

Press-Republican

Cumberland Bay PBC cleanup first priority of new DEC commissioner

By MARC VIOLETTE
Ottaway News Service

ALBANY — As he was being confirmed by the Senate Tuesday as the state's new environmental conservation commissioner, John Cahill said one of his first orders of business will be to speed cleanup of toxic PCBs in Cumberland Bay in Lake Champlain.

"The issue of Cumberland Bay and Georgia-Pacific, that will have to move pretty quickly," Cahill said.

PCBs have contaminated some 75 acres beneath the lake.

"Within the next couple of weeks, we will release our proposal on PCB cleanup in the bay for public comment, and we intend to begin (work) next summer."

That kind of decisiveness has won kudos for Cahill from both the business and environmental communities,

from Democrats and Republicans, as he takes over an agency rocked by problems under his predecessor, Michael Zagata, who was quietly dismissed by Gov. George Pataki in January.

"John Cahill simply has the expertise, understanding, commitment and leadership to be the (commissioner) at this critical time," said David Miller, executive director of the National Audubon Society of New York.

"He's a good choice, and we definitely support him," said Ken Pokalsky, environmental director for the Business Council of New York, the state's largest business lobby organization.

"He's a good man for the job. He's bright and he has a clear idea of how to run the department."

Cahill, 38, from Yonkers, worked as an environmental lawyer in a New York City law firm from 1985 to 1995 when he left to become general counsel

to the DEC.

He earned a master's degree from Pace University Law School in 1992.

Pataki named Cahill acting DEC commissioner in January after Zagata's departure.

As the Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination, lawmakers made the point of contrasting Cahill to his predecessor.

"There was a period when I thought there was an effort there (at DEC) to get rid of environmental law," said Sen. Suzi Oppenheimer (D-Westchester).

"That was a direction I thought was very disturbing. But now we are seeing a vast improvement in the enforcement of our laws."

"I've been flooded with letters saying this guy is terrific," said Sen. Emanuel Gold (D-Queens).

Please see CAHILL Page A8 ►

Cahill to pursue Pataki's agenda

► CAHILL from Page A1

Both Gold and Oppenheimer, who opposed Zagata's nomination in 1995, wholeheartedly supported Cahill this week.

Zagata, an Oneonta native, came to DEC after working 15 years for oil and gas companies in Texas and Oklahoma.

He fell out of favor with Pataki over policy miscues and his personal conduct while in office.

Cahill has been widely credited with boosting employee morale at DEC in the months he

served as acting commissioner.

He has also rededicated the agency to stronger enforcement of environmental law, which had diminished under Zagata's watch.

"We will not sacrifice enforcement," Cahill told lawmakers Tuesday.

"Enforcement is not the objective. But it is a tool of our agency to help ensure our primary goal, which is compliance with environmental law."

Cahill said he will continue to pursue Pataki's agenda for DEC,

which is to carve a delicate balance between spurring economic development in the state while still protecting New York's air, land and water.

"This is a position that is personally important to the governor, and he's asked me to lead an agency that has set the standard for the environmental movement in this country the last 25 years."

Cahill will be paid \$95,635 to head an agency with 3,700 employees and a budget of \$330 million.

Article on Reversal

Press-Republican

Local

State ready to advise on PCB removal

Press Republican 6/22/97
By JEFF MEYERS
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — The state is finalizing its recommendations for cleaning the PCB-contaminated debris in Plattsburgh Bay, and the report should be released within the next two weeks.

Officials from the Department of Environmental Conservation have been studying several possibilities for removing the sludge from the environment near Wilcox Dock. Nearly 93,000 cubic yards of wood debris is sitting on the lake bottom in that area.

Although most people agree that the sludge should be removed because it contains levels of polychlorinated biphenyls, the method of removal has led to some debate.

"There has been quite a bit of interest in the Plattsburgh area, where groups of people and elected officials have taken a position on how it should be cleaned up," said DEC Regional Director Stuart Buchanan during a recent meeting of the Lake Champlain Steering Committee.

"We believe it's premature to take a position at this time. We'd like the public to understand all the alternatives a little better."

The state is considering three options: to do nothing and let nature work on the sludge bed; to remove the entire bed by dredging; and to bury the sludge in one small area.

Georgia-Pacific, which used to discharge waste into the bay in the late 1960s and early '70s, has taken some responsibility for the sludge bed but does not believe its plant is responsible for PCB con-

tamination.

Officials at G-P have developed a plan they say is the best and most cost-effective alternative. The plan is similar to the state's third alternative, the plan to bury the sludge near the dock and build a retaining wall around it to ensure it does not seep back into the bay.

