

**State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act
Final Environmental Impact Statement for the
Development Authority of the North Country
Solid Waste Management Facility - Proposed Southern Expansion**

EIS Type: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

Proposed Action: The Development Authority of the North Country proposes to expand the capacity of the existing Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) on NYS Route 177, Town of Rodman, NY. The expansion is a Type I Action under SEQR that will cover approximately 110 acres south and west of, and contiguous to, the existing landfill; this includes approximately 76.70 acres of lined landfill cells at full build-out and approximately 34.30 acres of landfill berms, access roads, stormwater detention basins, and ancillary facilities. The Proposed Southern Expansion (PSE) would provide approximately 12,600,000 cubic yards of air space to accommodate solid waste disposal for the SWMF service area (Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties). The rate at which this additional disposal capacity will be consumed depends upon how much waste requires disposal in future years. An annual landfill disposal rate of 250,000 tons per year has been assumed for planning purposes, which would result in a useful life of approximately 45 years for the PSE. It is anticipated that at full build-out, the PSE would consist of nine landfill cells. The estimated site life of each new cell ranges from just over one year to slightly over 10 years. New cells would be constructed as additional disposal capacity is needed and the cells will be closed/capped once they reach their permitted disposal capacity and waste settlement has subsided. The Authority estimates that construction of the first cell will begin in 2021 and construction of the last cell will begin in 2054.

Location of Action: 23400 NYS Route 177, Town of Rodman, Jefferson County, New York

SEQR Lead Agency: Development Authority of the North Country

Contact Person: Mr. Richard LeClerc, Development Authority of the North Country
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FEIS Accepted by SEQR Lead Agency On: June, 3 2015

State Environmental Quality Review
Notice of Completion of Draft / Final EIS

Project Number _____

Date: _____

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

A ☐ Draft or ☐ Final (check one) Environmental Impact Statement has been completed and accepted by the _____, as lead agency, for the proposed action described below.

If a Draft EIS: Comments on the Draft EIS are requested and will be accepted by the contact person until _____.

Name of Action:

Description of Action:

Location: (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.)

Potential Environmental Impacts:

A copy of the Draft / Final EIS may be obtained from:

Contact Person:

Address:

Telephone Number:

A copy of this notice must be sent to:

Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1750

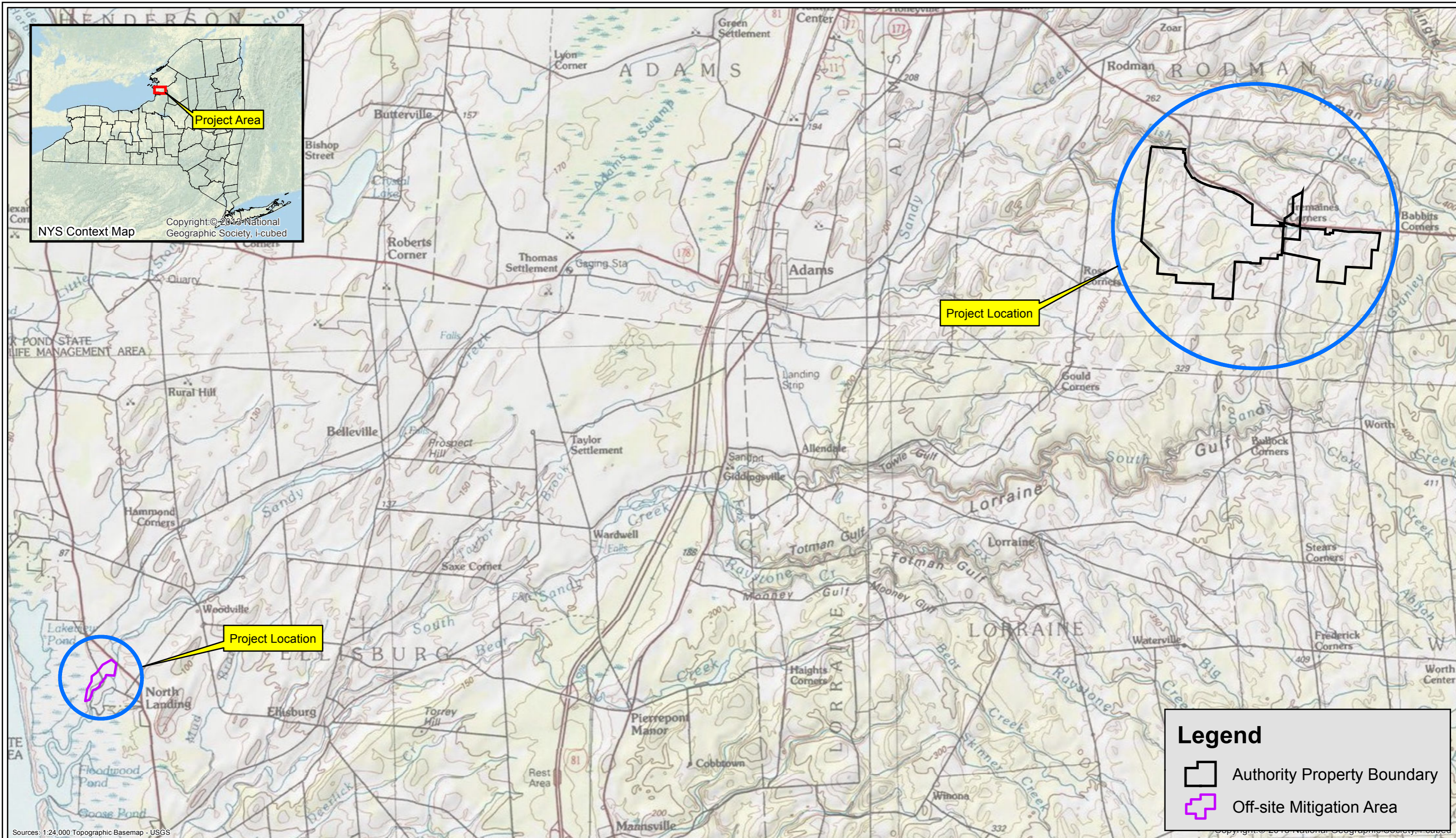
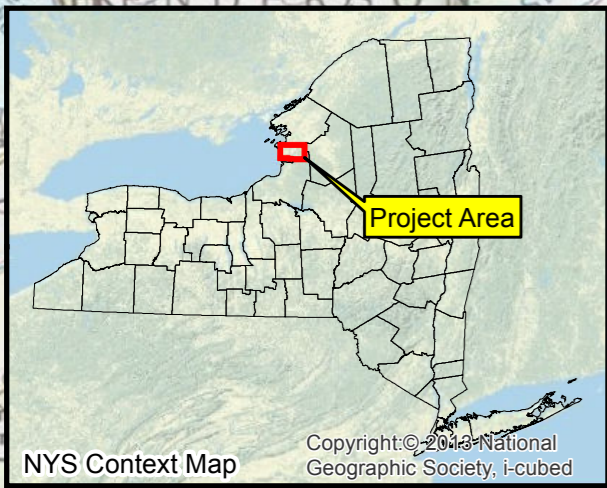
Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of _____

Any person who has requested a copy of the Draft / Final EIS

Any other involved agencies


Environmental Notice Bulletin, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750

Copies of the Draft/Final EIS must be distributed according to 6NYCRR 617.12(b).



Legend

 Authority Property Boundary

 Off-site Mitigation Area





Proposed Southern Expansion

Development Authority of the North Country
Solid Waste Management Facility
Town of Rodman, Jefferson County, New York

Final Environmental Impact Statement

LEAD AGENCY:

Development Authority of the North Country
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601
315-661-3200

PREPARED BY:

CC Environment & Planning
Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

May 2015

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which includes this document in combination with the January 2015 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), is issued for the Proposed Southern Expansion of the Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) in Rodman, New York by the Development Authority of the North Country (Authority) as Lead Agency (Proposed Action). The FEIS has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, as amended, the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and its implementing regulations set forth at 6 New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 617.

On October 27, 2011, the Authority, as Lead Agency for the coordinated SEQRA review of the Proposed Action, and in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.12, issued a positive declaration determining that the Proposed Southern Expansion may have a potential significant impact on the environment requiring the preparation of a DEIS.

