in an area rich in water resources is not the brightest idea corporate America has floated."

**Ann Brouse, NY**

"The roads to be used by this company's trucks are already inadequate for present level of automobile and truck traffic. Also, this is a major food growing area which would be detrimentally impacted by such a large natural gas storage facility."

**Laura Lynch, NY**

"This is WINE COUNTRY - NOT GAS COUNTRY!! Please stay away - you have NO IDEA what this will do to the Finger Lakes!"

**Eric Ott, NY**

"I can just imagine the new highway signs: "ENTERING THE FINGER LAKES REGION - NO SMOKING"

**Jane Russell, NY**

"I have owned my own business in the Finger Lakes for 30 years and getting close to retirement after much hard work. I don't want this area to be destroyed by the unthinking, uncaring big businesses."

**Mary Worth, NY**

"Dear Inergy, I think your plan for LPG storage is extremely dangerous. You cannot control Mother Nature and accidents do happen. The waste has nowhere to go but downhill into Seneca Lake. I am opposed to your plan, which I have read, and believe this type of action must come to a stop in the Finger Lakes and elsewhere. Our water supplies cannot be replaced once they have been tampered with."

**Joy Rona, NY**

"As a frequent visitor to the Seneca Lake (several times in a year) I am so dismayed this is even being considered! NO!!"

**John Kesich, NY**

"As someone who often visits the Finger Lakes I am dismayed that anyone would even think of industrializing this gem."

**Nancy Morgan, NY**

"Tourism being a major source of revenue throughout the Finger Lakes, it does not make sense to turn this area into an industrial site. The costs by far outweigh the gains."

**Rachel Lodder, NY**

"As a resident of Seneca County, I am opposed to this project. I need more assurances that no harm can come from such projects to the environment, drinking water, and human health."

**Wendy Treat, NY**

"As member of this community, I am completely opposed to this project as it not only has the potential for disaster, but for harming the water source for thousands of residents in and around Watkins Glen!"

**Antoinette DiCiaccio, NY**

"What is good for one business is not necessarily good for all of us. Who profits here? The maybe 20 people who get hired to work there? Our area's best economic engine - our tourism, our wine industry, our beauty - is at a terrible risk that is bound to go wrong, without a doubt. Accidents happen all the time! Our water supply gets polluted and then what? We have nothing...and so do the 20 people the big company hired from our area. There goes their claim of bringing us jobs!"

**Gretchen Hermann, NY**

"This is a totally inappropriate place for this proposed industrial development."

**Thomas Hemlick, NY**

"New York State's reserves of fresh water are extremely susceptible to contamination. Fresh water supplies are going to be an extremely important resource for all citizens of New York State and the Northeast in the next few decades. Your project takes too many risks of environmental degradation in the interest of finite short term profits."

**Katherine Bills Woods, MA**

"I grew up on Seneca Lake and still own property there. The Finger Lakes area is one of the most beautiful and untouched natural resources in the Northeast. Whereas other inland lakes and bodies of water have been diseased and poisoned by urbanization and poor environmental management, the Finger Lakes have remained pure. Please do not ruin this for the generations to come."

**Dorothea Sterling, NY**

"This is my HOME!"

**Anonymous, NY**

"I grew up near Seneca Lake, and moved back here 5 years ago to raise my children in this beautiful area. PLEASE do not allow this facility to be built. It has the potential to ruin the lake and the entire Finger Lakes area."

**Ben Chiron, NY**

"Mr. Sherman, keep your toxic nightmare out of our lives."

**Joshua Carlsen, NY**

"This is a recipe for disaster. The small amount of energy to be extracted (especially when taking into account the cost of extraction) barely justifies the effort in the first place. To add potential destruction of both environment and economic life-blood of the region is beyond folly. Without our natural resources (farms, lakes, vineyards, and green spaces) the Finger Lakes region is going to lose its tourism. Nobody will travel to see a brine pit!"

**John Curatolo, NY**

"We must not allow the fragile beauty & ecology of Seneca Lake to be threatened in exchange for corporate profits."

**Hilary Lambert, NY**

"As a resident and landowner in the Finger Lakes region, I am deeply concerned about plans by outside interests to take over our lands, communities, and waters for industrial uses. As Steward of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, I have submitted comments on this project to DEC and will continue my opposition."

