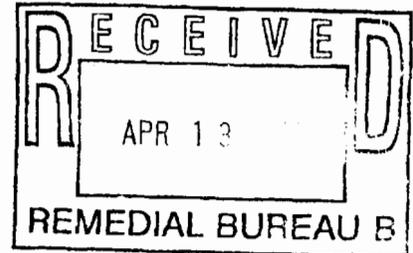


Governor George E. Pataki  
Executive Chamber  
State Capital  
Albany NY 12224

02APR05



APR - 6 2005

REF: NYSDEC Plan  
Onondaga Lake Project

Dear Governor Pataki,

The enclosed 24FEB05 Letter copy, partially printed in the Syracuse Post-Standard, opposes Hydraulic Dredging to remove hazardous materials located under small areas of the lake bottom.

1

Environmentalists express concern for, and demand removal of, a large quantity of Mercury - presently entombed - under deep layers of lake sediment under those small areas. That demand has been highly publicized!

2

Not publicized is how effective this sediment Cap has been - as provided by nature. There is no evidence that the buried Mercury has any deleterious effect upon the lake water.

What is highly publicized - minor contamination of fish. There are small amounts of Mercury over large areas of the lake bottom, available to contaminate fish. A good feature of the DEC Plan proposes covering those areas with a layer of sand. That would be, in effect, following nature's lead - as described above. Fish contamination would be terminated, thus eliminating the only major public interest in lake improvement.

Returning to Hydraulic Dredging: disturbing the existing Cap would be counterproductive, resulting in release of significant quantities of Mercury now buried - that would be widely distributed to lake waters.

3

This not just hyperbole. A recent Albany Times Union press release, included a study relative to dredging the Hudson River. It concluded that half of the sediment was swept downstream, when the river bottom was disturbed. Also stated: raising a possibility it will cost more than \$500,000,000 and take six years longer.

4

The DEC Plan addresses poor clarity of lake water due to green algae particles. It is common knowledge that algal growths are enhanced by Syracuse Metropolitan Treatment Plant effluent. Studies have been made for plant modifications, but were found too costly for action.

5

Page 1

 Mr. J. Andrew Lange  
Apt C112  
1301 Nottingham Rd  
Jamesville, NY 13078

6

Elimination of Hydraulic Dredging from this project would substantially minimize a proposed \$449,00,000 cost. With a major cost reduction to Honeywell, Inc. certainly negotiation could be entertained for funding the above SMTP modifications, to the probable advantage of Honeywell. The public would appreciate a substantial improvement to lake attractiveness.

7

Former Governor Hugh Carey, after the Love Canal debacle, proposed the use of some less-politicized body be formed to assess risks. In this particular case, the team from the University of Maryland's Biological Laboratory - having experience with the Hudson River project, would be ideal to study these suggestions.

The 01APR05 Post Standard article - copy attached - indicates a delay in choosing a final plan until July 1.

In the belief that the simple logic of these facts is compelling: It is my request that your office require such a study prior to selection of a final Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Andrew Lange,  
NYSPE #27717

ENCL: 24FEB05 P-S  
P-S Copies(2)

Copies: NYSDEC  
Honeywell, Inc.  
University of Maryland Biological Laboratory  
P-S

**THE P-S READERS PAGE**

**24FEB05**

**This is an UPDATE to previous letters, relative to the proposed NYSDEC Onondaga Lake Preferred Alternative 4.**

**It must be recognized that Onondaga Lake is a drainage lake, not another Finger Lake. This lake receives large quantities of silt, clay and Tully Valley mudboil sediments, annually. Over the years, the thickness of these layers has become substantial.**

**This is a very effective cap, preventing Mercury and organic chemicals from significant degrading of lake waters. For that reason, the only reported Environmental Impact, is minor contamination of fish.**

**Those layers should never be disturbed by hydraulic dredging as proposed by the DEC Plan. No justification for proceeding with Alternative 4 is possible.**

**It is reminiscent of the Love Canal incident in western New York State. According to a study completed in 2004, vast expenditures of money failed to find a single case of serious illness, in spite of false claims over many years.**

**Former Governor Hugh Carey, now 85 years of age, refers to this as "Political Pollution" as contrasted with "Environmental Pollution". He recommends formation of a disinterested party, such as Underwriters Laboratories, avoiding the self-serving practices by USEPA and NYSDEC.**

**"Political Pollution" has found central New York State.**

**By: J. Andrew Lange**

## Political Pollution has Reached Onondaga Lake In the Basin

Onondaga Lake is a drainage lake for the Finger Lake. It receives large quantities of silt, clay and Tully Valley mud and soil sediments.

Over the years, these layers have become substantial. This is a very effective cap, preventing mercury and organic chemicals from significantly degrading the lake waters. The only reported environmental impact is minor contamination of fish.

Those layers should not be disturbed by hydraulic dredging, as proposed by the state plan. It is reminiscent of the Love Canal incident in Western New York state. According to a study completed in 2004, vast spending failed to find a single case of serious illness, in spite of false claims over many years. Former Gov. Hugh Carey refers to this as "political pollution," in contrast to environmental pollution. He recommends the formation of a disinterested party to avoid the self-serving practices of federal and state government.

J. Andrew Lange  
Jamesville

## A reasonable delay for the lake plan

So many questions still swirl around New York's \$450 million plan to clean up Onondaga Lake that it only makes sense to spend a little more time to address them.

After all, what's the rush? It took nearly 100 years to turn the lake into one of the most polluted bodies of water in North America. Taking a few more months to evaluate public concerns is hardly time wasted.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation was required by court order to select a final cleanup plan by today. But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which has to sign off on the plan, suggests the state solicit public comments for another 30 days and delay choosing a final plan until July 1.

EPA officials say they particularly want to make sure the Onondaga Nation has a chance to properly analyze the state's plans to dredge or cap contaminated sediment on the lake floor. The Onondagas, who consider the lake sacred, want all contaminated sediment removed.

The Onondagas' opinions carry weight. As part of their land claim in Upstate New York, they insist that the lake and land surrounding it be restored to their original states. Federal Superfund cleanup laws also require government to seek their input — something Onondaga leaders say didn't occur until the last minute.

The federal judge overseeing the cleanup case should allow more time for public contribution. So far, the process has been far too exclusive.

Dear DEC folks:

I am a Syracuse resident who like my neighbors is concerned about Onondaga Lake and it's cleanup. 1

While I'm not a scientist, what I have read about the current plan for cleaning the bottom of the lake seems completely insufficient. There is little doubt that the mercury will leach through the cap, continuing the contamination of a lake which lies in the heart of our community and could again become a center for recreation and culture.

Please consider a more thoroughgoing cleanup effort of the lake bottom.

Thanks for your consideration,

Andy Mager  
559 Buckingham Ave.  
Syracuse, NY 13210

(Comment received via e-mail from andy@peacecouncil.net on 4/29/05)

Greetings,

As a resident of who has lived near Onondaga Lake for over 40 years, I fail to understand the justification for the costs involved in cleaning the Lake up. Knowing what I know of Onondaga Lake, I would never swim in the lake even if I was assured it was clean. Personally, I would much rather see the money going towards the Lake cleanup, spent on maintaining or improving the other lakes and rivers in the CNY area. Or better yet, focusing on clean air initiatives that would help decrease the alarming mercury levels, particularly in the pristine Adirondacks.

My 2 cents,  
Alan Markert  
amarkert@earthlink.net

(Comment received via e-mail on 4/13/05)

Dear Tim: Thanks for the Fact Sheep on the clean up of Onondaga Lake. This is a huge project and one that will take considerable time. We want you to get on with it as soon as possible. We live in Liverpool facing the lake and do not want any more delays. This is an idea that is worth developing.

1

Thanks  
Alice Melvin  
122 Hiawatha Trail  
Liverpool.