On January 29, 2015, the Authority determined that the DEIS was complete, and copies of the DEIS were made available for public review. The DEIS comment period commenced on February 11, 2015 and extended through March 30, 2015. Two public workshops and hearings on the DEIS were conducted on March 4, 2015 at the State Office Building in Watertown, NY and on March 11, 2015 at the Town of Rodman Offices in Rodman, NY.

All volumes of the DEIS, as accepted by the Authority on January 29, 2015, are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. This FEIS incorporates all substantive comments received on the DEIS during the comment period between February 11, 2015 and March 30, 2015 and at each of the two public hearings (March 4, 2015 and March 11, 2015). All substantive written and oral comments are listed in Section 4.0 with the identity of the commenter and the Authority's response. A copy of the transcripts from each of the two public hearings and copy of written comments are provided in Appendix A.

2.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Proposed Action considered in this DEIS is the Proposed Southern Expansion of the existing SWMF. The Proposed Southern Expansion area within the SWMF is also referred to as the "Project Site" and includes approximately 110 acres south and west of, and contiguous to, the existing landfill on property owned by the Authority; this includes approximately 76.70 acres of additional lined landfill cells at full build-out and approximately 34.30 acres of landfill berms, access roads, stormwater detention basins, and ancillary facilities. The Proposed Southern Expansion would provide approximately 12,600,000 cubic yards of air space to accommodate solid waste disposal for the SWMF service area (Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties).

The rate at which this additional disposal capacity will be consumed depends upon how much waste requires disposal in future years. An annual landfill disposal rate of 250,000 tons per year has been assumed for planning purposes, which would result in a useful life of approximately 45 years beyond the life of the existing landfill.

It is anticipated that at full build-out, the Proposed Southern Expansion would consist of nine additional, individual, separately constructed and monitored landfill cells. The estimated site life of each new cell ranges from just over one year to slightly over 10 years. New cells would be constructed as additional disposal capacity is needed and closed/capped once they reached their permitted disposal capacity and waste settlement has subsided. The Authority has estimated the schedule for construction of the additional cells, with construction of the first cell (referred to as Cell 12, since the existing landfill has 11 cells in place) beginning in 2021 and construction of the last cell (Cell 20) beginning in approximately 2054.

The new cells would be lined and capped in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) standards. The Proposed Southern Expansion would also require construction of infrastructure to collect and manage leachate, landfill gas, and stormwater. Leachate would continue to be collected and temporarily stored onsite prior to transport offsite for final treatment and disposal. Landfill gas would continue to be collected and primarily used by the Landfill Gas-to-Energy LFGTE facility onsite to generate electricity. New stormwater infrastructure would include stormwater conveyance swales, detention basins, and controlled outlet structures. Other ancillary components to be constructed as part of the Proposed Southern Expansion include access roads, temporary bridge structures, electrical utilities, monitoring wells, and litter fence. There are currently three permitted borrow areas onsite that are mined for construction and operational soils for the existing landfill, and these would continue to be utilized during construction and operation of the Proposed Southern Expansion.

A mitigation strategy has been developed to compensate for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources as a result of the Proposed Southern Expansion. This mitigation strategy includes off-site mitigation activities. The proposed Off-site Mitigation Area, also referred to as the Skinner Road Site, is located 3.8 miles northwest of Ellisburg and 7.0 miles south of Henderson Harbor in the Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York, in the Eastern Lake Ontario Region. The 40-acre area designated as the Off-site Mitigation Area is owned and managed by NYSDEC as part of the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and is currently in row crops with minimal buffer along Sandy Creek.

3.0 REVISIONS TO THE DEIS

Two minor revisions to the DEIS were made in response to review and consideration of comments.

1. The DEIS cover sheet has been revised to include location information for the Proposed Action as the Town of Rodman, Jefferson County, New York.
2. In Section 3.2.2 of the DEIS (page 24) the first bullet point has been revised to correct a typographic error. It has been revised to read “Thirty-three (33) groundwater monitoring wells at twenty (20) locations.”

4.0 RESPONSE SUMMARY

This section provides a summary of all substantive comments received during the DEIS comment period. With the exception of written comments received by NYSDEC, Region 6 (Appendix A), all comments were received from speakers at the two public hearings. Comments were reviewed by the Authority. Responses to each comment are presented immediately after its summary below. See Appendix A for a copy of the transcripts from each of the two public hearings and a copy of written comments.

Comment Summaries from the March 4, 2015 and March 11, 2015 Public Hearings

Rick Roberts

Comment 1: How far has solid waste management technology progressed since the original siting of the landfill in terms of safeguarding water, preventing any type of runoff, and controlling pollution?

Response: *The Proposed Southern Expansion includes multiple design and operational features to safeguard water quality and control pollution. Part 360 regulations that govern siting, construction, operation, and closure of the Proposed Southern Expansion are designed to provide maximum protection to the environment including groundwater and surface water resources. The installation of a double composite landfill liner system over low permeability soils, along with a leachate collection and containment system, and an extensive network of groundwater monitoring wells, will ensure protection of groundwater resources.*

There are currently 26 double-lined landfills with leak detection operating in New York State, some for over 20 years. NYSDEC has evaluated on-site

groundwater monitoring well analytical data and liner system performance data at these landfills. Of the facilities evaluated, none indicated groundwater impacts attributed to liner system leakage from double composite lined landfills.

Design and operational features that will be implemented at the Proposed Southern Expansion include a double composite liner system, a groundwater suppression system (GWSS), on-site low permeability soils, an expanded groundwater monitoring network, and a spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plan. These features are detailed in Section 4.4.3 of the DEIS.

Please see the response to Comment #3, below, for additional information with regard to stormwater runoff controls.

Comment 2: Are there any additional wells being drilled for testing purposes over and above the number currently monitored?

Response: Yes, the existing groundwater monitoring network and sampling program at the SWMF will be expanded to incorporate sampling locations for the Proposed Southern Expansion. This system will continue to ensure that, in the unlikely case of failure of all other mitigation measures described above, the presence of leachate in the groundwater would be detected as early as possible so that contingency measures can be commenced.

Comment 3: The expansion gets close to the stream [Southern Tributary]. Will there be any type of regular testing of the stream involved?

Response: A vegetated buffer of at least 100 feet will be maintained and protected around all streams outside of the Proposed Southern Expansion footprint, including the Southern Tributary. Stormwater runoff that comes in contact with waste will continue to be collected and treated as leachate. The remaining stormwater runoff outside of the landfill area and runoff from intermediate cover areas would be collected in a surface water management system described in Section 4.3.3 of the DEIS. There are currently seven (7) surface water monitoring points established that are monitored to measure water quality including two points on the Southern Tributary. Surface water monitoring will occur throughout the operation of the landfill and during the post-closure period, as required by NYSDEC's Part 360 regulations. Section 4.4 of the DEIS provides additional information regarding water quality measures and safeguards.

Comment 4: Who conducted wildlife surveys and studies to determine that there would be no impact to certain species?

Response: *Project activities associated with the Proposed Southern Expansion at the SWMF site and mitigation activities proposed at the Off-site Mitigation Area were evaluated in regards to potential impacts to wildlife, specifically state and federal listed species. Details associated with this evaluation are provided in Section 4.5 of the DEIS.*

CC Environment & Planning conducted natural resource inventories at the SWMF between 2010 and 2013 that included habitat assessments, bird surveys, and general wildlife observations. In 2007, Barton & Loguidice and Skelly & Loy conducted mist net surveys for bats. A 2012 survey was completed by Barton & Loguidice that included both mist netting and acoustic sampling specifically for the Proposed Southern Expansion footprint. Updated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is scheduled for 2016 and will include both listed bat species (Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat). CC Environment & Planning surveyed the Off-site Mitigation Area for potential habitat for listed species and conducted a northern harrier survey during the breeding season in 2013.

