

## Letter: Be cautious with water supplies

To the editor

Published 8:19 pm, Wednesday, August 22, 2012



A view of some of the panels which are part of the 15 panel, solar thermal array of vacuum tubes on the roof of the Glens Falls Hospital Renal Dialysis Center on Monday, June 25, 2012 in Glens Falls, NY. A media event was held on Monday to show the installed solar thermal system. The Center uses 200 gallons of heated water per hour for patient treatment, and now has become one of the first in the U.S. to use solar thermal technology for dialysis treatments. (Paul Buckowski / Times Union)

Kudos to Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) and the state Legislature for enacting solar power inducements to quadruple the state's capacity within a year.

The article "Solar future gets a boost," Aug. 18, rightly points out natural gas is a bridge fuel buying time until clean energies produce enough electricity so we no longer need to use dirty fuels.

It is important to remember that natural gas is not a panacea. It leads to carbon dioxide emissions when burned and methane emissions during the drilling process. Evidence suggests if natural gas is not extracted carefully, the effects of the methane released during extraction make gas worse for the environment than even coal.

Since we are fast approaching a time when clean energy sources will fully replace dirty fuels in the production of electricity, Americans should not rush to produce vast quantities of natural gas through potentially unsafe hydrofracturing methods. It would be a tragedy to ruin water supplies or release methane as part of the gas drilling process when we are so close to finding a solution to climate change.

**JUDY WEISS**

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