(Comment received via e-mail from [acmelvin@dreamscape.com](mailto:acmelvin@dreamscape.com) on 4/14/05)

## **ORAL COMMENTS**

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NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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In the Matter of

ONONDAGA LAKE PROPOSED REMEDIAL PLAN

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PUBLIC MEETING in the above matter conducted at the New York State Fair Grounds, Art & Home Center Bldg. Martha Eddy Room, on **January 12, 2005 7:00-10:00 p.m.**

MODERATOR:

**KEN LYNCH, Regional Director NYSDEC Syracuse**

ALSO PRESENT:

- DALE DESNOYERS            NYSDEC Albany
- BOB EDWARDS            NYSDEC, Albany
- DON HESLER            NYSDEC, Albany
- TIM LARSON            NYSDEC, Albany
- DAVID SMITH            NYSDEC, Albany
- TRACY SMITH            NYSDEC, Albany
- JIM BURKE            NYSDEC, Syracuse Reg Haz Waste Engr
- MARY JANE PEACHEY    NYSDEC, Syracuse, Regional Engineer
- HENRI HAMEL            NYS Department of Health
- ALLEN BURTON            TAMS
- HELEN CHERNOFF        TAMS
- MARK MOESE            TAMS
- BOB MONTIONE          TAMS
- KELLY ROBINSON        TAMS
- DAVE SCHEUING        TAMS
- MICHAEL SPERA         TAMS
- JOHN SZELIGOWSKI      TAMS



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LYNCH

1  
2           **DIRECTOR LYNCH:** Good afternoon everyone.  
3 Welcome to the Onondaga Lake Proposed  
4 Remedial Plan Meeting. It's certainly great  
5 to see such a strong turnout tonight in the  
6 interest that everyone has in Onondaga Lake.  
7 My name is Ken Lynch, I'm the regional  
8 director for Region 7 of the New York State  
9 Department of Environmental Conservation.

10           Tonight's meeting is basically going to  
11 be in three phases. We're going to start  
12 off with a brief presentation showing you  
13 what is in the Proposed Plan, real short,  
14 brief discussion about the elements of the  
15 plan itself.

16           Next we're going to go into a formal  
17 public comment time where people who want to  
18 make statements for the record can come up  
19 front and make your statements and we'll  
20 take those down.

21           After the public statements are  
22 completed we're going to go into a question  
23 and answer period. If anyone has specific  
24 questions regarding the plan we have a lot  
25 of technical staff and experts that worked

LYNCH

1  
2 on the lake here today to answer your  
3 questions.

4 So for those of you who know you want to  
5 speak right now we ask you to sign in in the  
6 back. Want to raise your hand Tracy. Tracy  
7 will give you a sign up card. I have some  
8 right now. As you sign up I'll take them  
9 and we'll call you in the order of signing  
10 up.

11 There may be many of you out there who  
12 have both a public statement to make and  
13 questions that you want answered. We ask  
14 that you make your statement at the  
15 appropriate time and then reserve your  
16 questions for the later time and we'll  
17 respond to those during the question and  
18 answer period.

19 We'll start with the presentation. As I  
20 stated, we're going to start with a brief  
21 overview and then go into the public comment  
22 and question period.

23 Cleaning up Onondaga Lake. What does  
24 that mean? I usually start my presentations  
25 on the clean up of Onondaga Lake, since it

LYNCH

1  
2 is such a complex matter and there is so  
3 many issues, with really defining the two  
4 major issues. The two major pollution  
5 issues impacting the lake are the wastewater  
6 treatment issues and the industrial  
7 pollution issues.

8 Many of you already know that the  
9 wastewater treatment issues are being  
10 handled by Onondaga County under an  
11 agreement signed with them back in 1998.  
12 And we're now proud to talk about the state  
13 of the art facility that we have on the  
14 lakeshore at the metro plant. We are not  
15 going to be addressing that problem tonight  
16 because we believe we're on track under the  
17 Amended Consent Judgment to address the  
18 wastewater treatment issues.

19 The focus of tonight's meeting is going  
20 to be on the industrial pollution. And  
21 specifically the Proposed Plan for cleaning  
22 up the lake bottom itself. There is  
23 industrial pollution impacting the lake from  
24 upland sites also. This plan does not  
25 address specifically cleaning up those

## LYNCH

1  
2 upland sites. It is specifically geared  
3 toward cleaning up the lake bottom and the  
4 sediments and the impact that the  
5 contaminants have had on the lake bottom  
6 itself. As we'll discuss a little later  
7 there is a tie-in between upland sites and  
8 the lake bottom, but we'll discuss that  
9 briefly later on in this presentation.

10 This slide, which looks a little light  
11 but you might be able to see it. In your  
12 handouts, and I did not mention that we do  
13 have handouts on this presentation so you  
14 can follow along if you can't see the  
15 screen, bring the document home and look  
16 through it yourself on some of the details.

17 But basically this is a map of the lake  
18 itself. And in the middle of the lake we  
19 show the lake bottom. That's what we're  
20 going to be talking about tonight. Around  
21 this lake the several dots you see there are  
22 various sub-sites of the Onondaga Lake  
23 hazardous waste site. These are sites that  
24 have already been determined to have  
25 impacted the lake through discharges of

LYNCH

1  
2 industrial waste. Again, those sites aren't  
3 specifically addressed in the plan we're  
4 going to talk about tonight. We're talking  
5 about the lake bottom.

6           There is a process that both the state  
7 and the federal government follow in  
8 cleaning up industrial waste or hazardous  
9 waste pollution. It starts with the  
10 remedial investigation. Basically this is  
11 an assessment of the site, a lot of testing,  
12 a lot of monitoring to determine the extent  
13 of contamination, in this case in the lake  
14 bottom.

15           After you know what's there you go into  
16 the next step and that's the Feasibility  
17 Study. And basically what a Feasibility  
18 Study is is an assessment of all the  
19 alternatives or range of alternatives to  
20 clean up those contaminants.

21           The next step is the Proposed Plan. And  
22 that's what we're talking about tonight.  
23 After all the alternatives are laid out the  
24 state, as the lead agency in this case,  
25 assesses those alternatives, looks at

LYNCH

1  
2 various options and comes up with a proposed  
3 plan to present to the public.

4 Once that plan is proposed we step into  
5 our public comment period, in this case for  
6 Onondaga Lake. It started on November 29th  
7 and will run until March 1st.

8 Onondaga Lake is somewhat of a unique  
9 site in that it is both a state and federal  
10 Superfund site. Because it is also a  
11 federal Superfund site the Environmental  
12 Protection Agency is also reviewing the  
13 Proposed Plan, and they have a process for  
14 determining or reviewing the state's  
15 proposed final remedy.

16 Part of that process is an internal  
17 review process within the EPA called the  
18 National Remedy Review Board. And that  
19 evaluation will be taken -- undertaken by  
20 the EPA during the month of February.

21 Continuing on with the Superfund  
22 process, once we finish our public comment  
23 period and get all the comments on the  
24 Proposed Plan we issue what we call a Record  
25 Of Decision or the selected remedy, the

## LYNCH

1  
2 final remedy, the remedy that the state  
3 believes should be implemented to clean up  
4 the lake. And in this case for Onondaga  
5 Lake by court order that remedy is due on  
6 April 1st of 2005.

7 Once the remedy is determined we  
8 anticipate that the design of this proposed  
9 clean up will take approximately three  
10 years. It's a complex extensive clean up  
11 project and there is a lot of planning and  
12 design to go into this Proposed Plan.

13 Once the project is designed we start  
14 the construction phase. And we're  
15 anticipating four years for the entire clean  
16 up activity to be undertaken.

17 Back to the first step. Just want to  
18 review a little bit what we found when we  
19 did the investigation of Onondaga Lake.  
20 There is an extensive investigation  
21 undertaken in various years, some by  
22 Honeywell, some by our Department, all with  
23 the oversight of our Department and the EPA.  
24 More than 6,000 samples were taken from the  
25 lake or around the lake. We did a human

## LYNCH

1  
2 health risk assessment and ecological risk  
3 assessment as part of that investigation.  
4 And in real general terms what we found was  
5 that most of the contamination in Onondaga  
6 Lake is found in the southern portion or the  
7 portion located nearest to the southwest  
8 shore where most of the Allied or Honeywell  
9 activities took place, and much of other  
10 industrial activities took place.

11       There is mercury contamination through-  
12 out the lake. Again, most of that mercury  
13 contamination either being in the  
14 southwestern portion or at the mouth of Nine  
15 Mile Creek. We found other contaminants in  
16 the lake like benzenes, chlorinated benzenes  
17 and other contaminants. In some cases, in  
18 one area in particular, called the In-Lake  
19 Deposit Area, the deposits and contaminants  
20 reached levels up to 25 feet.

21       Once that investigation was completed  
22 Honeywell prepared a Feasibility Study with  
23 Department oversight. They evaluated some  
24 14 alternatives to clean up the lake. They  
25 looked at alternatives ranging from doing

## LYNCH

1  
2 nothing, to spending no dollars on the clean  
3 up of the lake, to doing an awful lot of  
4 sediment removal and capping to an extent of  
5 addressing 2,300 acres in the lake at an  
6 estimated cost of \$2.1 billion.

