Kingston, NY -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement applauding New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman's pledge to pursue legal action if the Delaware River Basin Commission does not commit to conducting a full environmental review of hydraulic fracturing before finalizing regulations to allow new gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin. Hinchey is a co-chair of the Congressional Delaware River Task Force, author of the FRAC Act and the legislative language that initiated a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study on hydraulic fracturing.

"Attorney General Schneiderman is right to call for an environmental review of the hydraulic fracturing regulations proposed by the Delaware River Basin Commission.

"For years, I have been advising the DRBC to undertake a cumulative environmental impact study prior to the issuance of regulations. Now the commission may face legal action as a result of its failure to undertake this study.

"The DRBC should suspend their rulemaking process and initiate an environmental impact study along the lines of what the Attorney General and I have requested."