The City of Plattsburgh and other government officials have endorsed that plan. But environmentalists want the sludge bed removed completely and feel the dredging process is not as efficient as some people claim.

New dredging equipment can remove the sludge without disturbing it and sending it further into the lake.

"We're concerned the public has seen only one side," Buchanan said. "We'd prefer that they get t

Sunday, June 22, 1997 A3

removal

see the other side before we go forward with our remedial plan."

Once the final report is released, the state will hold at least two public hearings on the choice. There will also be a 60-day response period for people to make written comments about the state's choice.

The state has also been doing a historical study of the area to determine how the PCBs ended up in the sludge. Buchanan said no official announcements have been made on the source, but that study is moving forward.

Anyone found responsible for PCB contamination would be responsible for a portion of the clean-up process, which could cost between \$10 million and \$20 million dollars, depending on choice of alternative.

457 7925

FAX MEMO

PAGES _____ DATE _____ FAX # _____

TO *Bob Edmonds*

FROM _____

OO _____

PH # _____

FAX # 457 7525

PLATTSBURGH — In the heyday of Plattsburgh Air Force Base, the Strategic Air Command outfit was said to have pumped as much as \$150 million a year into the local economy. The Plattsburgh Airbase Redevelopment Corporation, which

Barie said the pace of redevelop- ment continues, the economic impact of PARC's efforts can approach the Air Force's numbers by the end of 2000.

"I see no reason that the pace will slack off. With one or two significant tenants and a lot of mom-and-pop-type outfits, I think the

PARC itself creates about \$50 million for the area.

The impact statement focuses on payroll, purchases of goods and services, rent and utilities.

PARC's tenants had a combined payroll of almost \$2.5 million.

PARC's payroll is nearly \$2 million.

million for purchases and about \$1.2 million for equipment.

The outfit paid more than \$1 million for

Barie said the data is conservative and more data culled from a private survey.

Businesses expect losses from sludge dredging

By JEFF MEYERS
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Residents and business owners along Cumberland Bay want assurance that a proposed cleanup project in the bay won't hurt them too much.

The state is considering a plan to dredge the sludge bed near Wilcox Dock, a procedure that will take at least two years and will include a large, temporary sheet-piling wall along the outer edges of the sludge.

That wall, which will rise about nine feet above the water to make sure no debris flows into the main lake during the cleanup, has raised a lot of local eyebrows.

"We have several members in that area," Gary Douglas, executive director of the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce said.

"The motels down there have a short summer season, and under the best of circumstances, we're looking at two solid years of depression.

"How are you going to address their needs to prevent economic loss?"

Douglas spoke to members of the Department of Environmental Conservation, which has released its draft plan to clean the PCB-laden sludge bed.

"We don't have that kind of information," DEC representative Steve Hammond said.