**Elizabeth Joslyn, CT**

"The future of mankind depends more than anything else on our water. The lack of an unpolluted water supply will be our next and last environmental disaster. Why allow a water supply to 100,000 people to be endangered in this way?"

**Anonymous, NY**

"I have spent my entire life in the Finger Lakes region of New York. It has always been regarded by my college friends and new arrivals as a picturesque, serene and bucolic area that has made long term residents out of brief visitors. I can think of no greater example of stepping over a dollar to gain a dime than to destroy this beautiful section of the State for a destructive, intrusive and life-threatening industry which will only continue our dependency on fossil fuels instead of directing our main focus to alternative and truly clean energies such as wind power, solar energy and geothermal resources. Stop this madness before it is too late!"

**Nedra Harvey, NY**

"What will we say when future generations ask why we didn't stop this destruction?"

**A Poignant Letter to Local Officials  
By Steve Coffman, Dundee NY:**

Board Members,

I am not from Watkins Glen, the Town of Reading or Schuyler County. I'm from Indiana originally, though for the last 39 years my family has lived on the Yates/Schuyler County line.

So where do I get off calling out so many dignitaries from my neighboring county? Maybe it's because I have an important outsider's view completely apart from any local politics or conflicting interests.

I first visited Watkins Glen at age 9, in 1952, and still remember my boyish excitement at imagining the car racing, the spectacular beauty of the Glen itself, more water in Seneca Lake than in the whole state of Indiana, such a cool place.

But I wonder if my parents would have taken that side-trip diversion on our way to NYC if Schuyler County had been an industrial zone choked by the kind of heavy traffic that we always encountered when we drove to nearby Chicago. I don't remember us ever stopping for ice cream or souvenirs in Gary, Hammond or East Chicago.

Now, having moved here, because of this region's wonderful balance between natural beauty, culture, traditional communities and the wonderful lakes themselves, I find myself extremely alarmed that the continuance of those attractions, especially for Watkins Glen, is in peril from the onset of regional gas drilling, in general, and the Inergy plan for LP and gas storage in Reading, in particular.

Watkins Glen is inherently a bottleneck squeeze point. Just as our long lakes and steep hills are essential to our region's beauty and charm, they are also responsible for our limited access---and nowhere more so than in the narrow hub of Watkins Glen, bound by the Lake, wetlands and sheer cliffs, with little wiggle room in between.

As we all know, there are only two narrow ways into Watkins Glen and two narrow ways out---good old north-south Route 14, and east-only Route 414. It doesn't take a crystal ball to see what's coming.

First, recall any traditional June or July Race Weekend up till now---parades of Porsches and Corvettes returning to Watkins Glen, their owners not just there for the races, but for the pleasure of showing off, enjoying the surroundings with other vacationing car-lovers such as themselves.

Now, superimpose upon that picture one of a gas industry going full tilt: Routes 14 and 414 clogged 24/7 with fracking convoys, waste-haulers, pipeline carriers, 5,000 gallon chemical and water tankers---going to and from drill sites, compressor stations, refineries, landfills, truck depots. The diesel-belching congestion considerably worsened by the brine and LP haulers going to and from the Inergy LP storage salt caverns and brine pits in the town of Reading. A dismal cloud of acrid, benzene-laced ozone hovering over the glen and lake.

As for the festive flow of vintage cars and freshly-polished roadsters? How happy will the main drag be for them? But what alternative route is there for them (or the trucks)---except right through the middle of Watkins Glen?

Imagine what will happen when the trucks have torn Route 14 to pieces. Where will the traffic go then?

I can tell you, from my Indiana days---that I-90 from Gary to Chicago is always a wreck and always under repair. And yet, even bad as it is, at least it's six lanes wide, can close and fix two lanes at a time and still keep the other lanes flowing.

But what about Watkins Glen---where will the trucks go here? Down 3rd St.? Up Decatur? And the tourists, where will they go? Likely---somewhere else.

More than the roads will be in disrepair. The attraction of Watkins Glen and this whole part of the Finger Lakes will become like the Texas and the Louisiana Gulf coast---that used to be called "Fisherman's Paradise," a grand place to visit---but now is all about gas and oil, a brother-in-the-sludge to Gary, East Chicago and Jersey City.

New Jersey still calls itself "The Garden State," but Sherman Travel did not name New Jersey as "The #1 Lakeside Travel Destination in the World"---they saved that for the Finger Lakes Region of New York State.

