



## For Immediate Release

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### **Citizens 4 Plum Calls on the DEP to Deny Waste Injection Well in Plum Borough**

**Pittsburgh, PA (October 1, 2018)** – Today the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will conduct a public hearing on the proposed conversion of the Sedat 3A well in Plum Borough, Allegheny County to an injection well, which will dispose of liquid waste from oil and gas development in the region.

Penneco Environmental Solutions has proposed the creation of a waste injection well that will accept 2.3 million gallons per month of industrial water waste, making it the largest injection well in Pennsylvania. This voluminous amount of toxic waste means approximately 19 tanker trucks transporting industrial industrial waste will be driving into the community of Plum Borough every day.

In July of 2017, more than 200 concerned residents turned out to an EPA hearing to oppose the permitting of the well. “We are calling upon the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection today to deny this permit,” said Angelina Billanti, president of Citizens 4 Plum. “Why would the largest commercial injection well be situated in a highly populated borough with young families and successful businesses? This type of large-scale industrial activity will put community members and the environment at risk. These wells have a propensity to create earthquakes in an area with already unstable geography.”

Citizens 4 Plum is also concerned for neighbors who rely on potable groundwater for their homes, including the possibility of contaminating nearby Pucketa Creek, which flows into the Allegheny River providing drinking water intakes for customers of Oakmont Water, Shaler Water, as well as Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority water customers.

Key concerns that will be raised by Citizens 4 Plum and citizens:

- The region’s geology is not suitable for such wells because of the risks to groundwater and drinking water.
- The area of the proposed Penneco well site is situated has been historically undermined; therefore, there are risks to property throughout Plum Borough in the event of future earthquakes related to the disposal well-- events that have occurred at other disposal wells sites in Ohio and in Oklahoma and other locations.
- Residents of Plum should not be subject to hazardous air pollutants and community impacts resulting from the related heavy truck traffic that will occur as a result of the installation of the fracking disposal well.





- DEP does not have much experience with frack water disposal wells. The process for reviewing such wells should be slowed down so these applications can be thoroughly reviewed. Rushing this process is tantamount to imposing undue risks on Plum residents' water supply, as well as groundwater and waterways in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- The DEP has not released a draft permit in response to the application. This raises the question as to what the public is really commenting on at the public hearing on October 1.
- The DEP never published notice in the Pa. Bulletin announcing that the public hearing would take place on October 1. The Pa. Bulletin is the official notice of record of state legal actions. This means that the Pa. DEP must publish this notice in the Pa. Bulletin, and that the clock for public comment should be reset, for public review and comment.

**About Citizens 4 Plum** – Citizens 4 Plum is a state incorporated non-profit organization that is dedicated to advocating on behalf of community residents to protect the community and natural environment from industrial activities such as unconventional oil and natural gas and injection well development in areas outside of those zoned industrial in Plum Borough.

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