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TriStates Unite for Safe Energy
September 28th, 2016
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CITIZENS FIGHTING THE CPV PLANT STAND TRIAL TOMORROW

Many months after their act of civil disobedience, the Wawayanda Six will stand trial in the Town of Wawayanda, New York Justice Court TOMORROW, September 29, 2016. The six engaged in intentional acts of non-violent resistance to dramatize the imminent dangers posed by the **CPV Valley Energy Center**, currently under construction in New York State and a central focus of indictments for corruption recently handed down by Preet Bharara.

Andrew Cuomo banned hydro-fracking in New York State in December 2014, but this ban did not extend to the use in New York of fracked gas. In neighboring Pennsylvania, many communities continue to be scarred and environmentally decimated by fracking. The defendants are cognizant of this and of the dramatic relationship between our use of fossil fuels and climate change. At trial, the Wawayanda Six intend to prove that their actions were necessary to draw attention to the construction by CPV of a massive fracked gas power plant in New York's Hudson Valley. They believe that their non-violent actions were as morally imperative as other acts of civil disobedience that have changed the course of human history.

Michael Sussman, lead counsel for the Wawayanda Six, notes that the Town Justice will have to decide whether the defendants engaged in civil disobedience out of "necessity" and whether this provides refuge against the pending charges. The case will be tried to the Court because the defendants are charged with "violations," which are deemed non-criminal in New York, with juries not permitted to adjudicate such cases. The defendants are expected to produce nationally known experts who will explain the unprecedented dangers posed by climate change and the environmental and health perils which fracking causes. It is also expected that the defendants will testify, including Pramilla Malick, currently a candidate for the New York State Senate from the 19th district.

Immediately following the trial supporters of the defendants will gather at the CPV construction site at 3300 Route 6, Middletown, NY. At 7pm there will be a showing of films about communities that have been fighting fracked gas infrastructure; the films will be shown at SUNY Orange's Rowley Center, 115 South St., Middletown, NY.