7 As part of that Feasibility Study  
8 Honeywell identified their preferred remedy.  
9 And that is proposed dredging of half a  
10 million cubic yards and capping of 356 acres  
11 in the lake, at a cost of \$243 million.

12 Once the alternatives were assessed the  
13 state began its process of reviewing those  
14 alternatives and determining what they felt  
15 was the best Proposed Plan for cleaning up  
16 the lake. And that's what we're presenting  
17 tonight.

18 One of the steps in coming up with this  
19 plan was to establish goals. And those  
20 goals are outlined here.

21 Number 1 is to achieve sediment  
22 concentrations that are protective of fish  
23 and wildlife.

24 Number 2 is to achieve concentrations in  
25 fish tissue that are protective of humans

## LYNCH

1  
2 and wildlife that consume the fish.

3 And Number 3 is to achieve water quality  
4 standards.

5 Basically what we did in assessing the  
6 lake clean up, and it was also done by  
7 Honeywell in the Feasibility Study, was to  
8 break the lake into eight sections. And  
9 based on the contamination we knew of in  
10 those eight sections determine a remedial  
11 plan.

12 We determined that we would remediate  
13 all areas of the lake where the surface  
14 sediments exceeded our clean up levels.

15 That then resulted in an estimated  
16 proposed dredging of 2.7 million cubic  
17 yards and a capping of over 579 acres in the  
18 lake.

19 Where do those sediments go once we  
20 dredge them? The most highly contaminated  
21 sediments are proposed to be taken off-site  
22 to a permitted DEC or out of state facility.  
23 Other sediments that are less contaminated  
24 will go, are currently proposed to go to one  
25 of the Honeywell Solvay wastebeds.

LYNCH

1  
2 A unique aspect of this plan is  
3 Honeywell is proposing to perform a pilot  
4 study to oxygenate the deep areas of the  
5 lake. And in an attempt to prevent mercury  
6 methylation or the mercury seeping into the  
7 water column in the lake. That will be  
8 conducted and monitored by the department.  
9 If effective we will authorize a larger  
10 scale project.

11 The plan also includes habitat restor-  
12 ation or repairing the damage you cause when  
13 you dredge. And habitat enhancement, doing  
14 more than what exists there today, adding to  
15 the habitat in and around the lake.

16 It's important to note that the plan  
17 also includes a long term monitoring of the  
18 water quality, the capping of the lake, fish  
19 tissue and other things related to the clean  
20 up of the lake. So once the construction  
21 activity is done the responsible party  
22 doesn't walk away, they have a long term  
23 obligation to monitor the effectiveness of  
24 this plan. And the estimated present worth  
25 of our Proposed Plan is \$450 million.

LYNCH

1  
2           This slide, and I'm sorry you don't have  
3 it in color in your handouts but it's a  
4 pretty good overview of how the lake is  
5 divided into eight areas and what the  
6 Proposed Plan for those eight areas is. It  
7 shows the areas to be capped and dredged.  
8 And it shows you the different units that  
9 the lake is divided up to. There is also a  
10 chart over there depicts the same thing.  
11 And is there one in the plan itself? In the  
12 plan itself that is in line, that's one of  
13 our exhibits in there. It's a good  
14 reference to get a good oversight of what  
15 areas are going to be capped and dredged.

16           As I mentioned there is a long term  
17 monitoring plan that I think is very  
18 important to this plan. For those of you  
19 familiar with the Amended Consent Judgment,  
20 the county has established an extensive  
21 annual monitoring program to see how their  
22 proposed clean up, their addressing of the  
23 wastewater issues that's impacting water  
24 quality, and improving water quality.

25           We expect that the monitoring plan for

LYNCH

1  
2 this clean up project will be very similar,  
3 very extensive, reviewed by our scientists  
4 and others. We're going to monitor the  
5 effectiveness of all the remedy components.  
6 We're going to sample tissue in fish  
7 invertebrate, we're going to sample the  
8 surface water, the sediments, we're going to  
9 make sure the cap is working, we're going to  
10 make sure any containment area that's  
11 proposed in the wastebeds or other places is  
12 effectively working. And we're going to  
13 continue on an annual basis to make sure  
14 that this plan is working.

15 At some point during that monitoring if  
16 we find there is a problem with a cap or  
17 problem with different areas in the lake we  
18 will advise the responsible party and they  
19 will be responsible to correct those problems

20 Time frame. One of the most common  
21 questions I get about this plan is how long  
22 will it take? When is the lake going to be  
23 clean? As I previously stated we  
24 anticipate, if all goes well, that the state  
25 will issue a Record On Decision or final

LYNCH

1  
2 remedy by April 1st.

3 Next is the anticipated design phase,  
4 which is estimated at this point for three  
5 years. Prior to starting construction of  
6 this remedial plan, prior to dredging, prior  
7 to cleaning up the lake bottom we have to be  
8 assured that the lake is no longer being  
9 impacted by upland sites. So that is one  
10 glitch in this schedule that we have to  
11 coordinate with the clean up of the lake  
12 bottom. Simply doesn't make sense to dredge  
13 the bottom of the lake where the lake is  
14 still being contaminated by upland sites.

15 So part of this proposal is to  
16 coordinate with the upland site cleanups so  
17 that those sites are no longer impacting the  
18 lake before you start dredging the material.  
19 And once the construction activity does  
20 start in the lake we anticipate a four year  
21 construction period.

22 And again, once the construction is  
23 done, the work is not done, there is an  
24 extensive monitoring program which will  
25 continue until we believe that the remedy

LYNCH

1  
2 has satisfactorily worked and there is no  
3 longer a need to monitor.

4 That's my presentation, I told you it  
5 would be short. We want to reserve most of  
6 this time to hear from you, both in public  
7 comment form and also in a question and  
8 answer form. But if you want to get more  
9 information about this plan, we've had two  
10 availability sessions, and we had a great  
11 turnout for both of those and we had a lot  
12 of great questions. But if you want more  
13 information you can go to our website that's  
14 listed there or you can come to these  
15 mentioned facilities and see the plan  
16 itself, the hard copy and go through it.

17 You can also comment on the Proposed  
18 Plan. You don't have to speak tonight to  
19 get your comments in. You can write in  
20 until March 1st and you can do that via the  
21 web or via mail.

22 We're now going to move into our public  
23 comment period to allow people who have  
24 comments for the record to come forward and  
25 state their comments. I do have a couple

## LYNCH

1  
2 ground rules so that we can make sure that  
3 we get to everybody that wants to speak and  
4 move this in an orderly manner. First and  
5 foremost when you come to the microphone,  
6 and Dawn is going to hold the microphone and  
7 come to you, if you can come out to the  
8 aisle Dawn will meet you in the aisle for  
9 you to make your statement. State your name  
10 and spell your name for the record. We have  
11 a stenographer (court reporter) here and I  
12 know he's a good speller but he can't get  
13 all the complicated names.

14 Keep your statements short and concise  
15 so we can get to everyone please. If the  
16 previous speaker or previous speakers have  
17 made a similar point you don't have to  
18 reiterate that. Oral comments tonight are  
19 given equal weight to written comments that  
20 you send in, so don't feel the absolute need  
21 that you have to make a statement tonight,  
22 if you would rather write that you can do  
23 that and it's given equal weight.

24 We will not be responding to the  
25 comments made initially during the comment

PIRRO

1  
2 period. We're going to reserve that again  
3 for the question and answer period. So if  
4 you want to make a statement and you also  
5 have questions, please reserve those  
6 questions to the later portion of the  
7 meeting.

8 I'm going to start with the public  
9 speakers and as we traditionally do with DEC  
10 public meetings we'll start with our public  
11 officials. And the first one up is County  
12 Executive Nick Pirro.

13 0-1 COUNTY EXECUTIVE PIRRO: Good evening  
14 Director Lynch, members of the DEC team,  
15 ladies and gentlemen. This will be concise,  
16 I'm not sure that short. The county  
17 understands all too well the difficult task  
18 it is to develop and obtain agreement on  
19 expensive solutions to large scale, complex  
20 problems such as the industrial contami-  
21 nation in Onondaga Lake. It is always  
22 easier to be critical of such plans than to  
23 produce them. The County is aware of the  
24 level of effort that has gone into the  
25 development of the state's Proposed Clean up

PIRRO

Plan and we applaud that effort.

