

## **Stop The Minisink Compressor Station/ Minisink Residents for Environmental Preservation and Safety**

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### **Actor, Activist Mark Ruffalo To Rally Against Gas Facility in Farming Community** *Gas Infrastructure Threatens Survival of Small & Organic Farms Supplying Metro Area*

**Minisink, New York, Feb.6** - Actor and activist Mark Ruffalo will join hundreds of area residents to protest the construction of a 12,260 horsepower gas compressor station in this residential and farming community 60 miles from Manhattan at a rally this Saturday, Feb.9<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30pm. The residents are now taking their 18-month fight to the U.S. Court of Appeals, where it is expected to set a legal precedent, whether the case is won or lost.

Ruffalo, the actor who played ‘The Hulk’ in last year’s blockbuster “The Avengers” co-founded the organization Water Defense in opposition to the highly toxic ‘fracking’ method of procuring natural gas. His appearance at the rally is part of the growing recognition that if Minisink doesn’t win its case, the gas and oil industries will be free to ignore community harm when choosing sites for their infrastructure.

In addition to threatening the health and safety hundreds of families in the Minisink community, the plant would also endanger the local farming-based economy. Many organic and small farmers in the area are concerned that the over 100 tons/year of pollutants from the facility will affect their ability to continue to raise a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as grass-fed and organic meats. Most of these farms sell their products directly to markets, CSAs, stores and restaurants in the metropolitan area. The area around Minisink includes much of the farmland closest to markets in the city.

The station would emit considerable quantities of acidic gases and small particles that would fall heavily on nearby farmland, slowing plant growth and increasing soil acidity. The build-up of toxins in the soil may threaten organic certification. Low-noise vibration from the facility can affect honeybees and cause stress on animals.

Both the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Orange County Agricultural and Farm Protection Board oppose the plant.

Minisink’s fight against the compressor station resulted in a rare 3-2 split decision from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the key disagreement centers on the Commission’s obligation to consider alternate sites causing significantly less community harm. Residents have identified a site near Minisink that is a viable alternative in an industrially zoned area, which would cause very little harm to communities or farms.

The rally will be held directly across from the construction site at 107 Jacobs Road in Westtown, New York.

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**For more information visit [www.stopmcs.org](http://www.stopmcs.org). Press Coordinators: Asha Canalos 917. 582. 8409 / Carolyn Petschler 845. 313. 9801 / Facebook & Twitter: “Stop the Minisink Compressor Station.**