Never even mind the unthinkable---but all too real---possibilities of a massive explosion. And/or major leak of brine and/or propane into Seneca Lake!

Just think about what we have to lose, diverse agriculture, natural beauty, great quantities of pure water, burgeoning vineyards, organic farming, craft markets and expanding tourism---our little golden eggs, and the live and lovely goose that lays them.

Don't you think it's time that all you local leaders got together to decide what you and your local constituents want Watkins Glen to be---and at what price?

So, please. To you---Schuyler County's leaders and planners, to achieve your own missions of providing "quality services, direction, leadership," to be the community leaders "in the preservation and promotion of economic, cultural and recreational excellence," don't you think it's past time you listened and paid heed to someone other than just the gas industry and its out-of-state enablers who care nothing about our region except as their proprietary money tree? Truly, our region depends on your help and your vision to defend our identity, our traditions, our beauty and our health. And I can only hope that a nine-year old boy in the next generation will still take Watkins Glen to his heart with the same awe and warmth that once filled mine.

## Legal and Political News

### ***In Washington:***

Representative Tom Reed, newly elected to fill the vacancy left by the abrupt resignation of Eric Massa, represents New York's 29<sup>th</sup> district in Washington. In a news article dated January 20, 2011 it was announced that Reed was named to 3 Congressional subcommittees. Of particular interest: He was named Vice-chairman of the House Subcommittee on ***Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials***. To make matters even more interesting, Reed was also appointed to the Subcommittee on ***Water Resources and Environment***.

"The safety and modern capacity of our rail system and reliable transit of energy resources play a big role in economic development, both in Upstate New York and our nation," Reed said.

What? Does he mean the 75 year old train trestles spanning the Watkins Glen and Glenora Gorges or the equally ancient train overpass over Route 329? Or, how about the traffic chokepoint in Downtown Watkins Glen where routes 14 and 414 intersect and where, on a normal day it can take 20 minutes to get through the traffic signal? I may be wrong but I don't see new "infrastructure" in the form of train trestles or, perhaps, a 4 lane bypass around Watkins happening anytime soon. Any economic benefit to the region from this project will soon be offset by the loss of tourism dollars and the cost of road and bridge repair. Mr. Reed goes on to say,

"Our country has been blessed with plentiful reserves of natural gas. The Marcellus Shale, ***in our own back yard***, is one domestic energy source that should be developed. A Penn State University study concludes there are recoverable reserves of at least 489 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the Marcellus Shale, which is enough to meet our country's natural gas needs for the next 100 years, at current consumption levels." (From: reed.house.gov/issues, emphasis added)

Perhaps Mr. Reed needs to know how we really feel about, "our own back yard". To contact Congressman Reed:

89 W. Market Street  
Corning, NY 14830  
Phone: (607) 654-7566  
Fax: (202) 226-6599

### ***The NYS DEC:***

David Bimber at the Avon office, Region 8 DEC, has been transparent and willing to impart information. One concern is that, from the time the DEC released the Scoping document on this project, February 15, 2011, to the time that Inergy complied and delivered a 4 ***volume*** draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on March 15, 2011, ***only 4 WEEKS had elapsed!*** It certainly seems that Inergy had a large portion of this completed ahead of time and is in a hurry to get this project going! The DEC will review the document for omissions and ask Inergy to re-submit it. Once they are satisfied with the Draft EIS, it will be publicized and there will be a period of 45 days for public comment. Please keep in the information loop and look for this comment period.

### ***Breaking News:***

There is a bill currently being sponsored in the NY State Assembly by Representative Steve Englebright that seeks to impose a 5 year moratorium on high volume hydro-fracking in NYS. The bill, A06541, would effectively ban hydrofracking in order to "...learn from the fracking experiences of other states, and particularly Pennsylvania..."

[http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default\\_fld=&bn=A06541%09%09&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y#jump\\_to\\_Text](http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&bn=A06541%09%09&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y#jump_to_Text)

A bill has been introduced in the state Senate that would ban hydro-fracking outright. S4220, sponsored by Senator Tony Avella, would "Prohibit the use of hydraulic fracturing in the extraction of oil and gas".

Both bills have been referred to the Department of Environmental Conservation. We can show our support for these by writing our local representatives to the Senate and the House.