Based on these studies, no significant adverse impacts to wildlife species are expected. To further reduce potential risk to bat species, the Authority has outlined additional measures to be taken during construction and operation. These are listed in Section 4.5.3 of the DEIS. As also outlined in Section 4.5.3, the Authority voluntarily manages over 1,000 acres of forests, wetlands, fields, and streams at the SWMF to benefit wildlife and promote environmental stewardship. It is expected that wetland and stream restoration activities planned at the Off-site Mitigation Area will improve habitat for a diversity of wildlife species.

Tracy Sigouin

Comment 1: Concerned about the smell, especially when the clouds are low.

Response: *Odor control techniques are routinely applied at the SWMF and the design of new facilities aim to further improve odor control. Waste materials that are placed in landfill cells are covered at the end of each day in part to help reduce odor. The covered leachate tanks scheduled for construction in 2015 will provide additional odor containment. Landfill personnel will continue to take*

appropriate action to remediate odors discovered through inspection or complaint as soon as possible. Section 3.4.4 of the DEIS lists odor control practices that the Authority will continue to utilize in operating the Proposed Southern Expansion.

Comment 2: Concerned about well quality.

Response: Extensive data collection, analysis, and review of geological and groundwater properties of the site support the design of the Proposed Southern Expansion. Section 4.4 in the DEIS provides a detailed review of groundwater data, analysis of potential impacts, and pollution prevention and mitigation measures. Data analysis includes the results of a survey of 45 residential wells within one-mile downgradient and one-quarter mile upgradient of the Project Site. Residential well information includes location of well, its use, depth, yield, and quality. The GWSS planned for the Proposed Southern Expansion, similar to the system already in place at the active landfill, will be used in combination with the double composite liner system to protect groundwater resources. While groundwater elevation in the area directly adjacent to the existing landfill is influenced by the existing GWSS, there is no noticeable groundwater elevation reduction at nearby residential wells. It can be inferred that, similarly, no nearby residential water supply wells would be noticeably affected by the lowering of the local water table due to the GWSS installed in the Proposed Southern Expansion area.

Comment 3: Does the Authority plan to hire unemployed town residents as part of the labor force when building the proposed expansion?

Response: The expansion of the landfill will be contracted construction work consistent with Authority bid practices. The employment of individuals is a contractor right and the Authority is seeking experienced landfill contractors. The Authority has a practice of employing qualified local residents in its permanent workforce and will continue this practice as employment is available.

Roger Tibbetts

Comment 1: Observes SWMF management and gives credit for a good job controlling most issues including reducing odor problems. Traffic is still an issue sometimes, but that is to be expected.

Response: *The Authority acknowledges the positive comments of Mr. Tibbetts. The Authority remains committed to addressing odor and traffic issues in a timely and appropriate manner.*

Comment 2: Concerned about future management. What will keep future management from opening the landfill up to areas outside the Authority's service area? The only way to make this landfill expansion last is to control the flow, to recycle, and to expand the issue of composting as much as possible.

Response: *The ultimate policy direction of the Authority resides with the Authority Board. The Authority Board will be presented with a resolution to reaffirm the philosophy and practices demonstrated by the existing management relative to flow, recycling, and composting.*

Charles Valentine

Comment 1: After fighting the landfill for 28 years, I'm giving up. The current administration of the landfill is doing a fine job including paying attention and listening to people and improving the recycling program.

Response: *The Authority acknowledges the positive comments of Mr. Valentine. The Authority Board will be presented with a resolution to reaffirm the practices of the current administration relative to recycling and community awareness.*

4.2 Summary of Written Comments

Written comments were received from Jessica Hart, Environmental Analyst with NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Permits, Region 6 on March 25, 2015 (Appendix A).

NYSDEC

Comment 1: The cover sheet of the DEIS should include location information as required by 6 NYCRR Part 617.9(b)(3)(iii).

Response: *The cover sheet of the DEIS has been updated to include the location of the Proposed Southern Expansion as 23400 NYS Route 177, Town of Rodman, Jefferson County, New York.*

Comment 2: On page 24 in Section 3.2.2, the first bullet point states: "Thirty-four (33) groundwater monitoring wells...". Clarify.

Response: There are thirty-three (33) groundwater monitoring wells. This was a typographical error that has been corrected as a revision to the DEIS as stated in Section 3.0 above.



Proposed Southern Expansion

Development Authority of the North Country
Solid Waste Management Facility

Appendix A

Public Hearing Transcripts Written Comments

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

TOWN OF RODMAN

PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED SOUTHERN LANDFILL EXPANSION

State Environmental Quality Review
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE NORTH COUNTRY

Public Hearing held on March 4, 2015, commencing at
7:00 p.m., at the Dulles State Office Building, 317
Washington Street, Watertown, New York, before Taryn D.
Kennedy, Court Reporter, and Notary Public in and for the
State of New York.

APPEARANCES:

JAMES W. WRIGHT, Executive Director
Development Authority of the North Country

PAUL R. CZERWINSKI, P.E.
Principal Barton & Loguidice, P.C.

SHEILA S. HESS, Principal Ecologist
CEO CC Environment & Planning

I N D E X T O S P E A K E R S

SPEAKERS

Pages

James W. Wright

3

Paul R. Czerwinski

6

Sheila S. Hess

11

Rick Roberts

20

1 MR. WRIGHT: Welcome. I'm Jim Wright.
2 I'm the executive director of the Development
3 Authority of the North Country. And we're
4 here this evening to conduct a public hearing
5 as part of the SEQR process to receive
6 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
7 Statement for the expansion -- Proposed
8 Southern Expansion of the Authority's Regional
9 Solid Waste Facility.

10 I'm joined this evening by a number of
11 individuals. First, the executive -- deputy
12 executive director of the Authority,
13 Tom Sauter; a board member with the Authority,
14 William Shelly from St. Lawrence County; our
15 solid waste manager, Rich LeClerc; and the two
16 principals of the consultants that we've been
17 using, Paul Czerwinski with Barton &
18 Loguidice, who are our design engineers, and
19 Sheila Hess who -- excuse me, Sheila is
20 Conservation Connects, and they are our
21 environmental consultants.

22 This evening we're convening the hearing
23 to receive comments on the Draft Environmental
24 Impact Statement for the Proposed Southern
25 Expansion of the Authority's Regional Solid

1 Waste Facility at Rodman.

2 This public -- excuse me, this public
3 hearing notice was published in the *Watertown*
4 *Daily Times*, the *New York State Environmental*
5 *News Bulletin* as required by the New York
6 State Environmental Review Act, SEQR.

7 Complete copies of the Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement can be found on
9 the Authority's website, www.danc.org, as well
10 as the planning offices of Jefferson, Lewis,
11 St. Lawrence Counties and the City of
12 Watertown and the libraries of Watertown,
13 Canton, and Lowville. There's some 3,500
14 pages to the documents that are available and
15 public.

16 An additional public information workshop
17 followed by a public hearing will be held next
18 week on March 11th in the Town of Rodman at
19 6 p.m.

20 The deadline for the submission of
21 written comments on the DIS -- excuse me, DEIS
22 is March 30th, 2015, and they should be
23 submitted to Rich LeClerc at the Development
24 Authority at the Rodman address. All of the
25 comments this evening, or subsequent written

1 comments, will be responded to by the
2 Authority.

3 This evening's hearing was preceded by an
4 opportunity to have an informal discussion,
5 review some of the plans and some of the
6 efforts that have gone in to designing the
7 proposal. In addition, we're going to start
8 the actual meeting this evening with two
9 presentations, one from the design engineers
10 and one from our environmental advisors so
11 that you have a basic understanding of what it
12 is we're trying to do with the project. Then
13 we will commence the formal hearing itself.

14 And if you are interested in making
15 comments on the record, you're encouraged to
16 do so. If you wish to do so, we would ask, as
17 we're taking a transcript as required, so we
18 would ask you to identify yourself, your
19 address, and any -- any group you may
20 represent. We are also live streaming the
21 event through the Authority's website, and all
22 of that information will also be public.

23 So if you have any questions, we will not
24 answer them during the formal hearing portion,
25 that's to receive comments. If you have

1 questions, we encourage you to do that at that
2 time, and as I said, we will respond to them.

3 So let me begin by introducing Paul
4 Czerwinski. Paul is a partner with Barton &
5 Loguidice, and they are our design engineers
6 on the project.