The ongoing effort to reclaim Onondaga Lake is substantial and widespread. The Onondaga Lake Partnership is spending millions of federal and local dollars on projects ranging from non-point pollution to habitat improvement to trail development. By the time the County is done upgrading the municipal wastewater system that discharges to the lake, the County, with substantial help from our state and federal partners, will have invested well over \$450 million on lake improvement projects. A good deal of that work is already completed. It is now time to aggressively move forward with remediation of the industrial side of the lake restoration equation. The plan proposed by the state is substantial and aggressive. It's not perfect. And there are certainly many questions that will have to be answered along the way. But it is time now to move forward without delay. The County is hopeful that the technical and public review and comment process that is

PIRRO

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now underway will allow this process to move in a positive and expeditious fashion.

That said, there are a number of critical issues that the County is hopeful can be addressed as the Proposed Plan becomes refined and finalized.

First, the schedule. As the County understands it, the plan recommended by Honeywell in the most recent Feasibility Study would postpone implementation of the most substantial work in the lake until 2011. That is too long to wait. The state's Proposed Plan offers no start or completion dates. Based on what is written, work could begin as soon as next year or as late as 2011. As there is no schedule things could be delayed even beyond 2011. An implementation schedule, with start and end dates needs to be spelled out as part of the plan, and work needs to be begin sooner, much sooner than 2011.

2 Related to the schedule is the lack of progress and coordination to date in addressing the upland sites. I am referring

## PIRRO

1  
2 to sites like Willis Avenue, the Semet Tar  
3 Beds, Wastebed B and Harbor Brook, Wastebeds  
4 1 through 8, and the Geddes Brook/Nine Mile  
5 Creek sites. It should be readily apparent  
6 to everyone that these sites, all of which  
7 are ongoing sources of contamination to the  
8 lake, have to be addressed before  
9 implementation of a remedy in the lake  
10 itself can take place.

11 The county has consistently pointed out  
12 that all these sites should have been  
13 addressed collectively as part of a single  
14 comprehensive lake clean up plan and not as  
15 independent hazardous waste sites.

16 From an ecological standpoint, all of  
17 these sites are linked to the lake. The  
18 approach of allowing the upland and lake  
19 remedial investigation to proceed on  
20 distinct legal and separate time frames has  
21 resulted in a significant impediment to  
22 proceeding immediately with the remediation  
23 of the lake itself. The County recommends  
24 that the process to clean up these upland  
25 sites proceed as quickly as possible, so

## PIRRO

1  
2 that the lake bottom clean up plan can  
3 begin, and can do so without having to rely  
4 solely on the installation of interim  
5 remedial measures at these upland sites.

6 3 A second issue of concern is the long-  
7 term viability and reliability of several of  
8 the measures that are proposed in the Plan.  
9 Many of the proposed measures involve  
10 containment rather than removal. All of  
11 these engineered structures will require  
12 ongoing inspection, operation and  
13 maintenance.

14 These include: 1) Groundwater cutoff  
15 walls coupled with pumping and treating  
16 contaminated groundwater intended to stop  
17 the migration of contamination into the  
18 lake.

19 2) Engineered confinement caps intended  
20 to encapsulate over 575 acres of  
21 contaminated lake bottom sediments.

22 3) Engineered confinement of the 2.6  
23 million cubic yards of contaminated dredge  
24 spoils in the proposed Sediment  
25 Consolidation Area located on Wastebed 13.

## PIRRO

1  
2 4) Facilities to pump oxygen into the  
3 lower layers of the lake in an effort to  
4 inhibit the methylation of mercury released  
5 from lake bottom sediments.

6 These engineered, constructed facilities  
7 will have to work forever, and will require  
8 inspection, operation and maintenance  
9 forever. The need to monitor and maintain  
10 these sites will never go away. Can the  
11 state assure this community that Honeywell  
12 will be around forever to take care of these  
13 things? What assurance can the state and  
14 Honeywell provide to the local community  
15 that it will not inherit the financial  
16 burden of maintaining, repairing and  
17 replacing all of these facilities, 30, 40 or  
18 50 years from now? How will the final plan  
19 address this concern? The final plan must  
20 include formal legal protections, long term  
21 financial assurances or other protections  
22 that address this concern.

23 4 Third, institutional controls. The goal  
24 of Onondaga Lake clean up efforts is to  
25 restore the lake for the use and enjoyment

PIRRO

1  
2 of the community. Typically, institutional  
3 controls impose limitations on the use of  
4 the site or resource. Limitations on the  
5 future use of Onondaga Lake as a  
6 recreational resource to this community due  
7 to institutional controls should not be part  
8 of the remedy.

9 5 Fourth, there is very little information  
10 provided regarding the proposed Sediment  
11 Consolidation Area on Wastebed 13. It  
12 appears to the County, based on the limited  
13 information that has been provided, that the  
14 Sediment Consolidation Area represents a  
15 sizable ongoing challenge, and potential  
16 burden to this community in the future.

17 The potential issues include: 1) the  
18 unexplained procedure to identify and then  
19 separate hazardous materials in the lake  
20 bottom sediments from sediments that are  
21 simply contaminated during the dredging  
22 process.

23 2), the physical stability of the site.

24 3), the potential for odor problems.

25 4), management of the supernatant.

PIRRO

1  
2 5), long term operation and maintenance.  
3 And by long term it appears that this  
4 containment facility will have to be  
5 maintained forever.

6 6) and it appears that any redevelopment  
7 potential for this site will be gone for  
8 generations.

9 **6** It is not apparent that any other  
10 alternatives for handling the dredge spoil  
11 were given full consideration. The question  
12 the County has is whether the creation of  
13 the proposed Sediment Consolidation Area is  
14 justified given these uncertainties.

15 **7** Finally, monitoring. The topic of  
16 monitoring, in both the Feasibility Study  
17 and the Proposed Plan, is largely deferred  
18 to the design stage. While this is not  
19 unusual or necessary inappropriate, it is  
20 too important an issue to ignore during the  
21 stage of the remedy selection process.  
22 Given the complexities of the Onondaga Lake  
23 system, and the ubiquitous extent of the  
24 contamination related to the industrial  
25 sources impacting the lake system, it could

PIRRO

1  
2 be very difficult to accurately monitor  
3 change and improvements and ascribe them  
4 with confidence to the remedial measures in  
5 the Proposed Plan.

6 The community will want and deserves  
7 assurances that the remediation measures  
8 ultimately put in place are succeeding.  
9 Monitoring for this purpose should begin  
10 now, in order to assure the establishment of  
11 a reliable pre-construction or baseline data-  
12 base. Moreover, development of the post-  
13 construction monitoring program must involve  
14 the County and other appropriate  
15 stakeholders.

16 8 I wish to close by restating that it is  
17 not easy to develop and obtain agreement and  
18 expensive solutions to large scale, complex  
19 problems such as the industrial  
20 contamination in Onondaga Lake. The state's  
21 Proposed Clean Up Plan represents a  
22 substantial laudable effort. What we offer  
23 tonight should be viewed as constructive  
24 input to that plan.

25 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Thank you. Next

SWEETLAND

1  
2 speaker is Dale Sweetland, Onondaga County  
3 Legislative Chairman.

4 0-2 **LEGISLATOR SWEETLAND:** Thank you. I'll  
5 be very brief, I am - since I left my office  
6 with the paper I had in my hand sitting on  
7 the desk. I am Dale Sweetland the chairman  
8 of the Onondaga County Legislature. And I'm  
9 here tonight not as an engineer, because I'm  
10 not, I'm not a scientist, I am a resident of  
11 Onondaga County. And I'm here to express to  
12 you the feelings of my constituents and my  
13 neighbors as I talked to them after this  
14 plan has unfolded and come about in the  
15 media.

16 Several years ago, this is my 12th year  
17 in the county legislature, I was in the  
18 legislature and chaired the drainage and  
19 sanitation committee when we signed the  
20 Amended Consent Judgment. And there is  
21 probably nothing that I am prouder of than  
22 the fact that the County is doing, with the  
23 help of the state and the federal  
24 government, doing an enormous amount of work  
25 to stop polluting Onondaga Lake.

