

Stop The Minisink Compressor Station

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RALLY TO PROTECT NEW YORK'S LOCAL FOOD SHED FROM FRACKED-GAS

AT UNION SQUARE PARK, NEW YORK CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, 12 pm – 2 pm. Residents and growers from upstate New York will join New York City chefs, food purveyors, and advocates for healthy, local produce to raise awareness about the need to preserve New York's local food shed from shale gas infrastructure, which is spreading throughout New York State at an alarming rate.

The rally will take place on the south steps of Union Square Park near one of the city's oldest and largest farmers markets. Honored speakers will include Eve Ensler, V-Day Foundation; Angela Monti Fox, The Mothers Project; and John Feal, FealGood Foundation.

One participating community, Minisink, NY, located 70 miles northwest of New York City, has been engaged in a two year battle to protect their community from a 12,260 horsepower compressor station meant to facilitate the transportation of fracked gas from Pennsylvania to downstate consumers in New York City. The facility received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and was completed this past summer by Millennium Pipeline, a subsidiary of Columbia Pipeline Group (CPG).

Wawayanda, NY, a neighboring agricultural community, is also facing imminent harm from a related 650-Megawatt gas-fired power plant, being built by Competitive Power Ventures Inc., which will draw fracked gas through the compressor station.

Both communities lie on the edge of New York's world-famous, extremely fertile, and high yielding, Black Dirt region, a rare mineral-rich geological formation resulting from an ancient glacial lake. The area is home to many prized New York vineyards, organic farms, orchards, and other specialty farms.

The gas facilities will cumulatively emit over two million tons of green-house gases, and hundreds of tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrous oxides annually. These gases interact to form ground level ozone, heavy metals, and other toxic pollutants, all of which are harmful to residents, livestock, crops, and the economy.

"New Yorkers must make a choice", says Pramilla Malick a resident of both Minisink NY and New York City. "We can't have safe local food along with fracked gas". "This infrastructure is tearing through the heart of our precious agricultural resources" says Asha Canalos, another impacted resident from Minisink and organic farmer.

Susan Van Dolsen of Westchester for Change, a supporting group says, "Even though hydraulic fracturing has not been permitted in New York State, risks associated with fracked gas travel through the shale gas infrastructure. Dependence on fossil fuels imperils our food, our sustenance. Farmers and consumers must join hands and compel our policymakers to commit fully to renewable, non-fossil fuel energy policies."

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