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Contact: Scott Smith, ssmith@environmentalhealthproject.org, 412-600-0738
Talor Musil, tmusil@environmentalhealthproject.org, 412-866-4525

**AIR MONITORING PROGRAM DEFENDS PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEW YORK STATE
COMMUNITIES**

PITTSBURGH, PA, November 21, 2024 – The Environmental Health Project (EHP) announced today the launch of two Environmental HealthWatch engagements in New York State communities. In partnership with community groups in each area, EHP will train residents to install low-cost air monitors and interpret the collected data to proactively protect public health near facilities of concern.

Monitoring and analysis will occur around the Seneca Meadows landfill and methane gas energy facility in Seneca Falls, NY, and the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Compressor in Clymer, NY.

Yvonne Taylor, Vice President, [Seneca Lake Guardian](#), Seneca Falls, NY, said, “In Seneca Falls, we’re fighting for our lives against a proposed expansion of the largest landfill in New York State, Seneca Meadows. The dump emits high quantities of noxious emissions that degrade our quality of life, make our neighbors sick, and threaten public health. Resources from EHP and new air quality monitors equip our neighbors with the knowledge and concrete evidence they need to voice their concerns with our local representatives. This partnership is critical to our fight against the landfill and to usher in a cleaner and healthier future for New York.”

Rachel Luden, a community organizer in Clymer said, “We are concerned about the chemicals being released into our environment and how they may be affecting the health and well-being of our community members in Clymer and the surrounding areas. From air and water quality to exposure to harmful substances, these environmental factors can have lasting impacts on the health of our families. By working with the community HealthWatch initiative, we are hoping to provide the Clymer community with vital information about

how the environmental risks may affect them and what steps they can take to protect their health. Knowledge is power, and by staying informed, we can take control of our well-being and work towards a healthier, safer community. Our goal is to equip the Clymer community with the tools and information needed to make decisions that can positively impact their health and their family's future."

Alison L. Steele, Executive Director, EHP, said, "Timely air monitoring, interpretation, and guidance will give these communities the knowledge needed to make improvements to their health. Air pollution impacts communities across New York State, and we value the opportunity to partner with organizations committed to improving public health in these areas."

Talor Musil, Field Manager, EHP, said, "HealthWatch fills a critical gap in knowledge at the local level. Establishing a community network of air monitors will help residents living near facilities of concern to understand their level of exposure to toxic air pollutants and local pollution patterns. Translating these findings into health protective action at the individual and community level is EHP's top priority."

About HealthWatch

In 2020, EHP designed the [Environmental HealthWatch Model](#) to synthesize the available air quality data and research on the health implications of the shale gas industry into meaningful analyses and recommendations. While this program centers on the deployment of a network of around 4 to 10 low-cost air quality monitors in a community, it goes beyond collecting real-time data and provides guidance on how to interpret the data and take steps to protect one's health.

Key components of the program include an air quality monitor network recording real-time levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and total volatile organic compounds (tVOCs), access to EHP's AirView app for real-time analysis of monitor network data, comprehensive air quality reports for the community at large and each individual monitoring site, recommendations for policy changes that protect public health based on local conditions and concerns, and strategies for residents to reduce their risk from exposure to harmful pollutants.

About the Environmental Health Project

The [Environmental Health Project](#) (EHP) is a nonprofit public health organization that defends public health in the face of shale gas development. EHP provides frontline communities with timely monitoring, interpretation, and guidance while engaging diverse stakeholders: health professionals, researchers, community organizers, public servants, and others.

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