7 And there's your clicker.

8 MR. CZERWINSKI: Thank you, Jim. Thank
9 you.

10 Hello, everybody. I just want to give a
11 very brief overview of the design of the
12 facility from an engineering standpoint.

13 Basically, what involves with the
14 expansion, it's the proposal of the expansion,
15 it consists of nine new landfill cells, double
16 composite lined cells, totaling 76 acres of
17 new landfill footprint. There will be 12
18 acres of, what we call, an overlay landfill
19 where we will actually be piggybacking on over
20 the existing lined area of the landfill, and
21 then we would be building other new support
22 facilities and stormwater infrastructure for
23 the project.

24 This is actually a drawing of the site.
25 This area here is the permitted -- currently

1 permitted footprint. This is the Proposed
2 Expansion in here, and then this area up here
3 is what we are calling the overlay landfill.

4 First, want to touch on the stormwater
5 system, that's actually a very important
6 component of the project. The new design, it
7 accounts for runoff from the entire
8 construction area for the entire life of the
9 facilities. We'll be constructing two new wet
10 ponds with forebays which drain to the
11 existing stormwater system that's on-site.
12 And the system is designed to handle the
13 maximum amount of runoff from the entire site
14 for the full build-out.

15 Again, this is the areas of -- here's the
16 existing landfill. Here's the -- or the
17 expansion, and the new stormwater facilities
18 are up in here. And in this area they drain
19 up to this area which is the existing
20 stormwater management facility on-site. On
21 the top of that photographs are of some of the
22 existing stormwater infrastructure that
23 currently exists on-site and will be
24 replicated with some of the new construction.

25 The cell design, as I said, there's nine

1 separately monitored landfill cells. They are
2 double composite landfill liner system. And
3 this -- for the new expansion, we're going to
4 be changing the leachate collection a little
5 bit from the existing, and we're going to be
6 building, what's called, sideriser pump
7 stations to evacuate the leachate which is any
8 water that -- where rainwater, snowmelt comes
9 in contact with the garbage, we collect that
10 water and pump it and use it for treatment.

11 That's actually a photograph of the
12 sideriser pump station. If I go back one --
13 it doesn't come up on that slide. I'm sorry.
14 There is a board in the back of the room,
15 though, if you do want to see what the
16 landfill liner system looks like.

17 The leachate -- there will be a new main
18 leachate pumping system. It's similar to the
19 current pumping station which is designed
20 similar to a sewage pumping station with a wet
21 well and dry well. There will be multiple
22 pumps. You can see in the photograph on the
23 top on the right-hand side, there's two larger
24 pumps and one smaller pump. The smaller pump
25 handles the normal daily flows of leachate.

1 The larger pumps are sized to -- after a rain
2 event or a snowmelt event, it can pump a lot
3 more leachate to evacuate the cells so we
4 don't build up any head on the liner. And
5 then the photo on the bottom on the right is a
6 photograph of the existing pump station. It
7 will be very similar to that. And the pump
8 station will be tied into the SCADA system,
9 supervisory control and data acquisition
10 system, which the Authority uses to monitor
11 the facility from remote locations. So
12 it's -- it's continuously monitored.

13 The initial construction for the landfill
14 development will include the entire perimeter
15 road around the full expansion. We're going
16 to be building a road and a bridge which gets
17 us access to a previously permitted soil
18 borrow area so that we will be crossing over
19 the stream and not impacting the stream. The
20 two new stormwater ponds, those are not needed
21 up front, but we're building them up front for
22 ease of construction and to not cut off access
23 in the future. Two new cells, so the
24 Expansion Cells 12 and 13 which is
25 approximately 13 acres. And then the leachate

1 pumping station, which I just talked about.

2 That's another photograph which kind of
3 shows you what we're doing. Those two red
4 areas are the new cells. This blue line here
5 is the perimeter access road which will be
6 constructed in its entirety. And in this area
7 down here we're building a bridge over the
8 stream to get to the borrow area.

9 The estimated cost for initial Southern
10 Expansion through the permitting and the
11 planning stages, when we're ready to start
12 construction, the Authority will expend at
13 approximately \$5 million for that phase of the
14 project. We're estimating that the wetland
15 and stream mitigation cost will total about
16 \$2 million when the project is all done. And
17 then the initial cell construction, which is
18 all the components that I just talked about,
19 the landfill liner system, the perimeter road,
20 and some of the support facilities, is around
21 \$13.7 million.

22 The estimated construction cost for the
23 Proposed Southern Expansion over the 45-year
24 design life is around \$74 million. Of that,
25 approximately \$46 million goes into the

1 leachate collection and the liner system
2 beneath the landfill. We've got another
3 15 million in there for landfill gas
4 collection so we can capture the gas that's
5 generated by the decomposing garbage and not
6 have odor issues. And then about \$13 million
7 to actually cap the landfill when the cells
8 are done and when the landfill's no longer
9 needed.

10 And that's a very brief summary. I'd
11 like to turn it over to Sheila, so she can
12 tell you about some of the environmental
13 things that we've done and worked on to date.

14 MS. HESS: Okay. Thank you, Paul.

15 I'll be talking about the environmental
16 review portion of the project.

17 And this slide presents a list of all of
18 the reviews and permits that are required to
19 implement this project. And we're focusing
20 tonight on the State Environmental Quality
21 Review Act or SEQR and the DEIS that was
22 developed.

23 So when we were processing the
24 environmental review piece, we had two sites
25 to look at. The first is -- the first is

1 the -- I don't know how he did that -- the
2 location of the project area where the
3 expansion will be. And the second is located
4 also in Jefferson County in the southern part
5 of the Salmon-Sandy Creek watershed which is
6 our off-site mitigation area. So both of
7 these sites needed to have environmental
8 review under SEQR.

9 Because of the list of review and permits
10 that were required, it became a multi-agency
11 review and a strategy was developed to
12 coordinate that review in 2011. The first
13 step that was conducted was to submit a permit
14 for unavoidable wetland and stream impacts to
15 the Army Corps of Engineers. And the Army
16 Corps of Engineers has since issued a
17 provisional permit for those impacts, and it's
18 pending the issuance of a water quality cert
19 from New York State DEC. So where we are in
20 this review strategy is Number 3, the SEQR
21 review and the New York State DEC draft permit
22 applications.

23 SEQR review, the purpose is to balance a
24 review of environmental impacts with the
25 social and economic benefits and issues of a

1 project. So this slide actually shows a
2 sequence of a typical SEQR review. In this
3 case, it was considered a Type I Action.
4 And -- I can't really get this -- and the
5 Authority became the lead agency. A full
6 environmental assessment form was completed
7 and a determination of significance which led
8 to a positive declaration. And what that
9 means is there was an anticipation that there
10 could potentially be some environmental
11 impacts, and that would lead to the scoping
12 and the development of the Draft Environmental
13 Impact Statement, which we'll call the DEIS.

14 The Draft -- the Draft Environmental
15 Impact Statement, the purpose of this is to
16 provide information to the public, also to
17 interested and involved agencies. It's to
18 facilitate review and solicit feedback and
19 also to finally help the lead agency, which is
20 the Authority, make a final determination of
21 impacts and any mitigation that is required.

22 The impact statement itself, as Jim
23 mentioned, is a very long document. The
24 narrative portion is separated into four
25 sections. The first being project background

1 and site history. The second discussing the
2 purpose and need of the project itself. The
3 third looks at the details of the project and
4 also the alternatives that were considered and
5 evaluated as part of the analysis. And the
6 fourth, which is the longest section, looks at
7 all of the potential environmental impacts and
8 any mitigation. And finally are the
9 appendices. There's approximately ten -- I
10 guess there are ten appendices with supporting
11 documentation; that's all the studies that
12 went in to complete the environmental review
13 and also the draft permit applications.

14 This is the information Paul covered in
15 terms of the Proposed Southern Expansion
16 itself. It's a 110-acre project site. I also
17 mentioned the second project site where the
18 mitigation is going to be conducted off-site.
19 And one of the key features that we consider
20 when we're looking at environmental review, in
21 this case, is that there's an increased space
22 that is being proposed with the expansion.
23 However, there is not an increased disposal
24 rate.