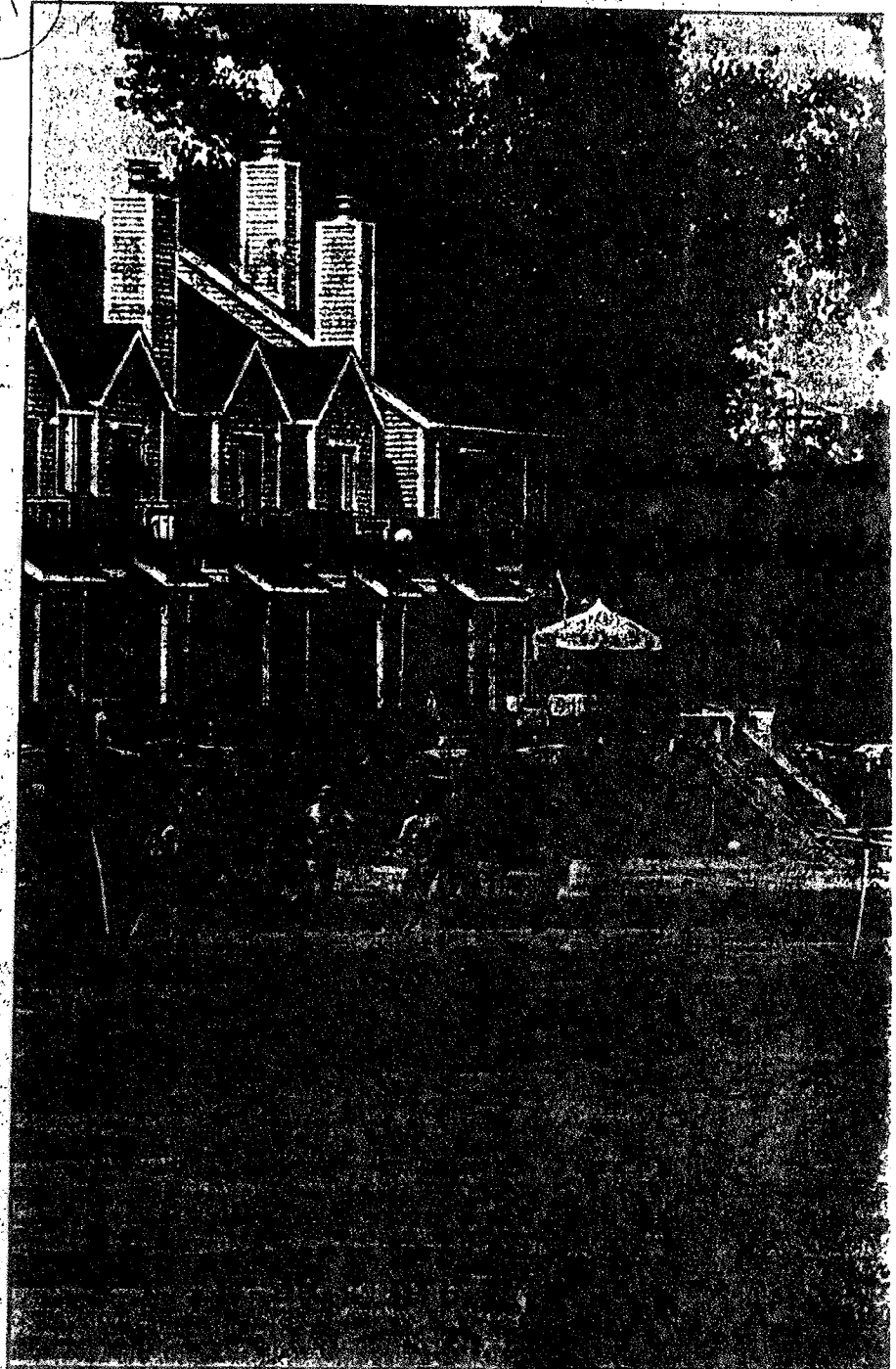
"That's the kind of information we're looking for. We don't want to design this in now. This is a concept, and we're looking for your ideas."

"We recognize that this will impact your field for a while," Project Manager Bob Edwards said. "We are sensitive to your needs and want to work with you."

Most of the residents in the affected area live along Margaret Street from Georgia-Pacific to Edgewater Estates.

Edwards said the cleanup could be done in stages so the retaining wall could be partially removed once the sludge bed close to their shoreline is cleaned.

Residents are also concerned about what the wall will do to water quality. Once it is in place, the water inside will become stagnant and will not receive the natural



A retaining wall to keep PCB-laden debris within Cumberland Bay during the proposed cleanup will extend between Edgewater Estates (above) and Wilcox Dock.

Officials are estimating that 15 to 20 trucks will be used daily to remove dewatered sludge from the site to a lined landfill.

Hammond said DEC representatives will

HOW TO BE HEAR

...your ideas, and we look forward to recognizing that this will impact your for a while," Project Manager Bob and want to work with you," of the residents in the affected area along Margaret Street from Georgia to Edgewater Estates. ards said the cleanup could be done es so the retaining wall could be par- removed once the sludge bed close to hereine is cleaned.

lents are also concerned about what it will do to water quality. Once it is and will not receive the natural ng process of the lake's currents. nd will have to be considered as engi- o the design. resident asked how noisy the dredg- id be and what kind of work day schedule could be made available by the next public meeting, but Hammond said those kinds of details will be worked out after the information-gathering sessions.

Abdallah asked about the final goals of the project. He wanted to know how the area could be used once cleaned. Without the sludge bed and PCB contam- ination, the area can be used for swimming and other recreational activities, Hammond said.

years. Contractors are establishing up- to-date electric, heating, ventilation and plumbing for the structure. New windows, walls, doors and flooring are also being installed. The Technical Annex Building, as it is now named, will, in the fall, host both the electronics technology program and the industrial technol- ogy program.

When the new Science and Technology complex is completed, the electronics program will remain in the annex and the industrial pro- gram will be held in both buildings. Fennell considers the renovation costs a bargain at \$50 per square foot, as compared to the Science and Technology Building at \$150 per square foot.

"This is great-class space. It's being designed to accommodate the tech- nology program for current and future use." One major obstacle to the success of the program, according to Fennell, is the lack of students enrolled in the curriculum.

