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## **HARM NOT IMMINENT SAYS JUDGE IN CLIMATE DISOBEDIENCE CASE** **James Cromwell Vows to Take Jail Time**

SLATE HILL N.Y. While Governor Cuomo calls for urgent climate action riding a wave of anti-Trump sentiment, six individuals including Actor, James Cromwell known as The Wawayanda Six were found guilty today for disorderly conduct while blockading a massive fossil fuel project approved by the Cuomo administration.

The Six individuals include Actor James Cromwell, and 2016 State Senate Candidate, Pramilla Malick, along with Madeline Shaw, Naomi Miller, Terri Klemm, and Maureen Murphy-Smolka.

The target of the civil disobedience action was a massive 650 MW fracked-gas power plant, known as the CPV Valley Energy Project in Orange County NY. While Town Justice Timothy P. McElduff allowed the necessity defense pleadings, he issued the guilty verdict, stating in his ruling that the defense failed to prove "Imminence". This was despite the testimony of prominent public health and climate change experts who testified that the project will effect irreversible and immediate harm to the public.

The defense was not surprised by the ruling citing conflicts of interest and had initially motioned Judge McElduff to recuse himself due to his close political relationship with proponents of the project.

"We exhausted all other remedies" said, Pramilla Malick, one of the Wawayanda Six, a mother of four and an environmental activist. "CPV and their collaborators in government are the real guilty ones" she added, noting that CPV's executive along with close aides to Governor Cuomo are now facing criminal bribery charges in Federal court for a pay-to-pay scheme involving the project. Despite the fact that one aide has already pled guilty, construction has not been halted by the Governor. The group felt their actions had become necessary when state agencies and government failed to consider the climate change and public health impacts of the project

McElduff also issued the sentence, a steep \$375 fine and 16 hours community service which defense attorney Michael Sussman plans to appeal. In response Sussman said, "we agree with the 16 hours community service and believe it should be served protesting the plant every Saturday", to which the packed courtroom cheered.

In a press conference after the ruling Actor James Cromwell vowed to take jail time if the sentence was not overturned on appeal.

Naomi Miller, a college professor and one of the six stated that her actions were the equivalent of seeing smoke in a house and running in to prevent a fire.

The pleadings of the defendants were supported by testimony from expert witnesses including Professors Anthony Ingraffea and Robert Howarth from Cornell University along with Dr. Larysa Dyrka from Concerned Health Professionals of New York. The testimony indicated that the total Green House Gas emissions of the project will be equal to 20 million tons of CO2 annually and cost society \$940,000,000 annually in damages.

“The Civil Disobedience action was an attempt to draw attention to the contradiction between the state’s rhetoric and real policies said Malick. “Governor Cuomo cannot claim to be a climate leader and approve this massive fracked-gas power plant”.

In explaining his actions, Mr. Cromwell said: *"The extraction of fossil fuels has become, in this compromised environment, a crime against humanity."*

Picture and video links below

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