25 The primary purpose of the Proposed

1 is located in the Salmon-Sandy watershed. And
2 there are significant wetland and stream
3 resources on the site.

4 This is a map showing the delineation of
5 these systems, and there's quite a diversity
6 as well. We had wet meadows, forested
7 wetlands and emergent marsh. And the
8 streams -- the streams included ephemeral
9 streams that dry up in early summer and then
10 also more perennial streams including the
11 northern tributary and the southern tributary.

12 There was a very significant change in
13 the proposed projects in 2012 when the review
14 of the wetlands and stream -- potential
15 wetland and stream impacts necessitated
16 another look at the design. And to further
17 reduce potential impacts, the Authority
18 changed the design so that the original
19 footprint extended through here, including the
20 southern trib, and instead wrapped it around
21 to piggyback, as Paul described.

22 And this map actually shows it a little
23 better in terms of the resources that were
24 then avoided, the southern trib here. That
25 avoided the southern tributary and 2,000

1 linear feet of a perennial stream. It also
2 reduced wetland impacts.

3 For the remaining unavoidable wetland
4 impacts, an aquatic resource mitigation
5 strategy has been developed. It's both
6 on-site, which is to protect all of the
7 remaining wetlands and streams, including a
8 100-foot buffer and also an off-site
9 mitigation project that is at the Lakeview
10 State Wildlife Management Area, and it's
11 restoring wetland habitat and enhancing
12 stream.

13 There was significant subsurface
14 investigation as part of the design for this
15 project. And groundwater -- potential
16 groundwater impacts were evaluated and
17 minimized based on the double composite liner
18 system, groundwater suppression system, the
19 leachate collection and removal, and the fact
20 that the site is not located over a primary or
21 principal aquifer.

22 In addition, groundwater monitoring will
23 continue as it currently does out at the site.
24 And the water -- the groundwater will be
25 monitored for any potential changes associated

1 with landfill operations.

2 Site ecology in terms of critical
3 habitats and threatened and endangered species
4 were reviewed at the site. There is no
5 potential impact associated with the project
6 at the site on the bat. And off-site, black
7 tern, piping plover, and northern harrier
8 habitat was assessed. And any of the work
9 that's conducted off-site at the mitigation
10 area is actually intended to improve habitat.

11 In terms of air quality and greenhouse
12 gases, modeling was conducted for the
13 potential emissions from the Proposed Southern
14 Expansion. Modeling indicates that there will
15 be no -- that it will remain in compliance
16 with air quality standards. And the footprint
17 of the facility is increasing but not the
18 waste disposal. There's no -- there's,
19 therefore, not an anticipated increase in the
20 rate of gas generation. Also, the gas
21 collection and landfill gas to energy plant
22 will continue to operate.

23 As I mentioned, draft permit applications
24 are included with the Draft Environmental
25 Impact Statement for review. These are all in

1 the appendices of the document itself, and it
2 covers all of the state -- the state and
3 federal permits that are required as part of
4 this project.

5 And that's it.

6 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Sheila.

7 MS. HESS: Yep.

8 MR. WRIGHT: The last slide is simply a
9 repeat of the initial information that we
10 identified; the public workshops and hearing,
11 the second one being in Rodman on March 11th.
12 The DIS is available for review, and we've
13 identified the locations for that or you can
14 go to the Authority website. And we are --
15 excuse me -- accepting written comments up to
16 March 30th, and those are directed to
17 Rich LeClerc, and there's a handout with the
18 address and everything there. The handouts
19 are available.

20 So that concludes the presentation. This
21 will open the formal part for public comment.
22 If you wish to make a comment, please feel
23 free to do so. Simply, I ask, that you
24 identify yourself for the stenographer.

25 Is there anyone wishing to make public

1 comment on the DEIS?

2 Yes, sir.

3 MR. ROBERTS: My name's Rick Roberts, and
4 I live in Adams, New York.

5 And a couple of questions. And I'm not
6 sure if the format, if it's anything going to
7 be answered now or will be answered later on.

8 In terms of --

9 MR. WRIGHT: Well, let me try to clarify
10 for you. We want your questions on the
11 record --

12 MR. ROBERTS: Okay.

13 MR. WRIGHT: -- so that we will formally
14 do that. When we conclude this evening, we'll
15 be glad to informally discuss any of it with
16 you.

17 MR. ROBERTS: Very good.

18 In regards to the technology, I was
19 wondering if -- if this firm was involved in
20 the original footprint of developing the
21 landfill, and has -- get an idea of the
22 technology in terms of how far it's progressed
23 from that point in terms of safeguarding to
24 this point. I'm kind of curious as to see,
25 has there been tremendous strides in terms of

1 trying to mitigate any type of runoff or -- or
2 pollution control. So kind of curious on
3 that.

4 Second is, are there any additional wells
5 being drilled for the testing purposes, or is
6 it just going to be the standard number of
7 wells that are there at this point, and what
8 type -- I notice that, obviously, this
9 expansion gets very close to the stream, and I
10 was wondering, is there going to be any type
11 of testing involved in the stream on a regular
12 basis as well. So that would be one of the
13 things I was interested in.

14 And I believe there's one other one. In
15 terms of the wildlife aspect of it, who did
16 the studies in regards to, for example, the
17 bats and the terns and that aspect of it,
18 where it was determined that it was not an
19 impact in regards to that, those species and
20 such.

21 So I think that's pretty much all I had.

22 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you.

23 Is there anyone else wishing to comment
24 for the record?

25 If not, that will conclude the public

1 STATE OF NEW YORK)

2 COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)

3 I, TARYN D. KENNEDY, a Court Reporter and Notary
4 Public certified in and for the State of New York, do hereby
5 certify that I recorded stenographically the proceedings
6 herein at the time and place noted in the heading hereof, and
7 that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the
8 best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name,
10 this the 16th day of March 2015.

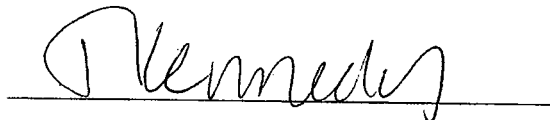
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Taryn D. Kennedy, Notary Public
State of New York
County of Jefferson
My commission expires: 6/06/15

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STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

TOWN OF RODMAN

PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED SOUTHERN LANDFILL EXPANSION

State Environmental Quality Review
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE NORTH COUNTRY

Public Hearing held on March 11, 2015, commencing at
7:00 p.m., at the Town of Rodman Offices, 12534 School
Street, Rodman, New York, before Taryn D. Kennedy, Court
Reporter, and Notary Public in and for the State of New York.

APPEARANCES:

JAMES W. WRIGHT, Executive Director
Development Authority of the North Country

PAUL R. CZERWINSKI, P.E.
Principal Barton & Loguidice, P.C.

SHEILA S. HESS, Principal Ecologist
CEO CC Environment & Planning

I N D E X T O S P E A K E R S

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1 MR. WRIGHT: Good evening and welcome.
2 It's 7 p.m. so we will start the formal event,
3 the formal hearing, which was preceded by an
4 hour of informational sharing on an informal
5 basis so people could view some of the plans
6 and ask questions of individuals.

7 My name is Jim Wright. I'm the executive
8 director of the Development Authority. So I
9 welcome you. I also want to acknowledge the
10 town board and express our appreciation for
11 them being willing to host this evening's
12 hearing so that they could have one here in
13 Rodman. And both of us, I think, strongly are
14 committed to transparency and accountability
15 and want to make sure the information is
16 available to residents.

17 So joining me this evening from the
18 Authority staff are Tom Sauter, who is my
19 deputy executive director; Rich LeClerc, who's
20 the division manager, oversees the operation
21 of the landfill; and we're joined by two of
22 our consultants, Paul Czerwinski, who is with
23 Barton & Loguidice, and they have done the
24 design on the facility, and Sheila Hess from
25 Conservation Connections, and Sheila is a

1 biologist who has worked on the environmental
2 issues and the environmental studies. They
3 both will be making presentations.

