



Farm-Based Education and Training  
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#### **Steering Committee**

Rafael Aponte  
Rocky Acres  
Community Farm

Peter Bardaglio  
Tompkins County Climate  
Protection Initiative

Sharon Clarke  
Local Foods Entrepreneur

Gil Gillespie  
Harrisdale Homestead

Todd McLane  
Tompkins-Cortland  
Community College

Monika Roth  
CCETC Ag Program

Fred Schoeps  
104 State

Stefan Senders  
Wide Awake Bakery

Mary Kate Wheeler  
Future Farmer

Megan Vidler  
Beginning Farmer

#### **2014 Mentor Farms**

Black Diamond Farm  
Eve's Cidery

Good Life Farm  
Hemlock Grove Farm

Kingbird Farm

Main Street Farms

Northland Sheep Dairy

Plowbreak Farm

Redbyrd Orchard

Tree Gate Farm

West Haven Farm

#### **Staff**

Joanna Green  
Director

Devon Van Noble  
Incubator Coordinator

#### **To All Concerned:**

The Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming is committed to help build a vibrant, sustainable, and equitable food system for our region. Clearly, we cannot achieve this goal without clean water, air, and soil. Thus we stand with the residents of the Finger Lakes Region opposing construction of Crestwood's gas storage in the abandoned salt caverns under Seneca Lake.

We are blessed to live in a region whose prosperity rests on education, health care, tourism, wine, and farming. But with this blessing comes the responsibility of taking care of what makes these activities possible: water, air, and soil.

The rail and truck traffic projected to accompany the construction of the gas storage facility guarantees the creation of significant air pollution in the Seneca Lake area, and the risk of leaks and spills into groundwater, soil, and lake is also very high. We agree with the four county legislatures and nine municipal boards in the surrounding area that have voted against the gas depot because it threatens the quality of life, health, and economic well being of their constituents. We call on the Schuyler County Legislature, the Reading Town Board, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reconsider their ill-advised recommendation to proceed with this project.

As Dr. Rob MacKenzie's thorough risk analysis demonstrates, the risk of a major accident or failure during transport or storage at the facility is estimated at nearly 40% over the next 25 years. No one would be expected to send their children to a school that had a 40% chance of collapsing – why are residents in the Watkins Glen and Reading communities expected to expose their children to this dangerous level of risk for the sake of Crestwood's profits?

Furthermore, it is likely that the pressurized gas inside the salt domes will force more dissolved salts into the lake and cause rapid increases in the lake's salinity. Salt mining has already made Seneca Lake the saltiest of the Finger Lakes. Why would anyone support activities that would seriously threaten the drinking water source for over 100,000 people?

*Groundswell is a Project Partner of the not-for-profit Center for Transformative Action.*

For all these reasons, Groundswell opposes the construction of Crestwood's gas storage in the abandoned salt caverns under Seneca Lake and supports the peaceful civil disobedience of citizens who are standing up for the rights of all to have clean air, water, and soil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joanna Green  
Groundswell Director