SBURGH — The Clinton College Science and Technology Building, removing "trash and junk" that had accumulated over the years. Program will continue with a slight alteration. million building designed for the program won't be mid-1988. the building had initially high, delaying construc- to accommodate avail- iteals feared they would already instituted courses. to the rescue. dly building for the for- turned-college, once les of debris and storage to be torn down, has building for the college. resident Jay Fennell is h its potential. a used to capture addi- e on campus. This will temporary building." 000 needed to cover the renovations will be ally between the college State University

W annex to house CCC technology program

LOUISE SPRING Staff Writer

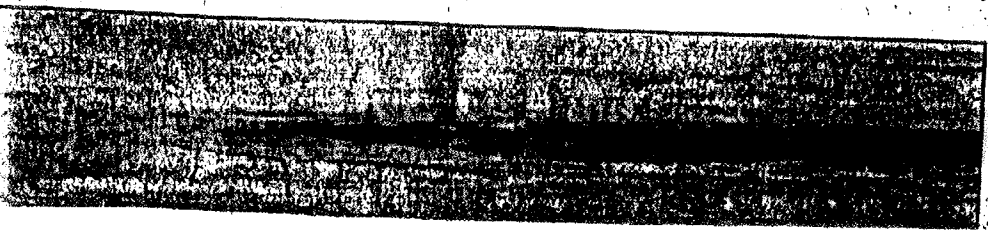
Immates from Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility gutted the building, removing "trash and junk" that had accumulated over the years. Program will continue with a slight alteration. million building designed for the program won't be mid-1988. the building had initially high, delaying construc- to accommodate avail- iteals feared they would already instituted courses. to the rescue. dly building for the for- turned-college, once les of debris and storage to be torn down, has building for the college. resident Jay Fennell is h its potential. a used to capture addi- e on campus. This will temporary building." 000 needed to cover the renovations will be ally between the college State University



Murane Construction foreman Eric Lavigne helps put the finishing touches on Clinton Community College's Technical Annex Building. Photo Editor/Dave Paczak

The programs have a capacity of 20 students apiece. As of this week, only about 10 students are regis- tered for each. "We are as yet not getting through about this great opportuni- ty," Fennell said. "Local people should come in make the move, take the chance." The college designed the pro- grams in partnership with local businesses, such as Bombardier.

The technological changes are happening quietly but rapidly in the North Country. People need to realize this and be prepared." The annex building will be ren- ovated and ready for use within two weeks, well ahead of the first sched- uled day of the fall semester, which begins Sept. 2.



A retaining wall to keep PCB-laden debris within Cumberland Bay during the proposed cleanup will extend between Edgewater Estates (above) and Wilcox Dock. Staff Photo/Mike Day

HOW TO BE HEARD

Next morning's Cumberland Bay PCB cleanup meeting is set for Aug. 28 at 10 a.m. in Room 208 at SUNY Plattsburgh. Women's Hall. Also, public comments on DEC's cleanup proposal can be submitted to Robert Edwards, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road Albany, N.Y. 12233-7010.

Also, experts believe fish that are being contaminated by PCBs could see dramatic improvements within three to five years. There is an advisory on eating yellow perch caught in the bay because of very high PCB levels, but those advisories could be lifted once PCB levels drop.

Paper Co. pays \$9M in PCB cleanup

Georgia-Pacific splits cost with state, other parties responsible for Champlain pollution

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
Associated Press

ALBANY — A paper-manufacturing company has agreed to pay \$9 million to help clean up PCB-contaminated sludge in a Lake Champlain bay, the Paraki administration announced Wednesday.

Georgia-Pacific Corp. of Plattsburgh and state Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill signed an agreement this week providing for the cleanup of a 34-acre sludge bed on Cumberland Bay.

Georgia-Pacific will pay roughly half of the \$18.3 million the state estimates it will cost to remove the sludge bed.

It has been on the state's Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites list since 1994 and has been deemed a significant threat to public health and the environment by the state.

The rest of the cleanup costs will come from the state's Superfund and other parties

ELECTRIC
TIMES UNION

Check out the state government report on the Electric TU. Go to: <http://www.timesunion.com/capitol/>

responsible for the pollution, said DEC spokesman Gary Sheffer.

Cumberland Bay is just to the east of Plattsburgh and was contaminated with waste from nearby wood-products industries.

The waste settled or was directly discharged into the waterway for decades, according to the DEC. The city's sewage treatment plant did not begin treating waste from those industries until 1973.