4 So this evening we are formally convening
5 a public hearing to receive comments on the
6 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
7 Proposed Southern Expansion of the Authority's
8 Regional Solid Waste Facility located at
9 Rodman. There was public notice published in
10 the *Watertown Daily Times*, the *New York State*
11 *Environmental News Bulletin* as required by the
12 New York State Environmental Quality Review
13 Act, SEQR.

14 Complete copies of the Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement can be found on
16 the Authority's website. If you want to go
17 there, all 3,500 documents are there
18 electronically. If you're old school and want
19 to see a hard copy, you can find copies at
20 each one of the county planning offices in
21 Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence County as
22 well as the City of Watertown and complete
23 copies are also available at libraries in the
24 City of Watertown, Canton and St. Lawrence
25 County and Lowville in Lewis County.

1 We have previously held one public
2 hearing as well as the informational workshop
3 last week in the City of Watertown, that was
4 convened on March 4th. This evening we will
5 take comments and testimony. In addition, you
6 have until March 30th to submit written
7 comments and -- excuse me, you can submit
8 those to Rich LeClerc at the Development
9 Authority at the Rodman address. Over here,
10 you can find sheets with the information on
11 the project. We also have handouts, copies of
12 the slides that will be presented this
13 evening.

14 We will start with a brief overview of
15 what the project entails, then we will
16 commence the actual hearing. If anyone wishes
17 to make a comment or ask a question on the
18 record, we are maintaining a transcript and a
19 video transcript, so we have all of that
20 documentation. We will not respond to the
21 question at that particular point in time. We
22 will then document all of the questions,
23 respond to all of them, provide all of that
24 information to DEC with our submission. So
25 the actual hearing portion is to receive your

1 input and comments, not to respond to
2 questions. And we, in turn, would ask that
3 you identify yourself so that everyone knows
4 for the record who you are and where you live
5 and any affiliation, if you have one.

6 So, with that, we encourage you to
7 participate. And we're more than willing to
8 stay after the formal hearing and, again,
9 share the materials. We have offered the
10 materials to remain here with the town if they
11 wish for a while and make it available to
12 people.

13 So, with that, let me start with Paul, I
14 think, you're first. And there's the remote
15 right there.

16 MR. CZERWINSKI: Thank you, Jim.

17 I'd like to just give a very brief
18 explanation of the engineering that we're
19 looking at for the Southern Expansion for the
20 landfill. As Jim said, I'm Paul Czerwinski,
21 obviously.

22 The Southern Expansion -- the Proposed
23 Expansion consists of nine new landfill --
24 lined landfill cells totaling 76 acres of new
25 footprint. We'll be installing 12 acres of,

1 what we call, an overlay landfill which will
2 actually piggyback on top of some of the
3 existing landfill, and then there will be some
4 new support facilities and stormwater
5 infrastructure that gets built.

6 That's a slide -- this is the existing
7 landfill here. Here are the new cells from 12
8 through 20. This is the portion here that
9 we're referring to as the overlay landfill,
10 and then some of these areas are some of the
11 support facilities that I'll talk about just a
12 little bit more.

13 The stormwater system is actually a very
14 important part of it, probably as important to
15 the regulators as is the landfill itself. The
16 new design accounts for the runoff for the
17 entire Southern Expansion. There will be two
18 new wet ponds with forebays which discharge
19 from the original sediment pond that was
20 constructed in 1992 as part of the original
21 construction. And the system has been
22 designed to handle the maximum runoff from the
23 fully developed landfill at the time of
24 closure. The most runoff we will see is in
25 the -- far in the future when the landfill is

1 built out and ready to be closed.

2 There's actually a picture of where the
3 stormwater ponds. Here's one of the larger
4 ponds. Here's another pond. These discharge
5 into these areas over here which are
6 stormwater ponds that were built by the
7 Authority about two summers ago. And then
8 this is the original stormwater pond which was
9 built in 1992. That's a photograph of one of
10 the on-site ponds, and that's a storm line
11 drainage channel that comes off the top of the
12 landfill and conveys the water to the bottom
13 which will flow in ditches around the
14 perimeter and get into these ponds.

15 The simplistic -- the landfill itself, as
16 I said, it's nine separately monitorable
17 cells. It's a double composite landfill liner
18 system with a soil liner, a geomembrane, a
19 protectant geotextile, a structural fill
20 layer, a geosynthetic clay liner, another
21 geomembrane, another protective geotextile,
22 and then 2 feet of collection layer that goes
23 on top of it. There's actually a full size
24 scale model of that on one of the boards in
25 the back of the room.

1 One of the things that we're doing
2 different this time is we're building a
3 sideriser pump station. So instead of
4 penetrating the liner at the bottom of the
5 slope, we're going to be pumping the leachate
6 up over the sides of the slope. These two
7 photographs here is one of the collection
8 layer going on one of the prior cells and
9 that's actually somebody watching the seaming
10 of the geomembrane with a specialized piece of
11 equipment they use solely for that.

12 This is a picture of a sideriser pump --
13 pump pipe. In the old days, we would actually
14 cut a hole in the liner and run the pipe
15 through the borrow, and then we'd have to seal
16 that up, which we're very successful here, but
17 they can be problematic. In this instance,
18 we're going to be pumping the leachate up over
19 the cell and out that way. So the only
20 penetration will be of this primary liner at
21 that point which is quite a bit a ways of
22 where you want to have it, so that's a good
23 thing.

24 The leachate pump station that's there,
25 it's going to be very similar to the pump

1 station that's there now, but we will be
2 building a new pump station. It's a dry well,
3 a wet well configuration, very similar to a
4 conventional sewage pumping station where the
5 leachate comes into one room where there's no
6 equipment, and then the pumps and controls are
7 in the dry room so there's ease of
8 maintenance. There's multiple pumps with
9 varied frequency drive which are basically
10 more energy efficient.

11 This photograph here shows the different
12 pumps. You can see there's a small pump which
13 is around 150 gallons a minute to handle the
14 everyday flows of leachate. There's two
15 larger pumps that actually alternate and can
16 run concurrently if you get a heavy rain event
17 or up here when snow melts, you all know
18 there's a lot of water, that gets the liner
19 system in the snowmelt. Those are each around
20 800 gallons a minute pumps. Combined they can
21 pump around 1,300 gallons a minute so we can
22 evacuate the leachate.

23 There is a requirement in the regulations
24 and the permit that we do not have more than a
25 foot of water or leachate on top of the liner

1 at any time, and that -- those larger pumps
2 ensure that.

3 And then the last but not least, the pump
4 station will be tied into the site SCADA
5 system, that's supervisory control and data
6 acquisition. That's how the Authority can
7 actually monitor the pump station and the
8 leachate manholes and conduct the leachate
9 storage tanks remotely either from the
10 maintenance building, from off-site from a
11 laptop computer. They don't have to go out to
12 the pump station to see what's going on. They
13 can do that remotely using a laptop computer.

14 And that's a photograph of what the
15 existing pump station is, and there will be a
16 new one built very similar to that design.

17 For the initial construction, we will
18 build the entire perimeter road. There's a
19 bridge on the road, an access road to Borrow
20 Number 3. Soil Borrow Number 3 was actually
21 permitted with the initial construction, but
22 we have not needed to access that yet. We
23 will need to access that for construction of
24 the expansion, so we're building a bridge over
25 the existing stream to avoid impacting the

1 stream.

2 The two new stormwater ponds and the
3 first two landfill cells, Cells 12 and 13,
4 which encompasses a total of about 13 acres,
5 and then the leachate pumping station.

6 That's another photograph, again, a
7 copy -- or a site plan rather. That's a -- a
8 copy of that is also on the boards in the
9 back. Here's the existing landfill. Here's
10 the access road. This is, like, Cells 1
11 through 5 in this area. These will be the
12 first two cells here. We'll be building the
13 stormwater ponds in this area. The new pump
14 station actually goes approximately here, and
15 then this perimeter road will be constructed,
16 and then this is the bridge that will be built
17 over the stream to get to Borrow 3 which is in
18 this area in the southeast corner adjacent to
19 the state forest land.

