



SUPPORT

A. 4745/S. 3910 (Rosenthal/Marcellino)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the use of wastewater for road and land spreading

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 4745/S. 3910 (Rosenthal/Marcellino), which amends the environment conservation law by defining types of wastewater associated with natural gas production and banning the use of wastewater for road and land spreading, de-icing, and dust control.

Wastewater used during the process of natural gas extraction includes flowback fluid, high-volume hydraulic fracturing or production brine (produced water). Production brine is used for de-icing and dust control because of its high accumulation of salt but poses several health concerns. It's indicated by the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement that production brine contains high amounts of NORM or naturally occurring radioactive materials like radium. Other wastewater such as flowback fluids has high levels of chemicals found in hydraulic fracturing including cancer-causing agents like benzene and chromium-6.

The use of wastewater risks the potential for brine to be released into the environment but also poses a threat to the health of the public. Wastewater used for land application increases the chances of wastewater elements entering surface and groundwater through runoff and migration of brines. A. 4745/S. 3910 will prevent toxic wastewater from natural gas production to be used for de-icing, dust control, and road and land spreading.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) strongly urges passage of A. 4745/S. 3910.

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