An examination of the bay from 1992 to 1994 found PCB-contamination and other pollutants in the water. The state has issued health advisories on the consumption of fish taken from Lake Champlain due to the PCB contamination, and commercial fishing for yellow perch has been banned.

An environmental specialist for Georgia-Pacific said the company's own study of the bay showed it did not generate any PCB-pollution in the waterway.

"But because we did discharge to that area, we feel we have a certain obligation for at least a portion of the cleanup of the sludge bed," said Gary Frenia, environmental specialist for the company.

Gov. George Pataki said Lake Champlain is a vital waterway for many New Yorkers.

"It provides drinking water for communities in the region, sustains agriculture and industry, and supports local economies and jobs by attracting millions of tourists each year," he said.

The public will be able to comment on the state's plan to remove the sludge bed until mid-September.

Once the plan is adopted, it will probably take two years before cleanup is completed, said Sheffer.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, have been linked to cancer and neurological and reproductive disorders in laboratory animals.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
 EB
 CC
 JAC
 JAC

Double-sided Copies to: J. Cahill, G. Donohue, L. Frick, S. Taluto, P. Duncan, F. Dunstan, D. Sterman, C. Sullivan, S. Bobarakis, J. Major, R. Hinton, L. New

EASE CIRCULATE QUICKLY:

- led to: G. Bruening, J. Austin, T. Kunkel, B. Dikant
- routed to: P. Bergen, D. Reiner, L. Shader
- routed to: A. Liddle, T. Agriss
- routed to: L. Remus(4), M. Cavanaugh, B. Bentley, M. Kadlecck, A. Mapes, E. Clarke, N. Satterly = (18)

Single-sided copies to: G. Sheffer (1), J. Post (2), S. Thernstrom (1), T. Guadagnino (1) = (5) A:slipshoe.cvr

2/31/97 Press Republica

G-P to give \$9 million for PCB cleanup

By JEFF MEYERS
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Georgia-Pacific will provide \$9 million toward the cleanup of PCB-contaminated sludge in Cumberland Bay, possibly ending its extensive plan to develop the surrounding shoreline.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation discovered elevated levels of PCBs in the sludge bed in the early 1990s and has been analyzing options to remove the contamination.

Earlier this month, DEC officials decided the total removal of sludge via dredging, an estimated \$18 million project, was the best alternative.

Supporters of G-P's plan — to cap the sludge bed in one corner of the bay and develop a public-access area around the cap — weren't happy.

But Wednesday's news seems to have taken some steam out of the G-P proposal.

"We recognize the importance of recreational enhancements (in the bay) to the community," said Gary

Frenia, environmental engineer for the local G-P plant.

"As a community leader, we have committed recreational resources to the city once the remediation is completed.

"We have reservations about wholesale dredging as the primary method for cleanup, but we also feel further discussions will only prolong the startup of the cleanup."

Frenia said it is too early to say what kinds of recreational resources G-P will be able to provide, but the plant will work closely with the city to come up with objectives.

Wilcox Dock, which sits at the edge of the sludge bed, has long been coveted as a recreational site.

DEC was prepared to open the area to the public before PCBs were identified there.

DEC officials held the first of two informational meetings on the cleanup project Wednesday night.

Several dozen people attended the meeting, some voicing support for G-P and others commending the department for its long-term proposal.

"We're very grateful that DEC committed its resources (to the cleanup effort)," said Garry Douglas, executive director for the local Chamber of Commerce.

"But we don't physically see (in the state plan) what we saw (in G-P's plan). I challenge you to show us how we can get back the vision we had (of recreational development at the site)."

DEC representative Steve Hammond said it wasn't this project's role to create a recreational plan, but the state would be conscious of future plans for the area.

For instance, roads built for the cleanup activities would be constructed in a way to enhance future development, he explained.

On the other hand, one woman at the meeting said she felt the G-P plan was a "Band-Aid" solution that would not fix the PCB problem. Throughout the meeting, she held a poster that read "Save the Lake — Support the DEC."

Another woman favorably compared the DEC solution with eating vegetables as opposed to the "dessert" G-P was offering.

Please see CLEANUP Page A3 ▶

G-P to give \$9 million for cleanup

▶ CLEANUP (from Page A)

"It's not as much fun, but it works," she said.

G-P's original plan, which includes walking trails and boat access, would have cost around \$13 million. G-P has claimed some responsibility for the sludge bed in the bay. Before 1973, G-P and earlier owners of the property had discharged wastewater directly into the bay. Over the years that created the sludge bed.