## SWEETLAND

1  
2           Ever since I have been in high school or  
3 was in high school - sounded like I still  
4 am, didn't it? Ever since I was in high  
5 school I have heard about Onondaga Lake.  
6 We've all heard about Onondaga Lake. We now  
7 have a great opportunity. We are closer  
8 than we have ever been in this community to  
9 actually coming to terms with the pollution  
10 in Onondaga Lake.

11           I want to reiterate what the county  
12 executive said, and I applaud DEC and  
13 Honeywell for all the work they've done.  
14 It's taken an enormous amount of time and a  
15 lot of effort to get to this point. I would  
16 reserve any criticism of the Proposed Plan  
17 because again, I'll beg that I'm not an  
18 engineer and I'm not a scientist.

19           1       I would offer that people who I talked  
20 to are excited about an opportunity to see  
21 something positive happen with Onondaga  
22 Lake. It's necessary, not only for the  
23 city, the county and the Central New York  
24 region, but it's very important to have this  
25 lake come back to life and be a vital part

CORBETT

1  
2 of this community. So I want to encourage  
3 Honeywell and DEC and everyone involved to  
4 continue their hard work and really make an  
5 agreement happen and have this work come to  
6 fruition.

7 The one thing that strikes me as that in  
8 every type of these situations, as the  
9 County Executive said, nothing is perfect in  
10 this world, nothing will ever be perfect.  
11 And all I ask is that all the parties be  
12 logical, use common sense, and be reasonable  
13 in all this process so that we can have some  
14 good things happen to Onondaga Lake and the  
15 city of Syracuse and Onondaga County. Thank  
16 you.

17 0-3 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Next speaker is James  
18 Corbett, Onondaga County Legislator.

19 **LEGISLATOR CORBETT:** Thanks, Ken.  
20 C-O-R-B-E-T-T. Welcome to my area. I  
21 represent this 8th District. And I'm here  
22 to comment on one aspect of the plan, having  
23 gone over it extensively. I want to preface  
24 it saying I'm speaking as the County  
25 Legislator for this district. I have also

CORBETT

1  
2 lived for 20 years right down the road here.  
3 My house and my backyard overlook right over  
4 690 at the lake. So for 20 years I looked  
5 right at this lake every day.

6 The aspect that I would like to talk  
7 about is the pumping of the sediments from  
8 the pump station proposed to be built at  
9 Onondaga Lake to the Sediment Containment  
10 Area constructed at Wastebed 13. This is  
11 after the dredged materials have been  
12 processed. I understand that there would be  
13 approximately 4 miles of pipe from the pump  
14 station to the proposed containment settling  
15 area 13.

16 What my concern is, I've received a  
17 number of calls from constituents in this  
18 area, and if you're familiar, anyone around  
19 here, with 13, which is over off of - between  
20 Armstrong and Warners Road, there is a lot  
21 of the residential area around there. There  
22 is always a wind up there; there is always a  
23 breeze.

24 1 And the calls that I have received are  
25 two-fold. One is concern about the odor

CORBETT

1  
2 control, which has been brought up at the  
3 meeting in Camillus. And also the length of  
4 the piping to come from the proposed pump  
5 station to the Wastebed 13. It would be  
6 approximately 4 miles from what I understand,  
7 and one of the proposals is to follow  
8 Ninemile Creek.

9           2       I think there might be another option  
10 after looking at this. We've discussed, and  
11 it was up on the screen, you can see the  
12 finger right here going out into the lake,  
13 that's Wastebeds 1 through 8. Wastebeds 1  
14 through 8 right now is part of, is Onondaga  
15 County land and it's also part of the  
16 parking.

17               What I have talked with some of my  
18 constituents about and I don't know if  
19 anyone from Honeywell or the DEC, what if we  
20 thought of putting that containment area  
21 right there? You have four miles less  
22 piping, you're not going through a  
23 residential area. You also have a lot less  
24 worry about odor control. You've got the  
25 lake on one side, you've got 690 down on the

WARD

1  
2 other side. Yes, it is now county property,  
3 and yes, we have a proposal for the trail  
4 around the lake there. But I would beg that  
5 this option maybe be looked at. And I would  
6 appreciate that if there is a scientific  
7 part of it, I just think that it's a real  
8 viable option. You're not going up  
9 Ninemile, you're not going through a  
10 residential area.

11 And I think in the long run it would  
12 prove to be, if it's done the way I've  
13 looked at everything, it could be turned  
14 right back into a recreational area. You  
15 could put that trail both up and down on it.  
16 And who knows, there might be a lot of uses  
17 for it down the road for maybe picnicking or  
18 a lot of other things. So I appreciate the  
19 opportunity to make this comment and I would  
20 hope you look at it. Thank you.

21 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Liverpool Mayor Marlene  
22 Ward.

23 0-4 MAYOR WARD: Thank you, Ken. Good  
24 evening. I appreciate the opportunity to be  
25 here this evening and to be able to comment

WARD

1  
2 and be part of this really important  
3 undertaking because it is an important issue  
4 for the village of Liverpool. As I said  
5 before I'm Marlene Ward, the mayor of the  
6 village. My husband and I are life-long  
7 relatives -- I'm sorry, residents, of the  
8 village of Liverpool. In fact my husband  
9 was born right on First Street in the  
10 village right there on the lake. And when  
11 we were coming over this evening he was  
12 talking about being a little boy and wading  
13 in the lake and being told, you can't wade  
14 in that water.

15 And as we all know, Liverpool is like a  
16 lot of other communities, it was founded on  
17 a beautiful body of water, which is Onondaga  
18 Lake. And history records over time that  
19 unfortunately it became polluted to the  
20 point that it has received national  
21 attention as one of the most polluted bodies  
22 of waters in the United States.

23 The pollution process began many years  
24 ago, and I know that I cannot and I doubt  
25 anyone here can really remember when the

## WARD

1  
2 lake was not polluted. There is plenty of  
3 responsibility and blame to go around. The  
4 pollution was a combined result of everyone,  
5 from individuals to municipalities, to  
6 several businesses. Everyone either  
7 believed that it was not possible to pollute  
8 a body of water such as this, or else they  
9 did not care.

10 The foreign material that went into this  
11 lake on a yearly basis included millions of  
12 gallons of untreated human waste, various  
13 kinds of industrial waste, including some we  
14 did not realize was hazardous or dangerous  
15 until years later.

16 1 Many times throughout my lifetime there  
17 has been various attempts and proposals  
18 regarding lake cleanup. Always they seem to  
19 go nowhere. I came to believe we would  
20 never see a clean lake. Through the efforts  
21 of many dedicated people we have seemed to  
22 reach a point where we have a plan and a  
23 proposal that would at long last seem to  
24 accomplish some of these goals.

25 I would like to thank everyone who

CZAPLICKI

1  
2 brought us to this point and to say on  
3 behalf of the village of Liverpool, please  
4 continue to move forward with the goal of a  
5 clean Onondaga Lake, we certainly would  
6 appreciate it. Thank you.

7 0-5 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Are there any other  
8 elected officials who would like to speak?

9 SUPERVISOR CZAPLICKI: Hi, I'm Bob  
10 Czaplicki, supervisor of the Town of Geddes.  
11 I just want to say I've submitted some  
12 testimony for the record but I think it  
13 really is time that we move forward. I've  
14 lived in this community my entire life and  
15 know what the lake is about and I know what  
16 my constituents talk about. And they want  
17 us to stop talking and get moving.

18 1 So I know, as that the County Executive  
19 said, no plan is perfect, and we can work  
20 through this process and reasonable people  
21 can come up with reasonable explanations.  
22 But I think the time to get this lake  
23 cleaned up and to get this community moving,  
24 there is miles of shoreline that can be  
25 developed and it can be an economically

1 WARNER

2 viable area. And I strongly urge that we  
3 get moving. Thank you very much.

4 0-6 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Any other elected  
5 officials? Okay the next speaker is Deborah  
6 Warner, Syracuse Chamber.

7 DEBORAH WARNER: Good evening Regional  
8 Director Lynch, thank you for holding this  
9 meeting. My name is Deborah Warner, I'm  
10 director of governmental affairs at the  
11 Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce. We're  
12 the largest business organization in Central  
13 New York with 2,300 organizations as  
14 members, employing over 140,000 people  
15 working in our community.

16 1 On their behalf I extend our thanks to  
17 you for this hearing and the years of  
18 dedicated work you have given to the goal of  
19 cleanup of Onondaga Lake. We're delighted  
20 and encouraged that after more than a decade  
21 we're finally at a point where we are  
22 finally talking about a remedy to implement.  
23 The goal is finally in sight. You are to be  
24 congratulated for working through this  
25 herculean task.

