

Geneva City Council Unanimously Passes Resolution in Opposition of the Proposed Gas Storage Facilities on Seneca Lake

On Wednesday, May 7th, the Geneva City Council drafted and unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to any large-scale gas storage and transport projects proposed by Inergy/ Crestwood/ Arlington/ Finger Lakes storage on the western shore of Seneca Lake.

A copy of the resolution was sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, Schuyler County Legislature, Ontario County Board of Supervisors, Seneca County Board of Supervisors, Yates County Legislature, Mayor Mark Swinnerton and the Village of Watkins Glen Board of Trustees, and Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The resolution states that the City of Geneva, the largest municipality on Seneca Lake, "...is deeply concerned with the potential for dramatic and catastrophic environmental impacts from this project due to:

1. The uncertain geologic stability of SLGSP's subterranean caverns, and the risk that said caverns could be compromised by even low level earthquakes that are common in this region of New York State.
2. The threat of discharge of large amounts of salt water from SLGSP's surface storage facilities into Seneca Lake or its tributaries.
3. The threat of discharge of large amounts of salt water as they are moved between subterranean caverns and surface storage facilities during the course of operations.
4. The threat of LPG seepage from said subterranean caverns; and

WHEREAS, The City of Geneva processes approximately 700 million gallons of water for municipal water services per year of which approximately 35 million gallons/year (~5%) is for human consumption.

WHEREAS, the real risk of another catastrophic ceiling collapse in the US Salt facility (being used as a propane storage facility) could lead to significant contamination of Seneca Lake by raising the salinity of the lake water above a level at which it could be cost effectively treated by current water treatment facilities requiring replacement water supplies, and

WHEREAS, at approximately \$1.25/gallon for bottled water, the annual replacement cost of Geneva's potable water could be over \$43 Millions/year, now and therefore be it **RESOLVED**, The City Council of the City of Geneva opposes the SLGSP and respectfully requests that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation withhold approval of any plan for mass storage and compression of natural gas near, adjacent to or under Seneca Lake."

While the propane industry pushes for expanded storage, citing a shortage this winter, propane exports increased by 75% in 2013, and a pipeline once serving the Northeast was reversed to send ethane to the Gulf of Mexico.

"There is no need for industrial gas storage here on Seneca Lake", said Joseph Campbell, co-founder of Gas Free Seneca, the grassroots group fighting the gas storage facility. "Local storage would not lower our home heating costs; anyone who knows how the market works understands that. If proximity dictated price, salt would be really cheap around here. The industry is simply looking for a place to store more propane and gas because they are exporting more of it for a better profit. Their attempt to convince us that it is for our own good is a deception intended solely to line their out-of-state pockets. We applaud the City of Geneva for recognizing that this is a dangerous proposal and that Governor Cuomo's DEC and FERC should deny all applications by Crestwood and its subsidiaries."