## Did You Know



### **The Planned Massive Industrialization of the Finger Lakes?**

Inergy, LP is a Kansas City, Mo based company that wants to develop LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) Storage in depleted salt caverns at the US Salt property, just north of Watkins Glen and on the west side of Seneca Lake. The initial permit application calls for 2.1 **million** barrels of liquid propane and butane (88.2 **million** gallons). The caverns in question were created by solution mining for salt and some have been abandoned for more than 50 years! As they move the LPG back and forth, the gas will be displaced by brine which will be stored **aboveground in a 14 acre, open air pond situated on the steep hillside roughly 2,500 feet from Seneca Lake with an earthen berm on the downhill side.** In order to service the storage there will be a new truck depot capable of loading and unloading 4 semi-trucks per hour and a new 6 track siding capable of loading and unloading 24 rail cars in 12 hours, all able to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week year round. For an excellent article describing this go to: <http://www.dcbureau.org/201010181243/Bulldog-Blog/the-marcellus-shale-play-a-reporters-peaceful-retreat-becomes-a-natural-gas-industry-target.html>

The NYS DEC is concerned enough about the potential for significant environmental impacts from this project that they took over Lead Agency Status from the Town of Reading and required Inergy to draft an Environmental Impact Statement. Their concerns are listed in the Scoping Document here: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits\\_ej\\_operations\\_pdf/finalscope.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits_ej_operations_pdf/finalscope.pdf) What doesn't seem to be common knowledge, however, are the longer term plans Inergy has for this area. In company documents and from the pages of an industry magazine, Inergy plans to increase their salt cavern storage capacity to **5 million barrels** (that's **210 million gallons**) of LPG and has recently acquired NYSEG's 2 billion cubic feet of underground natural gas storage with plans to expand to 5-10 billion cubic feet. They have been acquiring LP and natural gas storage in this region since 2005 and, according to *LP Gas Magazine* and their own website they plan to make the Finger Lakes Region, **"a gas storage and transportation hub" for the Northeast United States!** See the entire article here: <http://www.lpgasmagazine.com/lp-gas-content/salt-earth>

Does all this tie in, somehow, to hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale in New York State? The company seems to think so. In his own words John Sherman, Inergy CEO talks about the transportation and storage hub and its relationship to the Marcellus Shale in this video titled-"Inergy: Making Marcellus Happen".  
<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1079049304?bctid=75891229001>

From a 2010 SEC filing, **"Inergy's opportunities in the Northeast continue to be enhanced by the Marcellus Shale. The aggressive pace of exploration and development of the Marcellus will play an important role in Inergy's midstream growth".**

How much worse could it get? NYSEG has recently been given a \$29.6 million dollar grant by the DOE to study the feasibility of **using depleted salt caverns adjacent to the LPG storage** site to store compressed air to power a 150 MW power plant with a target in service date in 2014! [http://www.sandia.gov/ess/docs/pr\\_conferences/2010/rettberg\\_nyseg.pdf](http://www.sandia.gov/ess/docs/pr_conferences/2010/rettberg_nyseg.pdf)

Does this sound like the kind of future we envisioned for the Finger Lakes? How does this Massive Industrialization fit with what we have been trying to promote for the region? Beautiful Countryside, Pristine Lakes, Wineries and Bed and Breakfasts?

Hmm...

## Upcoming Events

**Watkins Glen Auditorium, Watkins Glen NY-Thursday April 14, 2011 7pm-9pm:**

**"Seneca at a Crossroads: Large Scale LPG Storage vs. Wineries and Tourism. Can the 2 co-exist?"**

An educational forum featuring:

*Thomas Shelley-Chemical Hygiene Officer, Cornell University Environmental Health and Safety.*

*Dr. John Halfman-Professor, Geoscience and Environmental Studies, The Finger Lakes Institute, Hobart and William Smith College.*

*Karen Edelstein-New York State Liaison to FracTracker.org, Geographic Information Systems Consultant*

*Additional speakers to be announced.*

# Take Action Now

## **Contact State and Local Government Officials:**

Sometimes it seems that Government and Big Business hold the upper hand and that we don't really have a say in whether or not a massive project involving heavy industry and dangerous chemicals like this one is situated next door to our homes.

