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Dear Friends of Cayuga Lake,

**Stop the billionaire Cargill family from polluting our communal resource!  
Please send in comments regarding Cargill Incorporated's permit  
application for the Cayuga Salt Mine today.**

 [May be an image of lake and text](#)

Below is a sample comment template you can use. Or draft your own and send in to [Comment.CayugaSaltMine2023@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Comment.CayugaSaltMine2023@dec.ny.gov)

Comments must be received no later than January 19, 2025.

Jonathan Stercho  
NYSDEC Region 7 Headquarters  
5786 Widewaters Pkwy  
Syracuse, NY 13214  
[Comment.CayugaSaltMine2023@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Comment.CayugaSaltMine2023@dec.ny.gov)

Re: Comments on Cargill's Application (0-9999-00075/00001) to Renew and Modify its Mined Land Reclamation Permit for the Cayuga Salt Mine

Cargill Incorporated is requesting from DEC a permit renewal and modification for its existing Cayuga Salt Mine Permit that would allow Cargill to flood the abandoned S3 Zone of the Mine beneath Cayuga Lake with wastewater. This is

serious concerns about potential pollution impacts to both groundwater and the Lake as well as the overall stability of the underground Mine beneath the Lake, including the following:

- Cargill proposes to store wastes that are not fully treated for safe subsurface disposal in violation of DEC's regulations and which are likely to degrade the stability of the S3 Zone;
- The S3 Zone where the flooding is proposed to occur was abandoned for mining by Cargill shortly after potential instability was identified in the area;
- The analysis that DEC is relying upon for its conclusion that the flooding will not destabilize the Mine did not account for the presence of pore water in the rock layers above the Mine and its potentially destabilizing effects;
- Cargill has not taken adequate measures to reduce the flow of wastewaters into its Mine, which have increased significantly over the past two decades, and thus Cargill's claimed "need" for disposal solutions will likely continue to increase with time;
- Cargill will not be able to monitor the S3 Zone of the Mine for stability after it is flooded, in contrast to every portion of the Mine; and
- Cargill has not provided information about whether it intends to store the wastes permanently after the Mine is closed, nor has it evaluated the long-term pollution impacts of such permanent disposal.

A mine collapse in the S3 Zone would occur under the Lake. The consequences of a mine collapse and subsequent flooding of the salt mine would be catastrophic. Even a minor roof collapse in the S3 Zone could lead to a rubble chimney, creating a hydraulic connection between the Mine and Cayuga Lake. Such an event would threaten the drinking supply for more than 100,000 people as the water would become more saline, potentially indefinitely. A similar event occurred when Lake Peigneur in Louisiana flooded a salt mine in 1980. Lake Peigneur's water has been too saline to drink since the event occurred.

We therefore request that Cargill's request for a permit modification and

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a public hearing be held to allow for further community input on these and other issues.

Please find detailed comments drafted by CLEAN [HERE](#)

*We appreciate your continued support. Tax-deductible donations can be made to CLEAN [here](#).*

*Thank you, Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now*

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

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