WARNER

1  
2 I'm here tonight to tell you that we  
3 support the restoration plan you put forth.  
4 We believe and trust that all the research  
5 and study has yielded a plan worthy of  
6 implementation. We agree with Congressman  
7 James Walsh when he said, we have finally  
8 found a holistic and sterile approach to  
9 clean up this valuable community asset.

10 2 Our chambers includes the Onondaga  
11 County Convention and Visitors Bureau.  
12 Although we already market the lake for a  
13 range of events we're thrilled at the  
14 potential of visitors and events after the  
15 remediation is complete. Waterways are  
16 certainly a large part of our tourism  
17 marketing efforts. Currently to the naked  
18 eye the activity along the shoreline of  
19 Onondaga Lake is a fabulous asset.

20 But the question remains from our out of  
21 town visitors, why is there no activity on  
22 the water? Imagine the tourism benefits and  
23 economic development impact when we can  
24 successfully hold major fishing and boating  
25 events. When Destiny is built the value of

WARNER

1  
2 the lake to us will be nearly inestimable.  
3 We urge final approval and implementation of  
4 this program as soon as possible. Many  
5 projects in and near Onondaga Lake are  
6 moving forward, particularly the more than  
7 \$200 million inner harbor redevelopment  
8 project we should see this year begin.

9 And the faster the lake is cleaned up  
10 the more development and jobs will occur in  
11 our community. Of course we can't ignore  
12 the economic impacts of over \$400 million of  
13 over 7 years in the local economy if the  
14 project moves forward. We look forward to  
15 Honeywell being a valued member of this  
16 community for a long time.

17 I would also ask that as you work  
18 through the remediation plan you preserve  
19 development opportunities to the largest  
20 extent possible on the land that is being  
21 reclaimed. We believe that there will be  
22 strong interest and additional development  
23 adjacent to the lake, and don't want to lose  
24 out or limit this economic potential.

25 3 I know our members want me to give you a

WARNER

1  
2 vote of confidence in your work. The  
3 business community does not doubt the  
4 thoroughness or scientific acumen of the DEC  
5 and the EPA. We trust that you have not  
6 overlooked any aspects in the Remedial  
7 Investigation and Feasibility Study. And we  
8 trust in the monitoring programs that are  
9 part of the plan.

10 4 So we also speak to Honeywell tonight  
11 asking them to consent and agree and move  
12 forward with the plan DEC has proposed.

13 One last question, we hope that you'll  
14 be able to respond to as you go forward, and  
15 it's similar to a concern that the County  
16 5 Executive brought up. Going forward, what  
17 assurances can taxpayers in our community be  
18 given that if there is a failure in the cap  
19 or an engineering solution who's going to be  
20 held responsible for those costs? If  
21 Honeywell no longer exists, or has merged  
22 with another company who is going to be  
23 responsible for the costs in the end?

24 Onondaga Lake is a jewel for our  
25 community and the city of Syracuse. The

SAGE

1  
2 lake is a resource that any city would envy.  
3 We gained a lot of notoriety as the most  
4 polluted lake in the land. Now we'll have a  
5 new reputation as an example of state-of-the-  
6 art remediation of one of the largest Super-  
7 **6** fund sites in the nation. So we look  
8 forward to the earliest implementation  
9 possible and support for the recommended  
10 plan the DEC has put forward. Thank you.

11 0-7 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Sam Sage, Atlantic  
12 States Legal Foundation.

13 **SAMUEL SAGE:** Sam Sage, the president of  
14 the Atlantic States Legal Foundation. And  
15 I'm just going to make some preliminary  
16 remarks. Atlantic States will send in  
17 detailed comments to the EPA review panel  
18 and for the record here.

19 1 Before I say anything in detail we are  
20 happy to see that something is finally going  
21 to happen. We recognize the need for  
22 dredging and capping. And we hope that  
23 things can get started as soon as possible.  
24 I would just like to talk about three or  
25 four issues quickly.



## SAGE

1  
2 plan is going to have to be very complex in  
3 its variation, it has to dovetail with the  
4 monitoring currently being done by Onondaga  
5 County. We would recommend that there be  
6 outside scientific input into developing the  
7 monitoring plan, and hopefully be outside  
8 peer review of the monitoring plan before it  
9 takes place.

10 4 Another concern about the monitoring  
11 plan is its cost. The monitoring plan is  
12 estimated to be something like \$3 million a  
13 year for a minimum of 30 years, but probably  
14 more than that. That's a large sum of  
15 money. Corporations come and go, we really  
16 would like to see some fail-safe mechanism  
17 that the money will be available to do the  
18 monitoring properly. And one idea would be  
19 to collect a sum of money up front and keep  
20 it into a fund specifically for the purpose  
21 of the monitoring. The legal possibilities  
22 of doing that are the Superfund  
23 notwithstanding, I think that's something  
24 that should be investigated.

25 5 Part of the monitoring exercise is

SAGE

1  
2 needed in order to do some modeling of the  
3 different parameters in the lake. There was  
4 a meager effort to do a mercury model. That  
5 was shown that it wasn't going to work. But  
6 that effort was pretty half-hearted at best.  
7 To do a mercury model properly is going to  
8 take a long period of time. We need to  
9 start now getting the monitoring data that  
10 will allow us to do that monitoring.

11 Without some kind of modeling exercise we  
12 have no idea at what point we can expect to  
13 see improvements in biota, a lessening of  
14 methyl mercury in fish tissue and other  
15 things like that.

16 We also should be modeling for other  
17 parameters other than mercury. There are  
18 various organic compounds that should be  
19 modeled. And a thorough analysis should be  
20 made of what are the most reasonable  
21 parameters to that modeling exercise.

22 **6** The next point that I think is needed to  
23 emphasize is public participation. It's  
24 very gratifying to see so many people coming  
25 to this meeting tonight. For all too many

SAGE

1  
2 years when some of us have been dealing with  
3 Onondaga Lake issues we sort of talked to  
4 ourselves. However, the Superfund process  
5 is partly to blame. We at Atlantic States  
6 audit the TAG grant agency for the  
7 Environmental Protection Agency. But even  
8 so with all our efforts getting people  
9 interested in the esoteric of the Superfund  
10 process has been difficult.

11 Also unfortunately, this hearing is the  
12 only requirement under the Superfund  
13 process. And so we are urging that a more  
14 comprehensive continuing public  
15 participation effort go hand in hand with  
16 the remediation of the lake bottom site and  
17 with the other sites. I have suggested  
18 7 separately to DEC that an overall matrix  
19 should be prepared for the public, showing  
20 the relationship of all the upland sites to  
21 the lake bottom sites on the dates and the  
22 conflicts and trying to hammer out, you  
23 know, what people can expect and what are  
24 the significant points at which some public  
25 comment would be desirable and necessary.

HOLSTEIN

1  
2 And I think there is some agreement to do  
3 something like that and I think that would  
4 go a long way in helping getting the public  
5 more involved.

6 8 Finally, the last point I would like to  
7 make is that in all the work to do the  
8 remediation we have to think of the workers  
9 who are going to be doing the work. And  
10 it's particularly important that proper  
11 hazardous management training be undertaken  
12 by all these workers and that all steps are  
13 taken to ensure their health and safety  
14 during the process. And thank you, we will  
15 submit written comments later.

16 0-8 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Thank you, Sam.  
17 Chuckie Holstein, FOCUS Greater Syracuse.

18 **CHUCKIE HOLSTEIN:** Good evening and  
19 thank you very much. I appreciate DEC being  
20 - giving us this opportunity. I'm with  
21 FOCUS Greater Syracuse. FOCUS stands for  
22 Forging Our Community's United Strength.  
23 And I'm speaking for the ordinary citizens  
24 who participated in our FOCUS visioning  
25 process in 1997 and 1998.

## HOLSTEIN

1  
2 1 There are over 5,000 citizens who  
3 participated in this process to share with  
4 us their dreams and their visions for our  
5 community. That was eight years ago. And  
6 that visioning process developed 15,500  
7 ideas. That's a lot of ideas. We distilled  
8 those into goals. We ended up with 87  
9 goals. Those goals were voted on in a  
10 Vision Fair in 1998, and that's what I want  
11 to talk to you about.

12 As people voted on the goals they  
13 established the preferences for what they  
14 wanted to happen first in this community.  
15 The number one goal was to build bicycle  
16 paths and hiking trails, especially along  
17 the waterways in our community, ergo  
18 Onondaga Lake.