However, G-P does not believe it is responsible for the PCB contamination. Frenia said internal investigations have shown that PCBs were never used in the local paper-making process.

The state is continuing its search for any other parties involved.

They would be responsible for paying additional costs for the cleanup.

"We've been focusing on our discussion with G-P, but now we will be able to continue our search for other responsible parties," said DEC spokesperson Gary Sheffer.

In the meantime, money for the project will be provided through the state's Superfund.

When and if responsible parties are found, they would have to replace money taken from the Superfund.

The state will continue its public-comment period until mid-September when a final decision is made on the cleanup process.

The cleanup could begin as soon as next spring and would take about two years to complete.

Firm agrees to pay \$9 million fo

Associated Press

ALBANY — A paper-manufacturing company has agreed to pay \$9 million toward cleaning up PCB-contaminated sludge in a Lake Champlain bay, the Pataki administration announced Wednesday.

Georgia-Pacific Corp. of Plattsburgh and state Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill signed an agreement this week providing for the cleanup of a 34-acre sludge bed on

Cumberland Bay.

Georgia-Pacific will pay roughly half of the \$18.3 million the state estimates it will cost to remove the sludge bed. It has been on the state's Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites list since 1994 and has been deemed as a significant threat to public health and the environment by the state.

The rest of the cleanup costs will come from the state's Superfund and other parties responsible for the pollution, said DEC spokesman Gary Sheffer.

Cumberland Bay is just to the east of

Plattsburgh and it was contaminated with waste from nearby wood-products industries. The waste settled or was directly discharged into the waterway for decades, according to the DEC. It was not until 1973 that the city's sewage treatment plant began treating waste from those industries.

An examination of the bay from 1992 to 1994 found PCB-contamination and other pollutants in the water. The state has issued health advisories on consuming fish taken from Lake Champlain due to the PCB contamination, and commercial fishing for

r Champlain cleanup

yellow perch has been banned.

An environmental specialist for Georgia-Pacific said the company's own study of the bay showed it did not generate any PCB-pollution in the waterway.

"But because we did discharge to that area, we feel we have a certain obligation for at least a portion of the cleanup of the sludge bed," said Gary Frenia, environmental specialist for the company.

Gov. George E. Pataki said Lake Champlain is a vital waterway for many New Yorkers.

"It provides drinking water for

communities in the region, sustains agriculture and industry, and supports local economies and jobs by attracting millions of tourists each year," he said.

The public will be able to comment on the state's plan to remove the sludge bed until mid-September. Once the plan is adopted, it will probably take two years before cleanup is completed, said Sheffer.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, have been linked to cancer and neurological and reproductive disorders in laboratory animals.

Cleanup set at Champlain bay

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
The Associated Press

ALBANY — A paper-manufacturing company has agreed to pay \$9 million toward cleaning up PCB-contaminated sludge in a Lake Champlain bay, the Patzki administration announced Wednesday.

Georgia-Pacific Corp. of Plattsburgh and state Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill signed an agreement this week providing for the cleanup of a 34-acre sludge bed on Cumberland Bay.

Georgia-Pacific will pay roughly half of the \$10.3 million the state estimates it will cost to remove the sludge bed. It has been on the state's Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites list since 1994

Georgia-Pacific of Plattsburgh OKs deal

and has been deemed as a significant threat to public health and the environment by the state.

The rest of the cleanup costs will come from the state's Superfund, and other parties responsible for the pollution, said state Department of Environmental Conservation spokesman Gary Sheffer.

Cumberland Bay is just to the east of Plattsburgh and it was contaminated with waste from nearby wood-products industries. The waste settled on a sludge bed that was directly discharged into the waterway for decades, according to the DEC. It was not until 1973 that the city's sewage treatment plant began treating waste from those industries.

An examination of the bay from 1992 to 1994 found PCB-contamination and other pollutants in the water. The state has issued health advisories on consuming fish taken from Lake Champlain due to the PCB contamination, and commercial fishing for yellow perch has been banned.

An environmental specialist for Georgia-Pacific said the company's own study of the bay showed it did not generate any PCB-pollution in the waterway.

"But because we did discharge to that area, we feel we have a certain obligation for at least a portion of the cleanup of the sludge bed," said Gary Frenia, environmental specialist for the company.

Gov. George Pataki said Lake Champlain is a vital waterway for many New Yorkers.

"It provides drinking water for communities in the region, sustains agriculture and industry, and supports local economies and jobs by attracting millions of tourists each year," he said.

The public will be able to comment on the state's plan to remove the sludge bed until mid-September. Once the plan is adopted, it will probably take two years before cleanup is completed, said Sheffer.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, have been linked to cancer and neurological and reproductive disorders in laboratory animals.

