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**12 Arrests Conclude Successful Week of Nonviolent Direct Actions**

Watkins Glen, NY – 12 people were arrested this morning for trespassing at Texas-based Crestwood Midstream’s gas storage facility gates on the shore of Seneca Lake. They follow nine yesterday, nine arrests primarily of business owners on Wednesday, eight on Tuesday and 10 on Monday. These 12 conclude an entire week of direct actions aiming to draw much-needed attention to the dangers of salt cavern gas storage and to stop Crestwood’s methane storage expansion approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. There were 48 arrests this week. In total, since its beginning on Oct. 23, the We Are Seneca Lake blockades of Crestwood have resulted in 73 arrests involving 65 unique individuals.

The 12 people arrested today are: Carey Harben, 47, of Hector; Lyndsay Clark, 53, of Springwater; Doug Couchon, 64, of Elmira; Susan Mead, 66, of Ithaca; Mariah Plumlee, 35, of Covert; Irene Weiser, 56, of Caroline; Deborah Cipolla-Dennis, 49, of Dryden; Leslie Potter, 70, of Big Flats;Rick Rogers, 66, of Spencer; Patricia Heckart, 63 of Trumansburg; John Wertis, 51 of Trumansburg; and Pete Angie, 34, of Ulysses.

Of these 12, Clark, Plumlee and Heckart have been arrested previously. All three appeared in the Reading Town Court on Wednesday of this week before Judge Barry. Clark and Plumlee plead guilty to their prior trespass charge and each paid the $250 fine plus a $125 court fee. Heckart plead not guilty to her trespassing charge in addition to a second charge of disorderly conduct. She is scheduled to reappear on Jan. 21 of the New Year.

Couchon, Weiser and Cipolla-Dennis risked arrest at previous actions but were not arrested.

These arrests come after Sandra Steingraber, who was arrested on Oct. 29 and taken to jail after refusing her fine on Wednesday, asked that a message be sent out to the community last night via a phone call from jail with Couchon. Steingraber asked that the community sign the Seneca Lake Pledge of Resistance, attend non-violent civil disobedience trainings, recruit others to sign the pledge and to take her place at the gates of Crestwood.

Each of today’s arrestees were charged with a trespass violation.

**Quotes:**

From Cipolla-Dennis:

*“I am here because I think that our country is going in the wrong direction in energy, and we have to turn it around … and the only way that we’re going to do that is by civil disobedience because our government is bought and paid for. The people have to stand up.”*

Cipolla-Dennis’s wife, Joanne Cipolla-Dennis, was arrested on Nov. 3. From Irene Weiser:

*“I’m here because … we’re seeing gas build out all over the Finger Lakes in one way or another. This is a beautiful area with tourism, and wine industry, and agriculture industry that is our real future. Instead we’re seeing an industrial takeover that’s going to ruin the way of life and the quality of life here that people come to enjoy, and I’m here to defend that.”*

From Couchon:

*“I’m here because we can no longer afford further poisoning of our water, air, land, bodies, and homes by corporations who think nothing of poisoning us. That has to stop, so we’re making a stand right here.”*

From Mariah Plumlee, mother of three:

*“I think it’s really important to do this, and if everybody did this then we wouldn’t have this problem. We moved here almost ten years ago because we knew it would be a wonderful place to raise a family.”*

From Clark:

*“I love the Finger Lakes and I’m a firm believer in alternative energy, I’ve lived off the grid for 25 years,” Clark said. “I just feel committed to it, so I’m living it. If I’m not here, I just feel like I would not be doing my job.”*

Clark’s husband, Coby Shultz, 54, of Springwater was arrested yesterday. Clark was present to witness and support his arrest.

Those who have been inspired by this week’s actions can get involved by signing the Seneca Lake Pledge of Resistance here: <http://www.wearesenecalake.com/pledge-protect-seneca-lake/>

Those who wish to support from home can make a contribution to the We Are Seneca Lake jail fund at the online button on the webpage: WeAreSenecaLake.com

Lastly, a page on WeAreSenecaLake.com is dedicated to those who have been arrested, and showcases quotes about why they were compelled to be arrested. To learn more about the Defenders, visit http://www.wearesenecalake.com/seneca-lake-defendes/

**Background:**

Protesters have been blocking the Crestwood gas storage facility gates since Thursday, October 23, including a rally with more than 200 people on Friday, October 24th. On Wednesday, October 29, Crestwood called the police and the first 10 protesters were arrested. Yesterday, November 3rd, another 15 protesters were arrested.  More information and [pictures](http://www.wearesenecalake.com/press-kit/) of the actions are available at [www.WeAreSenecaLake.com](http://www.WeAreSenecaLake.com).

The unified We Are Seneca Lake protests started on October 23rd because Friday, October 24th marked the day that major new construction on the gas storage facility was [authorized](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20140812-5017) to begin. The ongoing acts of civil disobedience come after the community pursued every possible avenue to stop the project and after being thwarted by an unacceptable process and denial of science.

The protests are taking place at the gates of the Crestwood compressor station site on the shore of Seneca Lake, the largest of New York’s Finger Lakes. The methane gas storage expansion project is advancing in the face of broad public opposition and unresolved questions about geological instabilities, fault lines, and possible salinization of the lake, which serves as a source of drinking water for 100,000 people. Crestwood has indicated that it intends to make Seneca Lake the gas storage and transportation hub for the northeast, as part of the gas industry’s planned expansion of infrastructure across the region.

\*Note that the WE ARE SENECA LAKE protest is to stop the expansion of methane gas storage, a separate project from Crestwood’s proposed Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage project, which is on hold pending a Department of Environmental Conservation Issues Conference.

As they have for a long time, the protesters are continuing to call on President Obama, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Governor Cuomo, and Congressman Reed to intervene on behalf of the community and halt the dangerous project.

In spite of overwhelming opposition, grave geological and public health concerns, Crestwood has federal approval to move forward with plans to store highly pressurized, explosive gas in abandoned salt caverns on the west side of Seneca Lake. While the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has temporarily halted plans to stockpile propane and butane (LPG) in nearby caverns—out of ongoing concerns for safety, health, and the environment—Crestwood is actively constructing infrastructure for the storage of two billion cubic feet of methane (natural gas), with the blessing of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

More background, including about the broad extent of the opposition from hundreds of wineries and more than a dozen local municipalities, is available on the We Are Seneca Lake website at <http://www.wearesenecalake.com/press-kit/>.