

Dear Cayuga Lake Supporter:

Summer is flying by, and we at Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) have made a lot of progress with just a few people working hard for a short period of time. A quick summary:

- CLEAN continues to focus on the potential environmental dangers of Cargill's proposed Shaft 4 project and the northward expansion of its salt mining operations under Cayuga Lake. We are working under the imminent threat that DEC could issue a permit for Cargill's Shaft 4 without requiring a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and are looking ahead to Cargill's permit renewal for the entire mine which is expected in November. Additionally, we are heavily supporting Barbara Lifton's calls for transition to mining under the land (see bullet points further down).

Please consider helping the cause. Print and send a letter to DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos in support of CLEAN's objectives. Download your letter [here](#).

- We have received a new report on the thinning carbonate beam over the salt deposits in the Lansing Station Road area under Cayuga Lake, as well as other geological issues that suggest that the dangers posed by mining under the lake grow ever greater as mining operations move north. If you who are interested in the details, see the new Warren-Ferguson Report is available on CLEAN's website [here](#).
- Several of us met with the DEC Regional Director Matt Marko and his staff in Syracuse on July 6. We presented the new Warren-Ferguson Report and emphasized, yet again, the need for a DEIS in connection with DEC's evaluation of Cargill's permit request. Geologists Richard Young, John K. Warren, and Ray Vaughan presented their findings to DEC staff (Warren and Vaughan presented by conference call from Bangkok and Buffalo, respectively).

- At CLEAN's request, the Town of Ulysses has issued a resolution urging DEC to require a DEIS before making a determination on Cargill's Shaft 4 permit application (see their resolution [here](#)). CLEAN members will attempt to get similar resolutions passed by other municipal boards in Tompkins and Seneca Counties. If you would be willing to introduce such a resolution to your Town or Village Board, please contact CLEAN ([CayugaLakeEANow@gmail.com](mailto:CayugaLakeEANow@gmail.com)) for information and guidance.
- As a parallel but separate undertaking, Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton and activist Walter Hang held a news conference on 20 July in which they urged for a moratorium on further permits related to mining salt under Cayuga Lake. They called on Cargill to transition their saltmining over a period of years to mining exclusively under land with no connection to their existing mine under the lake. News coverage can be seen on our [website](#) on the right-hand side under "News." Additionally, Toxics Targeting is gathering petition signatures to support Barbara Lifton's request. You can sign that petition [here](#).
- On 13 July Assemblywoman Lifton and Steve Englebright, chair of the Assembly's Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation, wrote to DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, "We urge the Department to enact a moratorium on permits or authorizations and avoid approving activities, which will directly, or indirectly, lead to salt mining under Cayuga Lake... A prohibition on mining under the Lake would not mean an end to mining activities, but would instead focus future salt mining under dry land areas surrounding the lake with more geologic stability."

The Lifton/Englebright letter to Commissioner Seggos can be viewed [here](#).

- We continue to build our coalition to increase transparency and public awareness about what is occurring under Cayuga Lake. In 2016, Cargill switched from small-yielding pillars to large pillars in its mining panel U-74 due to “weak overburden strata.” Cargill knows full-well that the Retsof Salt Mine collapsed in Livingston County during pillar technology transition in a zone of weak overburden strata. More concerning is the new information from the Warren-Furgeson report on the thickness of the overlying carbonate beam. Their report indicates that there is less carbonate beam protection over Cargill’s current mining panels at the middle of Cayuga Lake than existed over the two mining panels that failed at Retsof in 1994.
- Response from the Salt Forum on June 13th was overall positive and we urge you to help us continue to build our momentum. Join us on Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/CayugaLakeEANow/>], check out our website [<http://www.cayugalake.org/content/view/CLEAN>], and tell your friends and family to do the same!
- Lastly, a few years ago Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) were not on anyone's radar, much like Lake salinization. CLEAN is promoting the precautionary principle when addressing issues of Lake water quality. If CLEAN did not exist and there was a major problem, folks would be saying, why did this major potential impact not receive adequate attention from the NYSDEC? <https://ithacavoice.com/2017/07/update-dec-reports-accumulation-toxic-algae-cayuga-lake-multiple-lake-access-points-closed/>

Our work is just beginning. We need you, your ideas, your time, and—yes—your donations, to move forward. Specifically, we’re looking for volunteers with experience in fundraising, since geological studies and legal advice are pretty

expensive stuff. If you are willing and able to assist with fundraising, please email us at [CayugaLakeEANow@gmail.com](mailto:CayugaLakeEANow@gmail.com). If fundraising is not your cup of tea, but you'd like to help in other ways, please let us know (e.g., table at events, help with public education, jazz up the website, or coordinate writing letters to the editors).

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your interest and support!

The CLEAN Team

**Clean** the Lake.  
**Protect** the Lake.