



ProtectOrangeCounty.org

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 15, 2018:**

### **After Guilty Verdict Many New Calls to Pull Permits For Plant At Center of Percoco Trial**

While many community and environmental groups have long called on **Governor Cuomo** to pull the permits for the controversial power plant at the center of the corruption case involving the Governor's close aide and friend, **Joseph Percoco**; after the guilty verdict was announced on Tuesday they were joined by a broad spectrum of political figures ranging from former Cuomo challenger **Zephyr Teachout** to Republican **Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus**. Neuhaus had supported the project in the past.

"This is a vindication of years of efforts by member of Protect Orange County to alert officials to red flags and improper activities", said **Pramila Malick**, Chair of **Protect Orange County**. "This is a project built on bribes and lies, something we had long known, but the trial brought some daylight to the dirty deals we sensed" Malick sat through the trial nearly every day and says that the revelations in the trial only "scratch the surface" of what really transpired.

Environmental Groups long opposed the project because of its significant climate and public health impacts as well as its dependency on fracked gas. The 650 MW plant would require 130-150 fracking wells per years. The project approvals conflict with the Cuomo administration's policies and rhetoric on the environment. In 2014 the Governor banned fracking citing potential health harms. Critics say the plant approvals also conflict with the Governor's Clean Energy Standards and Greenhouse Gas reduction goals. "There is no explanation for these inconsistencies other than influence by Percoco on behalf of Kelly, which we all now know was bought and paid for", says Malick.

**Peter Galbraith Kelly**, former executive of **Competitive Power Ventures**, was charged along with Percoco in the bribery scheme, however the jury was deadlocked on charges against him leading to a

mistrial for Kelly. Protect Orange County urges prosecutors to retry his case. “We believe that greater investigation would yield even more incriminating evidence of Kelly’s guilt.” says Malick  
Lawmakers, prominent public figures, environmental groups, and impacted residents are now escalating their call for Cuomo to pull the plug on the plant. Below are some of the statements calling for the permits to be revoked. One of the most noted figures is **actor James Cromwell**, who went to jail in 2017 in order to garner public scrutiny of the project.

**Actor and Activist James Cromwell:** “CPV embodies a rapacious industry that has captured our government in its entirety and deemed all sentient beings expendable. The residents, pets, and wildlife of Orange County have suffered enough. It’s time for Governor Cuomo to make this community whole again by immediately shutting down the plant. “

**Susan Van Dolsen, Stop The Algonquin Pipeline Expansion:** “Governor Cuomo must now shut down the CPV fracked gas power plant that was built on bribes and should never have received permits from NY state. There is no need for this gas power. The people of NY need GOVERNOR CUOMO to act like a leader and protect residents from harm by shutting down CPV, rescind permits for polluting gas infrastructure and walk the talk by supporting 100% renewable energy.”

**Zephyr Teachout:** “After a bank robbery, you don't just convict the burgler, you return the money. And then you figure out better security. After a corruption trial, its not enough to convict Percoco; we have to undo the corrupt decisions that he was bribed for, and investigate in a public way--however painful--what exactly happened between CPV lobbyists and state agencies. “

**Pramilla Malick, Protect Orange County:** “The victims of these high crimes will not have justice until they can breathe in peace. The longer Governor Cuomo delays in delivering us justice the more compromised and complicit he appears.”

**Laura Shindell, Food and Water Watch** “Given today’s guilty verdict, it is obvious to anyone following the Percoco trial that Cuomo has failed to root out the corruption that is at the very heart of Albany politics. The fossil fuel industry has used its influence to buy favors from government officials in order to poison New York communities and intensify the global climate crisis. If Governor Cuomo cares about squashing corruption in New York, he must show that he cares more about the health and welfare of the residents of Orange County than profit-hungry corporations and their politically-connected cronies. Governor Cuomo must shut down the CPV power plant-- a polluting, toxic mess his administration created. If he fails to do so, it will be a lesson to all New Yorkers that giant energy companies can get away with poisoning New Yorkers, as long as they scratch the right backs in the Cuomo administration.“

**Jumaane D. Williams, New York City Council Member and Candidate for Lieutenant Governor:** “Each time a government official is found guilty of corruption, it erodes the confidence of our citizenry. Effective governance by honorable public servants relies on maintaining public trust, and that trust has

been greatly diminished in our state. There is a culture of corruption in Albany that has become too acceptable, and the discussion regarding progressive government reform, transparency and accountability must continue with the sense of urgency it demands. In this case, the corruption affected the people and environment in New York, and we need to protect both from the impact of paid-for policy.”

**Assemblyman James Skoufis:** In light of the guilty verdicts, I am unequivocally calling on the Governor to immediately withdraw all state permits related to CPV and initiate a full, comprehensive investigation into the project’s approvals. I’ve requested these actions be taken since 2016 but, now, there is no acceptable alternative.

**Steve Neuhaus, Orange County Executive:** “The State should revoke any and all permits granted to CPV,” Neuhaus said. “You cannot act illegally in the permit approval process and then keep the permits. When the arrests happened, I called upon the State to review all of the permits that were issued. Now that a conviction has been handed down, State officials must do more. They should introduce and pass legislation creating a presumption of invalidity for any project in which criminal conduct by public officials occurred and for which permits were issued.”

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