

VILLAGE OF TRUMANSBURG

RESOLUTION

OBJECTING TO THE NYSDEC PERMITTING OF CARGILL, INC. MINE EXPANSION WITHOUT PROPER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

WHEREAS, the Village of Trumansburg recognizes the economic, social, recreational, and ecological importance of Cayuga Lake and its watershed to the State and to the local community; and,

WHEREAS the Village of Trumansburg obtains its water from lake shore ground wells whose respective aquifers are supported by and directly impacted by Cayuga Lake; and,

WHEREAS New York has established the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process to systematically consider environmental factors early in the planning stages of actions and projects that are directly undertaken, funded or approved by local, regional and state agencies; and,

WHEREAS environmental review early in the planning stages allows a project to be vetted, and modified as needed, to avoid adverse impacts on the environment; and,

WHEREAS Cargill, Inc.'s proposed shaft construction, the mining of the one-mile connecting tunnel, and expanded salt mining may have the potential to adversely impact Cayuga Lake and has not been vetted by NYSDEC as thoroughly as similar projects in other locations; and,

WHEREAS SEQR discourages the "segmentation" of projects, meaning that the environmental review of a single action or project should not be divided into various activities or stages as though they were independent, unrelated activities, resulting in a less complete environmental review than would be required for the single action or project; and,

WHEREAS NYSDEC has nevertheless issued Cargill a permit to construct Shaft #4 which is proposed to be connected to Cargill's ongoing salt mining operations under Cayuga Lake, with such permit issuance being based on an improperly "segmented" environmental review which treats shaft construction and ongoing salt mining as independent, unrelated activities; and,

WHEREAS any adverse impacts to Cayuga Lake could prove disastrous to the drinking water sources of the Village of Trumansburg and surrounding communities, including groundwater and the waters of Cayuga Lake and various ways in which substantial quantities of salt would be incidentally brought into contact with such local water resources, not only during current mining operations but also during the post-operational period after the mine is closed and/or abandoned; and,

WHEREAS since 1975, and despite several applications for mine expansion by Cargill, the NYSDEC has never requested a full environmental impact study of the mining risks; and,

WHEREAS the NYSDEC reviewed the Cargill Shaft 4 project and concluded that the action meets their standards, and on 16 August 2017 issued an applicable permit without full environmental review of the project in its entirety; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Village of Trumansburg joins with other municipalities and Cayuga Lake stakeholders in a soon-to-be-filed Article 78 proceeding to require environmental review under SEQR pertaining to all Cargill's proposed projects including Cargill's Shaft 4 project and all proposed construction and expansion of the Cargill Mine; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Village Clerk to Governor Andrew Cuomo, NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, State Senators Pamela Helming and Thomas O'Mara, Senate Leader John Flanagan, Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Assembly Minority leader Brian Kolb, Chair of the Assembly's Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation Steve Englebright, and Tompkins County Legislature Chair Michael Lane.

VOTE:

Carver:	Aye
Hart:	Aye
Kennedy:	Aye
Petrovic:	Aye
Watkins	Aye

Unanimously Approved

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE TRUMANSBURG VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT A BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 2ND, 2017.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID VILLAGE THIS 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN.

Tammy J. Morse
Village Clerk