Press-Republican

The Hometown Newspaper of Clinton, Essex, Franklin Counties

Vol. 104-No. 326 © Copyright 1997, Press-Republican

Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901, Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Suggested Price: 50 cents 24 Pages

DEC wants PCBs dredged from bay

Mill, city had lobbied against plan

By JEFF MEYERS
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — The state wants the sludge bed in Cumberland Bay dredged to remove PCBs buried there. After considering several opt-

ions, the state Department of Environmental Conservation released a proposed cleanup plan Tuesday that calls for the total removal of the sludge bed — something Georgia-Pacific and local governments had lobbied against. "This is the alternative that fully

restores the habitat and the natural resources of the bay," said Gary Sheffer, a DEC spokesperson. "That's what our responsibility is in these cases. Our plan does not involve the taking of habitat on shore or in the lake." Other plans call for burying the contaminated sludge in a small corner of the bay near Wilcox Dock

or burying the sludge on shore near the contaminated area. Georgia-Pacific has released a plan that would create public access to the lake while burying the sludge under the lake bottom near the dock. G-P's plan, estimated at \$13 million, has been endorsed by the City of Plattsburgh and Clinton County legislators.

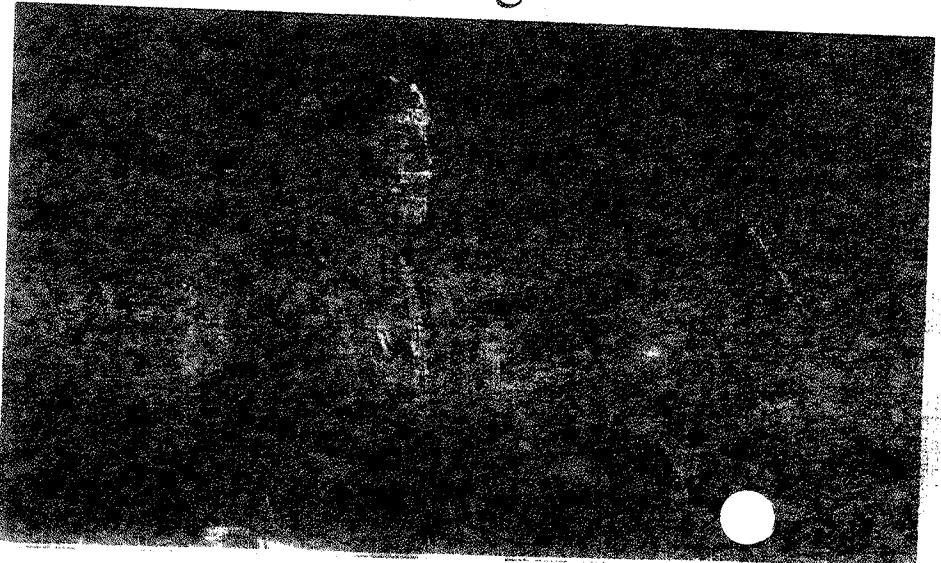
"Our plan would lead to full restoration in the long run," Sheffer said, explaining that DEC's responsibility is to return the environment to the way it was before human contamination or alterations. Plattsburgh Mayor Clyde Rabideau wasn't happy about the decision, and he was also upset that the media heard about the

announcement before the city did. "We're very disappointed that the DEC commissioner has opted for dredging against the wishes of the city, the county and the town," he said. "We're very concerned about the increased spread of contaminated material through dredging."

Please see BAY Page A12 ▶

On the road again

Country music legend Willie Nelson performs before an enthusiastic crowd Tuesday at Malone International Raceway and Entertainment Park. Phil MacDonald, a veteran of 15 Nelson concerts, and his wife Joanne of Peterboro, Ontario, were passing through Malone when Phil spotted Nelson's tour bus. They checked into the hotel and came straight to the show. "He's a real performer," beamed MacDonald.



Summer sports in Lake Placid

Canoe and kayak group coming

By MATT SMITH
Staff Writer

LAKE PLACID — With last year's departure from Lake Placid of the U.S. Biathlon team and a decrepit luge and bobsled track making the fate of those sports here uncertain, some may have been ready to write off this storied Olympic village.

But rather than closing the book on itself, Lake Placid has instead decided to write a new chapter by bringing here — for what most believe is the first time — the headquarters office for a summer Olympic sport.

The U.S. Canoe and Kayak Association will soon call Lake Placid home.

