

Steuben County's Natural Gas Task Force Steering Committee held its initial meeting on Thursday, June 17. At this meeting the Task Force's mission statement was developed and a Task Force membership application was approved. Mr. Patrick Donnelly, Chairman of the County Legislature and the Task Force, reminded the steering committee of the limitations placed on the County by State Law, stating, "At this point in time, I think it is imperative that the public at large understands that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has **exclusive** jurisdiction over natural gas, and in particular, shale gas exploration, development, and operations." Applications for Task Force sub-committee membership and advisory membership are now available by contacting Ms. Kane at 664-2247 or via email at chris@co.steuben.ny.us.

The Steuben County Natural Gas Task Force is committed to open public meetings of the Steering Committee and the sub-committees. The Task Force encourages citizen participation as it endeavors to address issues surrounding natural gas exploration. In addition to open meetings the Task Force will develop a web page and an email distribution list to provide information to the public.