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**FracTracker to host 5th Annual Community Sentinel Award for Environmental Stewardship event opposite major US shale energy conference in Pittsburgh**

*Beaver, PA* - On October 22nd, 2019, FracTracker Alliance will host an award ceremony and reception in Beaver, Pennsylvania that honors environmental stewards working in the United States. FracTracker created the annual Community Sentinel Award for Environmental Stewardship, now in its fifth year, to celebrate individuals whose noble actions exemplify the transformative power of committed people in resisting the harms caused by oil and gas development. This year, four individuals will be presented with the Award along with a cash prize.

The winners of this year's Award are: Ron Gulla of Pennsylvania, Sharon Lavigne of Louisiana, Allie Rosenbluth of Oregon, and Melissa Troutman of Pennsylvania. Two individuals, Bill Hughes, and Ricky Allen Roles, will be honored posthumously with the Legacy of Heroes recognition. The event will feature keynote speaker Andrey Rudomakha, a prominent leader in the Russian environmental movement.

The Community Sentinel Award event will shine a light on environmental and health concerns facing residents in Beaver, Pennsylvania, the site of Shell's controversial \$6 billion ethane cracker plant that is currently under construction. The plant is one of dozens of planned petrochemical facilities that oil and gas companies intend to establish across the Ohio River Valley in order to produce plastic from fracked natural gas. Opponents of the petrochemical buildout are concerned about potential health effects.

Additionally, the Community Sentinel Award ceremony will be held opposite the Shale Insight Conference, which will host many oil and gas industry leaders, to bring attention to community members' dedication to a sustainable future in the face of fossil fuel extraction.

The 2019 Community Sentinel Award sponsors include The Heinz Endowments, Center for Coalfield Justice, and the 11th Hour Project. Partnering organizations include Food and Water Watch, STAND.earth, Halt the Harm Network, Oxfam, Rootskeeper, Earthworks, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Indigenous Environmental Network, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Crude Accountability, Viable Industries, Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community, and Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project.

The Community Sentinel Award reception will be held at 6:30 PM on October 22nd at the Beaver Station Cultural & Event Center. Tickets are \$40 and include the Award ceremony, networking, dinner, complimentary cocktails, and a cash bar.

Learn more about the Community Sentinel Award at: <https://www.fractracker.org/get-involved/sentinel-award/>