19 The third highest goal out of 87 goals  
20 was to develop and clean Onondaga Lake. I  
21 went into that great big fat notebook this  
22 afternoon to take a look at what some of the  
23 people were saying about Onondaga Lake.  
24 After I had counted 150 times just the three  
25 words, "clean Onondaga Lake," I stopped

## HOLSTEIN

1  
2 counting, because I think at every single  
3 one of the over 200 visioning sessions  
4 people did say they wanted Onondaga Lake  
5 restored so they could go swimming there and  
6 fishing and so on.

7 2 The citizens have waited a long time for  
8 the clean up of Onondaga Lake. The good  
9 news is that there is good fishing in the  
10 lake. We understand the carp colony is  
11 wonderful, and even those people from the  
12 United Kingdom would like to come here and  
13 fish for carp.

14 3 We also understand that you can travel  
15 from Onondaga Lake all the way to the  
16 Mississippi river, but they can also come  
17 here, and that's I think what Warren talked  
18 about in bringing tourism to this community.

19 Last year in 2004, we spent the entire  
20 year on the waterways and water in our  
21 community. We held two FOCUS meetings, an  
22 annual event and a workshop with experts.  
23 Some of you here in this room were part of  
24 that. We ended up with a report to the  
25 community. There were 10 strategies for

## HOLSTEIN

1  
2 Onondaga Lake. I'm only going to read a few  
3 of them to you.

4 4 The first and foremost was to focus on  
5 water quality. And I think that's what the  
6 DEC, Honeywell and the other remediation  
7 projects are talking about.

8 They want to continue the clean up and  
9 have a long range plan to keep it clean.  
10 And that goes to what Sam Sage just talked  
11 about, the continuing monitoring.

12 5 They want the public to be informed of  
13 the current state and usability for  
14 recreation and fishing. In other words,  
15 they said, let's get people on the lake not  
16 just standing there and looking at the lake.

17 6 They want to create a positive publicity  
18 and media campaign about the lake. And I  
19 think we need to do that more and more. Of  
20 course they want the hiking trail and the  
21 bicycle path, the contiguous lake trail to  
22 be finished. And the edge lands be ready  
23 for development and public use.

24 7 The people talked about public  
25 accessibility and to provide transportation

OHL

1  
2 to the lake. There is some people who don't  
3 have transportation and need public  
4 transportation to get to the lake.

5 8 And last but not least, they said all  
6 around the lake should remain in the public  
7 realm. There should be public ownership of  
8 the shoreline, and create a long term plan  
9 for the use.

10 9 I think the citizens of this community  
11 would find it very good news to hear that  
12 we're finally beginning the process. And we  
13 recommend that the process begin as soon as  
14 possible. We say start now, just do it.  
15 And I do have some documentation on the  
16 citizens goals and what they had to say and  
17 I will leave them with you. Thank you very  
18 much.

19 0-9 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Thank you. Next is  
20 Clyde Ohl.

21 CLYDE OHL: My short presentation here  
22 is entitled "Build and measure - but No  
23 Final Specific Master Plan." I have two  
24 areas of concern with proposals for Onondaga  
25 Lake.

OHL

1  
2 1 First, as background, there is a  
3 scientific way to resolve the issues  
4 involving Onondaga Lake. The lake would be  
5 studied by an independent scientist, or  
6 independent scientists with proper peer  
7 review. The remedial issues would be  
8 defined, with extensive models constructed,  
9 based upon selected variables and a final  
10 solution based upon a clearly defined master  
11 plan. We don't have a master plan as yet.

12 Unfortunately, all too often clearly  
13 defined scientific study has been subverted  
14 to what I call is the political process.

15 The result has been what we call the  
16 Build and Measure Plan established by  
17 Onondaga County, without precise goals, to  
18 grapple with the sewage discharge into  
19 Onondaga Lake. Build and measure, often  
20 done without independent monitoring, I  
21 repeat, independent monitoring is a nice  
22 sounding term. However, it is not based on  
23 long-term goals but it's more concerned with  
24 inching along, sometimes delaying the  
25 project.

OHL

1  
2 It comes as no surprise that Honeywell  
3 has followed or decided to follow what I  
4 call the Metro template, and wants the same  
5 arrangement. Fifteen years after the state  
6 filed the lawsuit and after collecting  
7 hundreds - or mounds of data and studies at  
8 a cost of several hundreds of millions of  
9 dollars, detailing the industrial pollution  
10 of the lake, we are again endorsing what I  
11 call this build and measure plan, and again  
12 without a clear predetermined goal.

13 To be succinct, under build and measure  
14 the polluters are being allowed to build  
15 what amounts to interim or test facilities,  
16 and merely measure their efficacy rather  
17 than require actual predetermined results  
18 based upon proper scientific models.

19 This flies in the face of what I call  
20 environmental cleanup practices everywhere  
21 in the country. I have been -- don't get me  
22 wrong now, I've been delighted that  
23 Honeywell has come along. They're doing  
24 things differently than other interested  
25 organizations. They're reaching out to the

OHL

1  
2 public. They haven't announced the final  
3 plan. The final plan, as I understand, will  
4 be about three years from now. During the  
5 meantime they'll be doing a lot of work in  
6 preparing for this.

7 This type of initiative involving the  
8 public is long overdue on issues involving  
9 Onondaga Lake. And I do not want to delay  
10 major positive efforts with reference to the  
11 lake. However, I continue to remain  
12 concerned with the build and measure  
13 2 approach proposed by Honeywell. The major  
14 shortcoming I again point to is a lack of  
15 modeling for the project, no models. We  
16 have to do what we do and then build and  
17 measure and so on. We spend hundreds of  
18 millions of dollars and we're throwing out a  
19 lot of that information we had before.

20 Using appropriate modeling to arrive at  
21 predetermined measurable goals is an  
22 overriding importance in this issue.

23 My second concern, by the way I  
24 mentioned two, rests with the Town of  
25 Camillus. And it goes like this. I'm not

OHL

1  
2 speaking on behalf of Camillus officialdom,  
3 although as a former town supervisor in  
4 Camillus and a former county legislator I've  
5 been involved in the lake issues for many  
6 many years. I'm also chairman of what we  
7 call somewhat facetiously the Dead Lake  
8 Society. Dead Lake Society. The beds  
9 3 actually represent a long lost opportunity,  
10 the present beds, represent this lost  
11 opportunity for long term economic  
12 development as well as recreational  
13 opportunities.

14 We just have the wastebeds in Camillus,  
15 several hundred acres. We now have the  
16 chance to regain the opportunity of bringing  
17 these areas back into some type of economic  
18 development profitable for the town.

19 I think it's important for Camillus to  
20 be involved in the design process for the  
21 development of the beds and the surrounding  
22 areas and not merely as a depository for the  
23 tailings from the dredging program.

24 The so-called Allied beds actually have  
25 potentiality easily ignored, often ignored

OHL

1  
2 and not much appreciated for future develop-  
3 ment in Camillus. It seems to me using bed  
4 13 and maybe even expanding it to bed 14  
5 actually overrides or creates a major  
6 barrier to future development. Camillus has  
7 a finite area, and to see Allied beds  
8 continue only as a dumping site flies in the  
9 face of economic development.

10 I do remember a schematic developed  
11 about twelve years ago by Allied Chemical  
12 and they depicted future uses of this whole  
13 area. I was very much impressed. Golf  
14 courses, parkland, all kinds of things, even  
15 potential parking lots for the State Fair  
16 and also maybe a ramp, another exit ramp on  
17 Horan Road that would serve Camillus a  
18 little bit better. Well, time has passed  
19 by, twelve years later, and nothing much has  
20 happened as far as that part is concerned.

21 There is no mention in all of this, by  
22 the way, of economic benefit to the future.  
23 Unless we start now we may well end up with  
24 another lost opportunity. It's not too  
25 early for Camillus to be involved in

FREEDMAN

1  
2 conjunction with Honeywell and the DEC in  
3 any design processes. I want to see a  
4 better use of the wastebeds and surrounding  
5 areas than we are contemplating at the  
6 present time. Thank you.

7 0-10 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Jeffrey Freedman.

