

Beware of the Trojan Horses

by David J. Cyr — March, 2009

There are two Trojan Horses that have been brought in among us, within New York State's shale gas drilling opposition, which will be used to defeat us, if we accept them.

The first Trojan Horse is the idea of New York City's environmental exceptionalism.

In considering the arguments in favor of protecting New York City's water first, and the water of others later, we should listen to what Ashok Gadgil has to say about such schemes. Gadgil invented an affordable Ultra-Violet light water purification system, to provide locally owned and controlled safe water supplies, for small villages in the poor areas of developing countries. With so many billions upon millions in aid having gone to those countries, for the construction of massive water systems, some might wonder why such an invention would be needed. Here's Gadgil's explanation:

"Historically, most of the funding provided by aid institutions has gone to poor countries, but provided water only to the politically powerful and the economically powerful sectors in those countries. **Once they [the rich and the powerful] get their safe drinking water, their passion for providing safe drinking water for the rest of the county declines substantially.**"

New York City, which has no perceptible passion to protect the water of others *now*, will surely have no care at all to protect the water of others *after* it has its permanent ban on drilling within its watershed. When The City has the exclusive protection for its own water that it wants, it will then focus upon getting the shale gas that it also wants. The City would then abuse its disproportionate power by thwarting any attempts to protect the water of less powerful others, which might inhibit the flow of gas to The City.

New York City has an inordinate amount of power within New York State. In having so much power, The City has a moral responsibility — an obligation — to use that power to protect the water of everyone in this state, not just its own.

We should all oppose any New York State "natural" gas drilling legislation or agency regulation that effectively provides **separate and unequal environmental protection**, for different people, different counties, or different watersheds within New York State. A gas extraction industry process that is considered too environmentally unsafe to be used within a particular watershed (New York City's) is not safe for use in any other watershed; and therefore should not be permitted for use anywhere within this state.

The other Trojan Horse is the idea that we must capitulate; that we must accept only what we are told is possible.

If the drilling opposition follows the same political path that liberals took in all those elections that have led us into this and so many other problems, then we will ensure our own self-betrayal. We should not desperately acquiesce to some perceived "safer" lesser evil... some possible least worst. No! We should instead unitedly advocate for the best good.

It is **not** an environmentalist's position to insist that we must know exactly what poisons will be used... *before* we permit the poisoning to be done!

It is **not** an environmentalist's position to have unique chemical markers tagging poisons, so that we can later possibly determine who might have polluted over here, and who might have polluted over there... after we have permitted the polluting of near everywhere!

This Halliburton process will **not** be safe! It will **not** be *safe*, no matter **who** does it; **where** they do it; **when** they do it; or **how** they do it! And it will **not** be *safe* no matter who watches them... *while* they do it.

We cannot win anything worth winning in our struggle with these waterfracking invaders, if we only seek what is possible — if we only seek what **they** allow. To have any chance to truly win something **real**, enough of us — that's all of us — must insist upon having what we are told we cannot have. We need to unitedly demand what is thought to be impossible... **We need to demand and get a permanent ban on shale gas drilling everywhere within New York State.**

David J. Cyr is a retired Land Surveyor who lives in the Town of Hamden, in Delaware County, NY. He finds it unconscionable that New York City would protect his water, while polluting that of others. He is a State Committee member in the Green Party of New York State (GPNYS), and a member of the Chenango Delaware Otsego Gas Drilling Opposition Group (CDOG). www.Un-NaturalGas.org