Some of you may remember the situation over in Pulteney, NY last year in which fracking giant, Chesapeake Energy, applied to NYDEC to use an abandoned gas well to inject toxic wastewater from fracking in Pennsylvania. The permit application was withdrawn after an enormous public outcry put pressure on the Pulteney Town and Planning Boards, the DEC and, ultimately, Chesapeake.

Write letters! Make phone calls! Send emails! Log on to [www.gasfreeseneca.com](http://www.gasfreeseneca.com) and sign the Petition, join the List serve, use the contact link and volunteer to help stop this travesty from occurring.

Attached you will find a letter that can be used as a template and should be personalized, or, for greatest affect write your own concerns. Please cut and paste and then include in an email or send to the appropriate elected officials whose addresses are included on the attached. The attached example is addressed to the Reading Planning Board, so please make the necessary changes.



**LPG  
FACILITY**

**[www.gasfreeseneca.com](http://www.gasfreeseneca.com)**

# About Our Organization

## Keuka Citizens Against Hydrofracking

### Contact

Joseph W. Hoff, KCAH  
Chairperson

### E-mail

[info@keukacah.org](mailto:info@keukacah.org)

Keuka Citizens against Hydrofracking is an informal organization of concerned citizens that seeks to learn about and share information regarding Hydrofracking and related technologies. Keuka Citizens against Hydrofracking does its best to research this information and present it fairly.

We would like to hear from you! Please contact us at [info@keukacah.org](mailto:info@keukacah.org) with questions and/or comments.

## Contact Us

Questions or comments: [info@keukacah.org](mailto:info@keukacah.org)

To **subscribe** to the Crooked Lake Keeper send an e-mail to: [gka-nofrack@keukacah.org](mailto:gka-nofrack@keukacah.org)

To **unsubscribe** to the Crooked Lake Keeper send an e-mail to: [gka-nofrack@keukacah.org](mailto:gka-nofrack@keukacah.org)

## Web Links

[www.preservethefingerlakes.com](http://www.preservethefingerlakes.com)

[www.fractracker.org](http://www.fractracker.org)

[www.rouse-tc.org](http://www.rouse-tc.org)

[www.earthworksaction.org](http://www.earthworksaction.org)

[www.gaslandthemovie.com](http://www.gaslandthemovie.com)

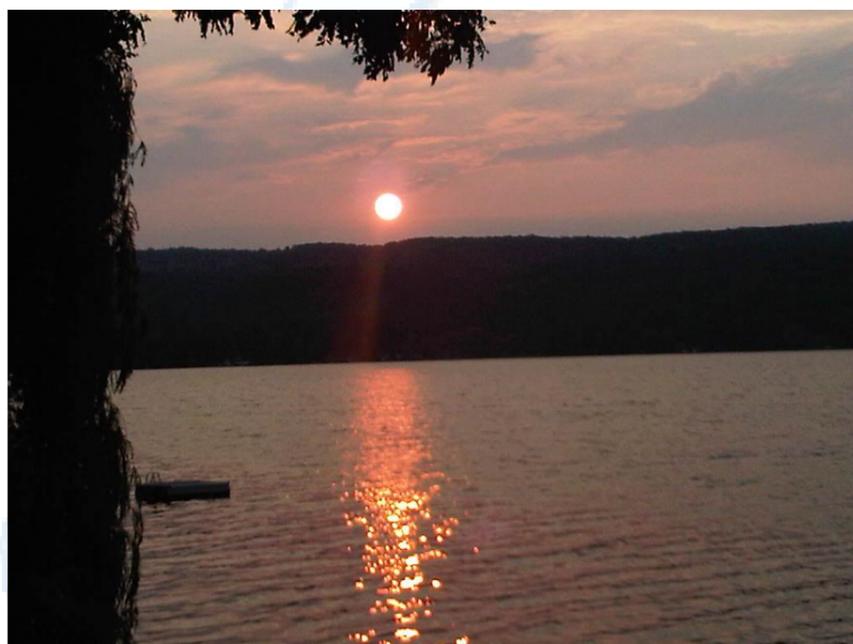
[www.marcellusprotest.org](http://www.marcellusprotest.org)

[www.shaleshock.org](http://www.shaleshock.org)

[www.communityscience.org](http://www.communityscience.org)

[www.gasfreeseneca.com](http://www.gasfreeseneca.com)

[www.change.org](http://www.change.org)



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