8 **JEFFREY FREEDMAN:** Thank you. I am  
9 Jeffrey Freedman, F-R-E-E-D-M-A-N. It's  
10 been my privilege and pleasure to have a  
11 sailboat and a motorboat on Onondaga Lake  
12 for the last six years. It's also been my  
13 pleasure to be a member of Onondaga Yacht  
14 Club. Onondaga Yacht Club has existed on  
15 the shore of Onondaga Lake since 1883,  
16 promoting recreational boating on Onondaga  
17 Lake and enhancing the recreational boating  
18 experience.

19 1 On behalf of the members of the Club, we  
20 number about 60 families who have about 50  
21 boats that we use on the lake. We  
22 thoroughly support these efforts of the DEC  
23 and of Honeywell to clean up what we regard  
24 as our lake.

25 In the course of the clean up operations

## FREEDMAN

1  
2 we think it would be in the interest of  
3 public safety to remove all of the under-  
4 water obstructions to navigation. The Noah  
5 charts for Onondaga Lake list at least two  
6 sunken barges and numerous underwater  
7 pilings which remain from the amusement park  
8 on the western shore. These objects present  
9 a clear and present danger to public safety  
10 and also to the safety of the Honeywell  
11 workers who will be out on the lake in their  
12 boats. So we hope that in the course of the  
13 clean up efforts that these objects will be  
14 removed.

15 3 We hope that the clean up effort will,  
16 in the habitat enhancement part of the  
17 project, that we can have a plan free zone  
18 in the Marina Harbor, that will also support  
19 navigation, and the channel between the  
20 Marina Harbor and the lake in the deep end.

21 4 We are not anxious to see anchoring  
22 restrictions over the areas that are capped.  
23 An anchor is an item of safety equipment on  
24 a boat. We have seen sudden storms come  
25 across Onondaga Lake and we have measured

## FREEDMAN

1  
2 winds in excess of 80 miles an hour. So we  
3 need to deploy our anchors as a matter of  
4 boating safety, and we would not like to see  
5 any restrictions to anchoring in the cap  
6 areas.

7 5 Those things being said we look forward  
8 to working with the Honeywell staff as the  
9 clean up progresses. Our organization sees  
10 this as an opportunity to greatly expand  
11 recreational boating on Onondaga Lake. We  
12 have called for the creation of a day camp  
13 with sailing instruction and lake ecology  
14 instruction for children, possibly  
15 associated with our boating club. We would  
16 like to see community sailing programs for  
17 our senior citizens so that retired people  
18 could come and use boats, not necessarily  
19 have to own them themselves.

20 We would like to foster the relation-  
21 ships with our colleges and universities to  
22 bring back intercollegiate sailing on  
23 Onondaga Lake and scholastic sailing. And  
24 we also see our Club hosting Empire State  
25 Games sailing events and also national

FREEDMAN

1  
2 sailing regattas on Onondaga Lake for one  
3 design sailboats.

4 So we see a tremendous increase in  
5 sailing activity. We would like to also see  
6 a tremendous increase in fishing activity  
7 and rowing shells. So I think the vision  
8 that we have for Onondaga Lake from the  
9 standpoint of recreational boating is that  
10 the thousands of people who already enjoy  
11 Onondaga Lake Park would look out and see  
12 the lake literally covered and populated  
13 with sailboats, fishing boats and rowing  
14 shells on every nice day of the summer.

15 And once again, we are tremendously  
16 appreciative and express our deep gratitude  
17 to the staff of the DEC and to the Honeywell  
18 organization for their clean up activities.

19 **6** Finally, we just hope that - we under-  
20 stand that there is presently a disparity  
21 between the scope of the operations that are  
22 being proposed by Honeywell and by the DEC.  
23 We would not like to see these - this  
24 disparity get bogged down in the judicial  
25 system under court -- in the courts, but we

1 KOCHAN

2 would like the clean up effort to go as  
3 expeditiously as possible so that we and the  
4 public can enjoy our lake. Thank you.

5 0-11 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Nick Kochan.

6 NICK KOCHAN: K-O-C-H-A-N. Good evening  
7 and I would like to - village of Liverpool  
8 Planning Board Chairman and twenty year  
9 resident of the village of Liverpool and a  
10 life-long resident of the Syracuse area.

11 .1 In Liverpool which was incorporated in  
12 1830 as one of the older communities in the  
13 area, probably had one of the first  
14 commercial enterprises on the lake with the  
15 collection of salt. And the focus of the  
16 lake has been an economic driver for  
17 everybody in this community for a long time.

18 And the twenty years since Allied has  
19 closed the community has taken a new focus  
20 and a new direction with respect to the  
21 lake. We have worked with the mall, we have  
22 the extraordinary growth of the use of the  
23 park, the Onondaga Lake Park, and also we  
24 have the improvements being done by the  
25 wastewater, in the wastewater facilities.

CHAPMAN

1  
2 It's very encouraging to see the effort  
3 that's being put into this project and it's  
4 great to see this is getting closer to  
5 becoming a reality. I just have several  
6 quick comments to make because many of the  
7 points have been covered already.

8 2 Assuming that the upland remediation is  
9 successful and diligently protected, I would  
10 make that one of the first conditions in  
11 looking at this lake proposal. And we also  
12 have to make sure that Honeywell will still  
13 remain involved in the long-run to maintain  
14 those facilities. I would just like to  
15 3 encourage Honeywell and the DEC to continue  
16 to work hard and find the best economic and  
17 scientific compromise possible for this  
18 project. Thank you.

19 0-12 DIRECTOR LYNCH: David Chapman.

20 DAVID CHAPMAN: How are you doing. I  
21 have some scientific statements I was going  
22 to make on behalf of Dr. George Putnam with  
23 our firm. My name is David Chapman, I'm  
24 with Mountain Eagle Management, we're a  
25 technology development firm.

## CHAPMAN

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1 I guess mainly I wanted to get across  
rather than, I can address this later for  
you and give this to you, but there is a lot  
going on in the community. First of all, I  
want to commend the DEC and Honeywell for  
moving towards action steps now as opposed  
to just a constant studying and remedial  
investigation going on seems like a lifetime.

2 Our firm has a patent on a reverse of  
the Solvay process, where they take carbon  
rock and turn it into natural chemicals.  
It's a patent, you take that natural  
chemicals and turn them back into carbon  
rock for sealing up buildings and soils.

We've run into a lot of, I don't know  
let's just say snags along the way in trying  
to get an idea of the chicken and egg theory  
a cross of whether it's been done before or  
how do we know it will work, and a lot of  
things like this. One of the things I see  
happening in this community right now is  
that we're really moving toward a community  
of technology development; what's going on  
down in Syracuse and various different

## CHAPMAN

1  
2 operations that are happening around there  
3 and what Pataki recently proposed as far as  
4 new technology development in the Central  
5 New York area.

6 And I just want to say I think that with  
7 Onondaga Lake we have a great opportunity to  
8 really look at some of the other  
9 technologies, and I'm not just talking about  
10 ours, I have seen some other technologies  
11 that really hold some serious merit for the  
12 true clean up of the lake.

13 And all I want to say for the record is  
14 just that if we can just make sure that we  
15 have a forum where these technologies can  
16 truly be listened to by people like  
17 yourselves and other scientists and not just  
18 pushed aside where it's been done before.  
19 But really looked at for a way for some  
20 potential solutions.

21 Again, like I said, I want to commend  
22 the DEC and Honeywell and all the fine  
23 engineering firms who worked up to this  
24 point of bringing this to fruition with this  
25 diverse action, instead of just study.

BRAGMAN

1  
2 That's pretty much it. As far as the  
3 technical, I'll leave this for you. Thank  
4 you very much.

5 0-13 THE COURT: Howard Bragman.

6 1 HOWARD BRAGMAN: I am H-O-W-A-R-D  
7 B-R-A-G-M-A-N. This will be like really  
8 short, just about a minute. It seems that  
9 we've been this route before. Not so long  
10 ago a professor emeritus from ESF stated it  
11 would take at least half a century and then  
12 we would not know where we were. Is it  
13 emollients, PCBs, mercury, whatever?  
14 Because Onondaga County does not collect  
15 taxes anymore. Because I used to hear  
16 rumors that people who worked for Allied if  
17 they suddenly think about polluting the  
18 lake, rushed into a room with an exit sign  
19 on it and they were out the door.

20 Why am I not convinced? If Allied were  
21 still here we would not be here tonight. I  
22 2 propose damming it because that is the one  
23 true way of getting to the bottom of things.  
24 In other words, just put up big barriers and  
25 get in there and see what you have. And