20 The cost, everybody always wants to know
21 about the cost. The Authority will spend an
22 estimated \$5 million in the permitting and
23 planning of this before we break any ground
24 for the expansion. It's estimated for the
25 wetland and stream mitigation work that's

1 going to be done, and Sheila's going to talk
2 about in a couple minutes, is estimated \$2
3 million. And the initial construction for all
4 those items that I just talked briefly about
5 is about \$13.7 million.

6 The overall estimated construction cost
7 in 2015 dollars for the build-out and closure
8 of the entire site from a capital construction
9 cost, that doesn't include operational cost,
10 is \$74 million. Of that, \$46 million will go
11 into the landfill liner system for all the
12 cells. \$15 million will be installed for --
13 or spent for gas collection to make sure we
14 collect the gas and get it to the plant so
15 it's disposed of properly. And then another
16 \$13 million for the closure, building the cap
17 on top of the landfill with the liner system
18 that goes in the cap.

19 And then that photograph there,
20 obviously, is an aerial photo of the operating
21 landfill. The expansion is down in this area
22 to the bottom. This is an area -- 10 -- Cells
23 10 and 11 which the Authority is currently
24 operating on. And a lot of these slopes in
25 here that are very green have already been

1 capped.

2 And with that, I would like to turn it
3 over to Sheila.

4 MS. HESS: Thank you, Paul.

5 And good evening. My portion of the
6 presentation is focusing on the environmental
7 review that was conducted as part of the
8 Proposed Southern Expansion.

9 So this first slide provides a list of
10 reviews and permits that are required as part
11 of the design approval and construction and
12 operation of the expanded landfill. And the
13 focus of tonight is the SEQOR which is State
14 Environmental Quality Review Act and the Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement that was
16 developed.

17 The environmental review actually looked
18 at two project locations for this. The first
19 was the site itself, here in the Town of
20 Rodman, the site of the facility, and the
21 other is down in the Town of Ellisburg, down
22 here, which is where the wetland and stream
23 restoration, which is part of the mitigation
24 project, will be implemented.

25 Because of the pretty lengthy list of

1 reviews and permits that were required, it was
2 a multi-agency review, and a strategy needed
3 to be developed to coordinate these reviews
4 and make sure that they happened when they
5 needed to happen and in the right order.

6 So in 2011, the strategy was developed,
7 with the first step being to process a joint
8 permit application for unavoidable impacts to
9 wetlands and streams and that happened
10 primarily throughout 2011, 2012. And it
11 resulted in the issue of a provisional permit
12 from Army Corps of Engineers. And it's
13 provisional in that it relies on the state to
14 complete their review under SEQR and these
15 draft permit applications, and ultimately they
16 would be able to issue what's called a DEC
17 water quality certification. That water
18 quality certification would be what's required
19 to validate the Army Corps' permit; the
20 provisional permit that's currently in place.

21 So where we are right now is in the SEQR
22 review and a review of the draft permit
23 applications, all of which is in the Draft
24 Environmental Impact Statement.

25 The focus or the purpose of a SEQR review

1 is to balance social, environmental and
2 economic impacts or benefits of a project. So
3 SEQR review has a typical flow. And in this
4 case, it was considered a Type I Action, over
5 here, which triggers a full environmental
6 assessment form review. The identification of
7 a lead agency, which was the Authority,
8 determination of significance, and in this
9 case, it was a positive declaration which
10 means there are likely some potential
11 environmental impacts that need to be
12 reviewed. So a scoping process ensued and the
13 preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement.

15 So Jim mentioned that the Environmental
16 Impact Statement is something like 3,500 pages
17 long, and it is. But the first four sections
18 are actually in a binder about this size. And
19 this is the primary summary of all the data
20 and analysis that was conducted for the DEIS.

21 And the DEIS, the purpose of it is to
22 inform the public and interested/involved
23 agencies about the project, the project design
24 and any potential environmental impacts that
25 it could have along with mitigation that could

1 be proposed for that. Another purpose of the
2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I'm
3 going to try to call it the DEIS, is to
4 solicit feedback from the public and
5 interested/involved agencies so that the
6 Authority can make a final determination of
7 impact and proposed mitigation.

8 We separated this into four sections.
9 The first section is the background of the
10 project and also the site history. The second
11 discusses the purpose and the need of the
12 project overall. Section 3 gives the details,
13 which Paul went over, of the project design
14 itself and it also talks about the
15 alternatives that were reviewed. Section 4 is
16 the longest section and that is the section
17 that talks about the different environmental
18 impacts that were -- or potentially realized
19 and what sorts of mitigation could be
20 proposed. Supporting documentation is the
21 rest of that 3,500 pages and documents all the
22 studies and the data that were collected.

23 So as Paul mentioned, the Proposed
24 Southern Expansion covers a 110-acre project
25 site at the site itself in Rodman. And the

1 purpose of it is to create additional air
2 space for solid waste disposal. And it
3 predicts approximately 45 years of solid waste
4 management beyond the current site life. And
5 one of the key factors that influenced much of
6 the analysis was that the proposal is to
7 increase the space available for solid waste
8 disposal, but not -- there's not an increased
9 proposal in the disposal rate. And, in fact,
10 the disposal rate -- permitted disposal rate
11 is predicted to go down from what's currently
12 permitted.

13 The purpose of the Proposed Expansion is
14 to provide capacity that is long-term, cost
15 effective, acceptable to the local community,
16 within the Authority's service area, that it's
17 locally controlled and environmentally
18 sustainable and it's without interruption.

19 Many alternatives were reviewed including
20 alternative footprints which are shown on this
21 slide here. And the alternative footprints
22 you can see sort of circle the existing
23 landfill, and these footprints were compared
24 with each other; primarily looking at how you
25 can come up with the least environmentally

1 damaging, acceptable and practical
2 alternative. And in this case, wetlands and
3 streams were some of the biggest factors,
4 because there are many on this site and then
5 also what was acceptable to the Town of
6 Rodman.

7 In Section 4 where the potential impacts
8 are evaluated and mitigation is discussed,
9 these were the items that are reviewed. I'm
10 not going to go through all of them, but I am
11 going -- I have several slides that touches on
12 a few.

13 The first being the watershed, wetlands
14 and streams. This is one of the -- this is --
15 this was one of the largest impacts that were
16 analyzed and reviewed because there were so
17 many at the site, and it also was a part of
18 the Army Corps' permit process.

19 So at the site, this slide shows a
20 delineation that was conducted, and all of
21 these polygons here that are in colors, along
22 with the blue streams are all the wetlands
23 that were delineated at the site. And there
24 were several different types of wetlands
25 identified at the site: wet meadow, forested

1 wetland systems and emergent marshes. And
2 there were a few different types of streams at
3 the site as well ranging from perennial
4 streams to ephemeral streams that dry up in
5 the spring and summer.

6 From the analysis, the potential impacts
7 of wetlands and streams, one of the biggest
8 things that happened within the progression of
9 the design was a change in the actual
10 footprint that was proposed initially in 2011
11 to what's currently proposed here. And the
12 primary basis for this change was to avoid
13 potential impact to, what's called, the
14 southern tributary that runs through there.
15 2,000 linear feet of impact was avoided with
16 this current design and, also, it reduced
17 potential wetland impacts as well.

18 There's mitigation proposed for the
19 remaining unavoidable wetland impacts that you
20 can still see in here, and there is also
21 potential stream impact here. So the
22 mitigation that is proposed is both on-site
23 and off-site. So on-site mitigation is to
24 protect all of the remaining wetlands and
25 streams within the site and a 100-foot buffer

1 around each of those.

2 Off-site is -- the proposal is on
3 Lakeview Wildlife Management Area in the Town
4 of Ellisburg. It's within the same watershed
5 as -- as the solid waste management facility.
6 And the proposal is to restore 28 acres of
7 wetland at this site, it's currently being
8 farmed along Sandy Creek, and then also
9 enhance 650 linear feet of the stream as well.

10 A very significant subsurface
11 investigation was conducted to support the
12 design and also to ensure -- minimize
13 potential impacts to groundwater. And this
14 slide shows all of the test pits, current and
15 future monitoring well locations to collect
16 the data to support the design.

