

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JULY 13th: JULY 13th: COMEDIAN-ACTIVIST-MUSICIAN REVEREND BILLY COMING TO NEARBY DOVER PLAINS, NY. PUSH TO STOP POLLUTING GAS POWER PLANT 3 MILES FROM SHERMAN, CT. GAINS MOMENTUM & SUPPORT FROM NOTEWORTHY PUBLIC FIGURES. PERFORMANCE BY REVEREND BILLY & THE STOP SHOPPING CHOIR AND OTHER ARTISTS.

WHAT: Reverend Billy & the Stop Shopping Choir will join area residents to rally on Saturday, July 13th at Cricket Valley Energy, a fracked gas power plant that is under construction. Following the rally, there will be a BBQ & music nearby at a private residence. Activists will unite in strength and solidarity.

WHO: Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir is a New York City based Earth-defending performance community, Earthalujah! The Church of Stop Shopping has 50 performing members and a congregation in the thousands. From their website: "We resist extinction, but bring humor and music to the end of the world. And, we do get arrested a lot"... The group has won the OBIE, Alpert and Edwin Booth awards and The New York Historic Districts Council's Preservation Award (for leading protests to save Manhattan's Poe House). The Stop Shopping Choir is a number of economic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. The choir has toured internationally including stops in Greece, Switzerland and Australia. Other performers for the day include folksinger Pat LaManna, the Hummingbird Duo & more.

WHERE: Rally- 2241 NY-22, Dover Plains, NY 12522.

WHEN: 11:00 AM- meet at Cricket Valley Gas Plant to picket for one hour. 12:00 PM-3PM (Music will follow)

WHY:

FRACKED GAS POWER PLANT: PRIVATE GAIN FOR PUBLIC RISK. COMMUNITY HEALTH IN CT & NY ARE AT RISK.

Despite Governor Cuomo's ban on the process of fracking, infrastructure projects such as pipelines, power plants and gas compressor stations continue to threaten both New Yorkers and Connecticut citizens. Clean water, air, and community health are at risk in the region, with fracked gas power plants posing threats throughout the region. Cricket Valley Energy Center (CVE) is a an 1100MW fracked gas power plant that's under construction, despite the project being approved before fracking was banned. Circumstances have significantly changed since an Environmental Impact Statement was originally prepared for CVE in 2011, and opponents of the project have petitioned Governor Cuomo for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The role of Governor is to serve the people, however, Cuomo has yet to respond.

According Mothers Out Front, if CVE begins operating, the 1100-Megawatt plant “will burn 170 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. Over 30 years, this amounts to 2 trillion cubic feet, equivalent to the entire lifetime supply of 464 gas wells, drilled and fracked. From combustion alone, Cricket Valley will generate 3.4 million metric tons (MMT) of carbon dioxide annually.” The plant is located exactly 3/4 mile from the Dover High School and Middle School.

CITIZENS TO UNITE AGAINST THREATS TO COMMUNITY HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

CVE was permitted without any input from the Schaghticoke people- an indigenous community with a reservation less than 2 miles from the plant. The reservation, established in 1736, is located in Connecticut next to the NY state border. The Schaghticoke are no strangers to pollution and marginalization- their reserve is located along the Housatonic River, which is still polluted with PCBs manufactured by Monsanto and released by General Electric between the 1930's and 1970's. Corporate polluters continue to compromise public safety, health and access to clean water, but at least one thing has changed since the PCB days. “Free, Prior and Informed Consent” (FPIC) is a specific right that allows indigenous communities to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. This concept is recognized in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which was adopted in 2007 by the United Nations and ratified by the U.S.

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