

**Correspondence from  
County Emergency Management  
Officials**



CAYUGA COUNTY  
**Emergency Management Office**

FIRE      EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT      EMS

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BRIAN DAHL, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
VICTORIA CHAMBERLAIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
MARGARET MACH, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
ANDREA LABARON, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR FIRE

February 2, 2006

Fredrick Westphal, County Attorney  
Cayuga County Office Building  
160 Genesee Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

Dear Fred:

I am responding to a request for information relative to concerns of providing emergency services to the Cayuga Indian Nation, with respect to the trust status on lands within Cayuga County.

My initial response is that without knowing the purpose of the current land acquisition, speculation of future problems is difficult. If the parcel of land were to be a gambling attraction, such as Turning Stone in the town of Verona, then I foresee a similar problem such as the Verona Fire Department is experiencing. The once rural area has been transformed into a congested metropolitan area, with an increase of motor vehicle accidents and non-resident medical response calls.

Our local rural fire departments are volunteer units, who are experiencing decreasing memberships and have constant financial issues. Will the impact of additional emergency response calls affect these departments? Most definitely! Lack of experienced fire and medical personnel, lack of updated equipment and possible lack of cooperation from the Cayuga Indian Nation will affect response time to increased emergency calls.

In addition, the legal issues give this proposal a confusing outlook. I honestly do not know the answers to questions asked of my office from local fire department personnel, such as: What are the legal boundaries of responding to calls on Indian land? Can a local fire department respond to a fire, MVA, or an EMS call on the property? Is there legal repercussion if a local department refuses to respond to an emergency call? What if the responding unit is met with animosity or hostility, can local law enforcement control the situation? Who will handle the legalities when they are asked? In closing, I want to express my concern over the passing of this trust application.

Too many unanswered questions surround this proposal.

Sincerely,

Brian Dahl, Director  
Cayuga County Emergency Services

Cc: Peter Grevelding, P.E., Vice President, O'Brien & Gere



Seneca County  
Office of Emergency Services  
Fire Coordinator

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January 30, 2006

Glenn Cook, Director  
Seneca County Department of Economic Development & Planning  
Seneca County Office Building  
One DiPronio Drive  
Waterloo, NY 13165

Dear Glenn,

I am in receipt of your request for information, to be forwarded to the Department of the Interior, relative to concerns of the provision of services provided to the Cayuga Indian Nation (Nation). With respect to this request, please note the following:

1. The local fire department would not be allowed on the property to contain & control a fire or to perform rescue operations if there were individuals trapped inside the structure. Without proper control of a structure, nearby properties face risk of fire spread to their properties.
2. Fire involving Gasoline could not be controlled by the local fire department and could only be allowed to completely burn. (That is if no one at the facility could activate the emergency shut off, supposing there is one installed). This would result in the possibility of burning gasoline flowing off the property and presenting both a fire hazard & pollution hazard to the surrounding properties. This condition could also result in potential air quality issues from the toxins in the smoke.
3. The same hazards could also be realized from a product spill. Vapor reduction operations as well as product containment could only be accomplished off site. This leads to the question of who is responsible for restitution for the expenses involved in mitigating the hazardous materials incident.

4. In the event of a motor vehicle accident and a vehicle has entered the property, would the local fire department be allowed to perform patient extrication and emergency medical treatment??
5. In the event of an individual requiring emergency medical treatment on site, the local ambulance and emergency First Responders would have to wait until the individual either is taken off site or crawls off site to receive treatment & transport to a medical facility.

If you have any other questions or require further documentation, please contact us at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Charles McCann, Director  
Seneca County Emergency Services