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March 22, 2018

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**Seneca Nation Applauds Coudersport Borough Council Vote Opposing Fracking Wastewater Treatment Facility on Allegheny River**

ALLEGANY TERRITORY, SALAMANCA, N.Y. – On what is known as World Water Day, the Seneca Nation is applauding a recent vote by the Coudersport (PA) Borough Council as the Nation and others continue the fight to preserve the water conditions in the Allegheny River.

Last night, the Borough Council voted 5-1 opposing a proposed wastewater treatment plant that would allow for the transport, treatment and release of thousands of gallons of dangerous wastewater from hydraulic fracturing (fracking) into the Allegheny River. The proposed facility would be located in Eulalia Township, at the river's headwaters.

"We were very happy to learn of this latest action, by yet another government defending the river from what we believe is a dangerous plan," said Seneca Nation President Todd Gates. "The risk of contamination along the river, and the potential environmental and health risks it could impose, simply should not be tolerated."

In addition to the Seneca Nation and the Coudersport Borough Council, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the New York State DEC, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Cattaraugus County Legislature, the Salamanca City Council, New York State Senator Cathy Young, and other government organizations, as well as individual residents have raised concerns about the project.

The Coudersport vote took place on the same days that the Seneca Nation hosted a day-long meeting with a widespread group of elected officials, representatives from multiple governments, and environmental experts to discuss concerns over the dangers the project presents.

The proposed treatment facility would discharge up to 42,000 gallons of treated fracking water into the river each day, although the plant could process between 20,000 – 80,000 gallons daily. Water used for fracking in Pennsylvania contains high levels of radiation, due to its location in the Marcellus Shale region.

The Allegheny River is a source of drinking water for millions of people, from the Southern Tier of New York down to Pittsburgh.

“The headwaters of the Allegheny River are some of the purest I have tested. They need to be protected,” Dr. John Stolz, director of the Center for Environmental Research and Education at Duquesne University said at the Seneca Nation’s meeting. “We have learned from other brine treatment facilities operating in the Allegheny basin that their discharges have degraded the water quality.”

The PA Department of Environmental Protection, which is reviewing the project, has reported that it has received more than 3,000 comments regarding the project.

“The health of the river, and the health of those who will come after us, is not negotiable,” President Gates added. “We hope that the members of the Coudersport Area Municipal Authority and the Pennsylvania DEP do the right thing and let our beautiful waters continue to flow free of fracking contamination.”