17 The site itself is not over a primary or
18 principal aquifer. And the design, which Paul
19 also mentioned, to minimize impacts to
20 groundwater includes the double composite
21 liner system, the leachate collection and
22 removal, and the monitoring will continue --
23 continue as it currently does at the existing
24 landfill. There will be consistent monitoring
25 to ensure that there are no impacts or changes

1 in the groundwater that could be associated
2 with landfill operations. And this slide
3 shows that proposed monitoring well locations.

4 Site ecology was also reviewed. And site
5 ecology includes both the types of natural
6 communities or habitats that are at the site
7 and potentially impacted and then also takes a
8 look at threatened and endangered species that
9 could potentially be in the area. So at the
10 site there was a survey conducted in 2012 for
11 Indiana bats. This survey did not detect any
12 Indiana bats, nor did it detect northern
13 long-eared bats which is a candidate species
14 that may be listed as threatened or endangered
15 next month. And it was also -- we also did
16 habitat surveys and surveys for black tern,
17 piping plover, and northern harriers for the
18 off-site mitigation area. No potential
19 impacts were identified associated with the
20 project for these species. And for the
21 off-site mitigation area, the habitat
22 improvement there is expected to improve
23 habitat so that would go in that direction.

24 So air quality and greenhouse gas was
25 another review that was conducted, a study.

1 There was modeling conducted to ensure that
2 emissions would continue to be in compliance
3 with air quality standards. And regarding
4 gas -- greenhouse gas, the -- this kind of
5 goes back to the idea that there's a spacial
6 expansion, but there's no increase in rate, so
7 there's not anticipated to be any increase in
8 the peak landfill gas generation and gas
9 collection. And landfill gas to energy plant
10 operation will continue as part of the
11 minimization.

12 And, finally, also included in the
13 appendices to the DEIS are all of the draft
14 permit applications that will be submitted as
15 part of this project to New York State.
16 Article 24/15, TRP and the SWPPP on top, all
17 of those there, are all associated with the
18 off-site mitigation area to permit the work
19 that would happen for restoring the wetlands
20 and the stream. Title V Air, Part 360 and
21 Part 364, and all of the documents beneath it,
22 address the permitting associated with the
23 landfill expansion and operations.

24 I'll give it back to Jim.

25 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Sheila.

1 As you can see posted here, the two
2 workshops this evening, being the second one,
3 as well as the public comment period. Again,
4 it repeats where the DEIS documents are
5 available at the planning offices and
6 libraries as well as online at the Development
7 Authority's site. And you have until
8 March 30th to provide additional comments, if
9 you wish, and those are directed to
10 Richard LeClerc at the Development Authority
11 at our address here at Rodman. So -- and
12 there are handouts available again this
13 evening.

14 So with that, that brings us to the point
15 where we actually take formal testimony,
16 comments, issues, concerns that you wish to
17 express for the record and that will be
18 transcribed. We, in turn, will respond to
19 each one of them in detail and that becomes
20 part of the formal record and the submission
21 to the Department of DEC.

22 So if you'd like to make a comment, I
23 think we can all hear from where everybody's
24 standing, simply direct your name and address
25 to the stenographer so we know who you are.

1 And with that, who would like to go
2 first?

3 MS. SIGOUIN: I will.

4 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, ma'am. Tracy, how are
5 you?

6 MS. SIGOUIN: Fine.

7 I'm Tracy Sigouin. I live at 21523
8 Dobbins Road.

9 My concern is the smell. When --
10 especially when the clouds are low, we have a
11 bad odor problem.

12 I'm also concerned about my well quality.

13 And I had a question. I know you're not
14 going to answer it, but I was just wondering
15 if when they are building out this expansion
16 if they plan to hire unemployed town residents
17 as part of the labor force.

18 And that's my comments.

19 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you.

20 Anyone else?

21 Roger.

22 MR. TIBBETTS: Roger Tibbetts, 24450
23 Williams Road.

24 You can say I'm on a level with you,
25 because I look out my living room window and I

1 watch you, I see what you're doing. So far
2 under the current management, I have to give
3 them a lot of credit. They've done a good job
4 of controlling most of the issues, most of the
5 problems, the odor has gone down a lot in our
6 area and at the bottom of the hill and --
7 where Williams Road meets 177. It's very rare
8 when you notice it now. It used to be a daily
9 occurrence.

10 Traffic is still an issue sometimes, but
11 we've got to expect that.

12 My only concern at this point is that if
13 you open this up for 45 years -- and I don't
14 think it'll happen under the current
15 management. But what's to keep future
16 management of opening it up to other areas
17 besides the four counties and the City of
18 Watertown?

19 At one time it was a 100 mile radius and
20 that even goes into Canada. It was huge. It
21 was -- it was ridiculous. Because if you want
22 this landfill to last, the only way to do that
23 is to control the flow and to recycle and to
24 expand the issue of composting as much as
25 possible.

1 That's my -- my only concern.

2 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

3 Anyone else?

4 Charlie.

5 MR. VALENTINE: You'll have to excuse my
6 voice. Charlie Valentine, 21635 Brown Road,
7 Rodman.

8 I've been fighting the landfill for 28
9 years or close to it. I've decided to give
10 up. It's there. It's going to stay there.

11 And right now I have to say that the
12 current administration of the landfill is
13 doing a fine job. Your attention to listening
14 to people, if nothing else, has been amazing
15 to me in the last two years.

16 The other thing I would like to comment
17 on is the improvement in the recycling
18 program. It needed to be done. I get the
19 feeling it's going to be done, and I wish you
20 well with it.

21 That's all I have.

22 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

23 Anyone else?

24 I won't go last call three times or any
25 of that. I will simply encourage you, if you

1 have another comment or think of something you
2 wish to have addressed, you have until the end
3 of the month to submit that, and it will be
4 handled in the same fashion as any question
5 that's been asked here this evening.

6 So with that, if no one has any other
7 further comment for the record, we will
8 conclude the record, that will conclude the
9 hearing itself, and we will stay and make
10 ourselves available, and, again, informally
11 respond to any questions that you might have
12 on our design, et cetera.

13 So, again, I want to thank and
14 acknowledge the town hosting the public
15 hearing for its residents this evening, that's
16 greatly appreciated. We make sure we have
17 Rich at the town board meetings every month so
18 that we maintain that dialogue and
19 communication between the community and the
20 Authority. The Authority believes it has a
21 strong responsibility and obligation for good
22 stewardship and we want to honor that for the
23 community.

24 So with that, thank you very much, and we
25 appreciate you taking the time.

Proposed Southern Landfill Expansion - 3/11/2015

(Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at 7:31
p.m.)

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1 STATE OF NEW YORK)

2 COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)

3 I, TARYN D. KENNEDY, a Court Reporter and Notary
4 Public certified in and for the State of New York, do hereby
5 certify that I recorded stenographically the proceedings
6 herein at the time and place noted in the heading hereof, and
7 that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the
8 best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name,
10 this the 16th day of March 2015.

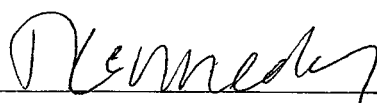
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Taryn D. Kennedy, Notary Public
State of New York
County of Jefferson
My commission expires: 6/06/15

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NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Environmental Permits, Region 6

Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601-3787

P: (315) 785-2245 | F: (315) 785-2242

www.dec.ny.gov

March 25, 2015

James W. Wright, Executive Director
Development Authority of the North Country
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Re: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Southern Expansion of the Solid Waste Management Facility in Rodman, NY

Dear Mr. Wright:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated January 2015 and offers the following comments.

The cover sheet should include location information for the action as is required by 6NYCRR Part 617.9(b)(3)(iii).

On page 24 in Section 3.2.2 the first bullet point states: "Thirty-four (33) groundwater monitoring wells...". It should be clarified as to whether there are thirty-three or thirty-four wells proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in this process. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jessica Hart
Environmental Analyst I
jessica.hart@dec.ny.gov

cc: Jennifer Lauzon, NYSDEC
Sheila Hess, Conservation Connects, LLC



Department of
Environmental
Conservation