



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DONNA A. LUPARDO
123rd Assembly District

SENATOR LEA WEBB
52nd Senate District

November 20, 2023

Basil Seggos, Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Commissioner Seggos,

It has come to our attention that Southern Tier CO2 Clean Energy Solutions is soliciting land leases from local property owners with at least 30 acres in Broome, Tioga, and Chemung counties for a new type of gas extraction involving CO2. A recent article* reported that the company is planning to decide by March whether to proceed with the drilling of pilot wells in New York, and that they will move forward only if they are able to secure at least 100,000 acres of leased land.

The company claims that “By creating a circular process of capturing carbon dioxide and employing it to facilitate the extraction of natural gas, we aim for net-zero energy production. The balance between our carbon capture efforts and natural gas production is our formula for creating an environmentally friendly yet economically viable energy solution.”

We would appreciate your help in answering some initial questions about the company and the conceptual project that they are promoting. As you might imagine, given the region’s past history with hydraulic fracturing, we are also receiving calls and emails from concerned citizens with similar questions.

1- Is the DEC familiar with the Texas based Southern Tier CO2 Clean Energy Solutions?
Their website is: <https://www.southerntiersolutions.com/>

2- Has the DEC heard about the type of the natural gas extraction process, one that involves the proposed storage of carbon dioxide and subsequent combustion of gas to create electricity, that they are proposing to use in NYS?

3- Has Southern Tier CO2 Clean Energy Solutions been in contact with the DEC to explore what type of permits, both State and Federal, would be needed for such a process and for the accompanying infrastructure needed (pipelines, substations, etc.).

4- Does the DEC know if any state has allowed the use of CO2 injection as a means of gas extraction?

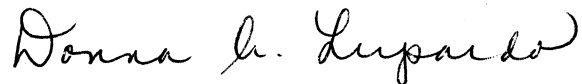
5- Are you familiar with any scientific studies about the use of CO2 for gas extraction?

6- Would this gas extraction and carbon sequestration process meet the applicable standards of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and the State Environmental Quality Review Act?

We are very interested to hear your thoughts on what they are proposing. As always, thanks for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Donna Lupardo

Handwritten signature of Donna L. Lupardo in cursive script.

Senator Lea Webb

Handwritten signature of Lea Webb in cursive script.

cc.

John O'Leary, Deputy Secretary for Energy & Environment

Katherine McNamara, Director, Office of State Legislative Affairs, DEC

Harris Weiss, Southern Tier Regional Representative, Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

* <https://waterfrontonline.blog/2023/11/11/massive-southern-tier-gas-drilling-spree-proposed-6500-land-leases-sought-for-plan-to-extract-methane-and-store-co2/>