



January 18, 2019

Joint Legislative Hearing  
Environmental Conservation  
Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Subject: Testimony of Matthew F. Fuller, Esq.

I am here today on behalf of the Village of Lake George. Mayor Blais set forth the practical and fiscal impacts of the Village's sewer plant on the Village, as well as the Village's full time residents, and the millions of visitors that join us each year. I want to focus on a couple of the legal issues facing the Village.

By the end of this year, pursuant to our Consent Order with the DEC, we are legally required to commence construction. By August of 2021, the Village must have completed the construction of its replacement sewer plant, while also hosting the millions of visitors that we welcome each year with open arms. That is no small task. On the same site where the current plant is located, less than a quarter mile from the Lake, we have to construct a new sewer plant, remove the old plant, and commence lawful treatment of our waste. We need your help.

The Village's work does not end with the construction of the new sewer plant. As with any new Sewer plant, we will have a new SPDES permit. That permit, the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit, is going to require that within 8 years of our commencement of operations, the Village's total dissolved solids meet 500mg/L. Currently we seasonally hit numbers approaching 760 mg/L. What are total dissolved solids? Well as it relates to our situation, that is salt. More bluntly, road salt. Surface water, i.e., melting snow, rain, etc. enters our collection system, ultimately ending up in our plant. Our plant ultimately discharges to beds where the effluent is absorbed into the ground where or Earth treats it before ultimately it ends up in the groundwater system.

Where do our total dissolved solids originate? Our roads. Our biggest road systems are the Route 9 road system, and I-87, which we know as the Northway. So our state and local highways add to our situation at the plant. As you can imagine, reducing the introduction of salt to our sewer plant, and ultimately Lake George, is no small task. It is a task that we have already begun, and through partnerships throughout the Lake George Basin, we will continue. We are turning the tide on salt use, but ultimately, given our legal obligations under our SPDES permit, it will turn to the Village of Lake George to continue to be at the forefront of this environmental challenge in the southern Lake George Basin. That is a continuing cost we will incur that is not included in this plant replacement.

We are not deterred. DEC has worked with the Village throughout this process, and we look forward to continuing that work. In addition, our local partnerships with the Towns of Lake

George, Queensbury, the FUND for Lake George, and the Lake George Association will help us carry the day.

It doesn't only take a Village to help our Queen of lakes, it takes the Empire State, and we hope you join us in this crusade. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fuller', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matthew F. Fuller, Esq.  
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