



Amphitheater Scoping Comments

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05/11/2014 12:25 PM

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It appears that the County has done a very good job in preparing the Environmental Assessment Form and in highlighting the items that need to be covered in the Environmental Impact Statement. I say that as one who is in his fifth year of serving on the Town of Lysander Planning Board and who has taken a dozen all day training sessions prior to and during that time. I am presenting my comments in two sections: Suggestions for the SEQRA process and public involvement and the specific environmental concerns I have.

SEQRA Process and Public Involvement

County Multiple Roles. The owner of the property, the county, is the developer, and the County Legislature is the lead agency responsible for the review under SEQRA. This is a role most of the legislators are probably not familiar with nor is it likely that many have training in SEQRA, site plan review and oversight, etc. To ensure that all required SEQRA procedures are followed I recommend that the process include a **coordinated review** to include all of the involved and interested agencies listed on page 2 of Part I of the EAF as well as the Syracuse - Onondaga County Planning Agency and the Town of Geddes Planning Board. This would help ensure that all significant concerns are addressed early in the Scope/EIS process.

Items to be Determined. There are many items noted in the EAF as "to be determined." I think that most of these should be resolved and publicized before the scope is finalized. This will allow the other agencies and the public to learn what is planned and to have the proper input.

Public Information and Involvement. Because of the complexity of the project on a remediation site, I think that the county should conduct information meetings and at least one public hearing at the appropriate time and well prior to final approval of the project. The county should keep the public informed and might even consider forming a CPWG like the one I serve on which assists DEC on keeping the public informed and up to date on the Onondaga Lake cleanup.

Specific Environmental Concerns

General. All the items listed to be covered by the EIS are important. I am only highlighting those that I feel I have some background and knowledge of.

Wildlife and Habitat. The various species of birds, animals, plants, etc., are making and will continue to make a comeback in various areas under remediation in and around the lake. The potential impacts of noise and lights from construction and from the eventual operation of the facility needs to be evaluated by experts. Lighting should be downcast and allow as much "dark skies" as possible. Impacts of sound and light should be limited and/or mitigated wherever possible.

Amphitheater Structure. For a number of reasons I think that the amphitheater and any auxiliary structures including lighting should be constructed as low to the ground as possible and be made of as natural looking materials (wood?) as possible. The visual image should be consistent with that of a park in a natural setting with no reflecting surfaces.

Boat Access. Based on what I perceive as the proposed docking areas for boaters attending concerts, I am concerned with public safety for people who would have to go up a steep incline and back down after dark. I suggest the use of an area farther south where the incline would not be as steep. The walk would be longer, but not as dangerous.

Concert Waste. Plans should be made to prevent the papers and other light trash common at outdoor concerts from blowing off the heights and onto the lake surface.

Contamination Concern. The public as well as the construction workers should be protected from the contaminants present on the site. Planning should include details as to how and when the immediate site of the concert venue will be covered with clean soil and grass.

Traffic Impact. Great planning will be needed to ensure that the large number of people attending an event can be move safely and peacefully from the area when nearly everyone attending will try to leave at once and perhaps at the same time when others are leaving the State Fairgrounds. Traffic studies and even a traffic impact study may be needed.

Coordination with Lake Cleanup. If this project is to be started and completed before all the phases of the Onondaga Lake cleanup is finished, coordination with DEC and Honeywell will be necessary to ensure that the scheduled work on the projects do not conflict.

(These last three comments are related to my experiences on the CPWG.)

Insecticides and Herbicides. I am concerned about the numbers of ticks the CPWG members saw on the site when we visited the area but also with the impacts that the use of harmful chemicals could have on birds and other creatures as well as on the public. Care will need to be taken to protect both wildlife and the public as well as construction workers.

National Resource Damage Assessment. The NRDA process is in its early stages. I would hope that the County is aware of that process and that this project will not interfere with any potential NRDA remedies that conceivably might be proposed for Wastebeds 1 - 8 or other nearby areas.

Thank you for considering my comments. I do have concerns about the economic viability of this project including need, demand, cost, maintenance costs, etc., but those cannot properly be addressed in this communication.

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