"I've always felt the physical atmosphere here is conducive to the training of many sports, regardless of whether it's on ice."

"I think there's now a potential for other (summer) sports to come here. McKenna sees many benefits to bringing U.S. Canoe and Kayak to Lake Placid.

For one, it will help sustain the Olympic Training Center, a facility that many see as the anchor to Lake Placid's position in the Olympic world.

"The U.S. Olympic Center is always reexamining its location and its Training Center status, and with the present that is being

Total cleanup desireable

► **BAY** from Page A1

G-P spokesperson Gary Frenia said his company has not seen the proposal either and could not make a statement until officials had taken a look at it.

Opponents fear that dredging the sludge bed will disturb the materials there and spread them out into the lake.

Supporters believe modern dredging techniques can cleanly remove the sludge without stirring PCBs into the water.

'Pleased'

Environmentalists have been asking for a total cleanup of the bed.

"We are pleased with the decision," said Lori Fisher, executive director for the Lake Champlain Committee.

"We think it's protective of public health and the environment and the only solution that will turn the site back to public use."

Treatment plan

The first step in DEC's plan is to install temporary sheet piling and silt curtains around the sludge bed.

Then the material would be

sucked from the bottom of the lake and placed in a temporary dewatering and wastewater treatment facility.

The treated sludge will then be taken from the area to a permitted landfill.

The plan also calls for follow-up fish sampling and fish monitoring.

If approved, the project would probably begin next year.

The \$18.3 million proposal would take two years to complete.

Comment sought

But before any of that can begin, the state will hold a 60-day comment period.

The original plan had called for a 30-day period, but officials increased the time limit because so much interest has risen over the cleanup project.

Two public meetings have also been scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, and Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. in Room 208 of Yokum Hall at SUNY Plattsburgh.

"We definitely will attend the public meetings," Rabideau said.

"Our environmental staff will give a thorough review of the plan, and we will have a diligent

response to their proposal."

Placing blame

The sludge bed is composed of wood pulp, wood-chip debris and related processing waste from the wood-products industry.

G-P has accepted some of the responsibility for the debris, which was legally placed in the bay until 1973 when the city's Sewage Treatment Facility opened.

But G-P believes its process is not responsible for PCB contamination. DEC officials are attempting to locate the original source of PCBs, and negotiations with parties who may have caused the contamination are under way.

PCBs were identified in a series of samplings conducted from 1992 to 1994.

Several species of fish in the bay have elevated PCB levels, and advisories have been issued warning against eating some fish caught in the bay.

DEC's proposal is available for review at the Plattsburgh Public Library on Oak Street. It can also be obtained at DEC Region 5 Headquarters, Route 86 in Ray Brook.

Star of party pursues other options

► **FLYNN** from Page A1

The youth-director job pays \$6,100 a year. It requires about 20 hours per week on average to organize and oversee the town's youth activities.

Flynn, a former baseball stand-

out in the area, said he first sought the job about five years ago.

Jahn said the board simply felt that Flynn was qualified for the position. The job comes up for reappointment at the first of every year.

Some Democrats wonder what-

her the job will be taken away from Flynn next January.

Jahn said the job normally does have high turnover, but if Flynn is performing, it's his job to keep.

"I'm not foolish enough to be replacing people who are doing a good job," Jahn said.

Hundreds gather outside Versace home

► **VERSACE** from Page A1

another former boyfriend in the Minneapolis area and a Chicago businessman.

Along with Giorgio Armani, Versace was considered Italy's leading ready-to-wear designer and a symbol of Italian fashion.

"Gianni Versace together with a handful of names symbolizes the success of Italian fashion all over the world," Armani said. "My reaction is one of revolt against such an unnatural and violent death and one of profound grief."

across the street, popularly known as "Deco Drive."

Martin Weinstein said he heard gunshots and ran down the street. "And when I arrived I saw a guy lying on the step in a pool of blood," he said. "At first I didn't realize who it was. But then I realized it was Versace."

Versace's mansion is the only private home on the fashionable stretch of Ocean Drive. The estate, created from two aging Art Deco hotels, faces the Atlantic Ocean. It is surrounded by a high wall, and his Renaissance-style crest adorns

along South Beach, often alone.

Maria Contessa, owner of Zoo XIV, a small clothing boutique near Versace's home, said the designer frequented the store to "buy clothes for himself, for his friends and particularly for his boyfriend."

A native of Reggio Calabria in southern Italy, Versace began designing ready-to-wear for other firms in 1972 in Milan. He launched the Gianni Versace label in 1978.

Versace gained fame in the 1980s staging his fashion shows