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Academics asked to complete fracking review by Dec. 3

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ALBANY— The panel of academics who will help assess New York's review of shale-gas drilling have now been told their work should be completed by Dec. 3, according to one of the state-selected experts.

Lynn Goldman of George Washington University said Wednesday that she has been asked to finish her review by early December. She had said last week that state officials had signaled a completion date of "mid-February at the latest."

"There are two different dates," Goldman said in an email Wednesday. "The review completion

date is indeed December 3, but my agreement with them is through mid-February."

Goldman, dean of the university's School of Public Health and Health Services, is one of three experts retained by the state last week to review the Department of Environmental Conservation's efforts to limit the potential health impacts of large-scale hydraulic fracturing. The others are John Adgate of the Colorado School of Public Health and Richard Jackson of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Spokesmen for the state Department of Health and Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office did not immediately respond to

requests for comment Wednesday.

Kate Sinding, a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, said a Dec. 3 deadline would not leave enough time for a comprehensive analysis.

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