

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

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Finger Lakes Wineries, Businesses, Municipalities, Organizations Announce Filing for Upcoming Issues Conference in Opposition to Gas Storage Facility that Threatens Finger Lakes Region

Rochester – A broad and diverse coalition has formed in opposition to a proposed massive liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) facility in the heart of the Finger Lakes, which has prompted unprecedented opposition from more than a dozen local municipalities, more than 60 wineries, hundreds of businesses, and organizations throughout the region. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has called an issues conference in February to examine the evidence about threats the proposed facility by Crestwood Midstream, a Texas-based corporation, poses to the region. At the press conference on Friday, the organizations, wineries, and municipalities will announce filing for party status and discuss why it is imperative for the Finger Lakes region at large that the LPG facility be denied.

When: Friday, January 16 at 10:30 AM.

WHERE: Radisson Hotel, 120 East Main Street, Rochester, in the Douglas Room (up the escalator to second floor off the main lobby).

WHO: Key Members of the four groups filing for the issues conference:

- Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA),
- Municipality Leaders throughout the Finger Lakes Region (see:
- http://gasfreeseneca.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/towns_LPG_opposition_21Oct14.jpg)
- Finger Lakes Wine Business Coalition (FLXWBC)
- Gas Free Seneca

WHAT:

Announce filings for Party Status as part of the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Issues Conference on proposed Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage project the day of the filing deadline (1/16).

Background:

All Parties are seeking denial of the DEC's permit to Texas-based Crestwood Midstream for its proposed LPG facility, citing reasons why no permit should be issued. Parties are announcing their Petition to participate in an Adjudicatory Hearing, seeking Full Party Status.

This represents a united, strong, and broad public opposition to Texas-based Crestwood's plan to turn depleted salt mines along Seneca Lake, two miles north of Watkins Glen, into a major propane and butane storage/ transport hub for the Northeastern United States. Groups are filing together to send a message to Governor Cuomo, and to participate in the legal proceedings to demonstrate that the heavy industrialization is not only incompatible with the existing wine and

tourism industries, but that it is scientifically irresponsible to store gas along a drinking water source for 100,000 people.

The Finger Lakes region has positioned itself as an economically sustainable, world-class tourist destination with a vision for continued development that does not include dirty industry. The cities of Rochester and Syracuse depend on the draw of the Finger Lakes as they attract the kind of professionals who care about the bucolic beauty that the Finger Lakes possesses, and that has not been sacrificed for massive industrialization by the Oil and Gas Industry.

All Parties will present supporting materials and legal issues at the Issues Conference, where an Adjudicatory Law Judge will determine whether a full Adjudicatory Hearing is warranted, and if so, who will be given Party Status at the hearing.

The Municipalities have obtained pro bono legal representation from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Gas Free Seneca has representation from Earthjustice, The FLXWBC and SLPWA have also retained legal counsel. Expert witnesses have been obtained and will present their arguments at the Issues Conference slated for February 12th in Horseheads, New York.