

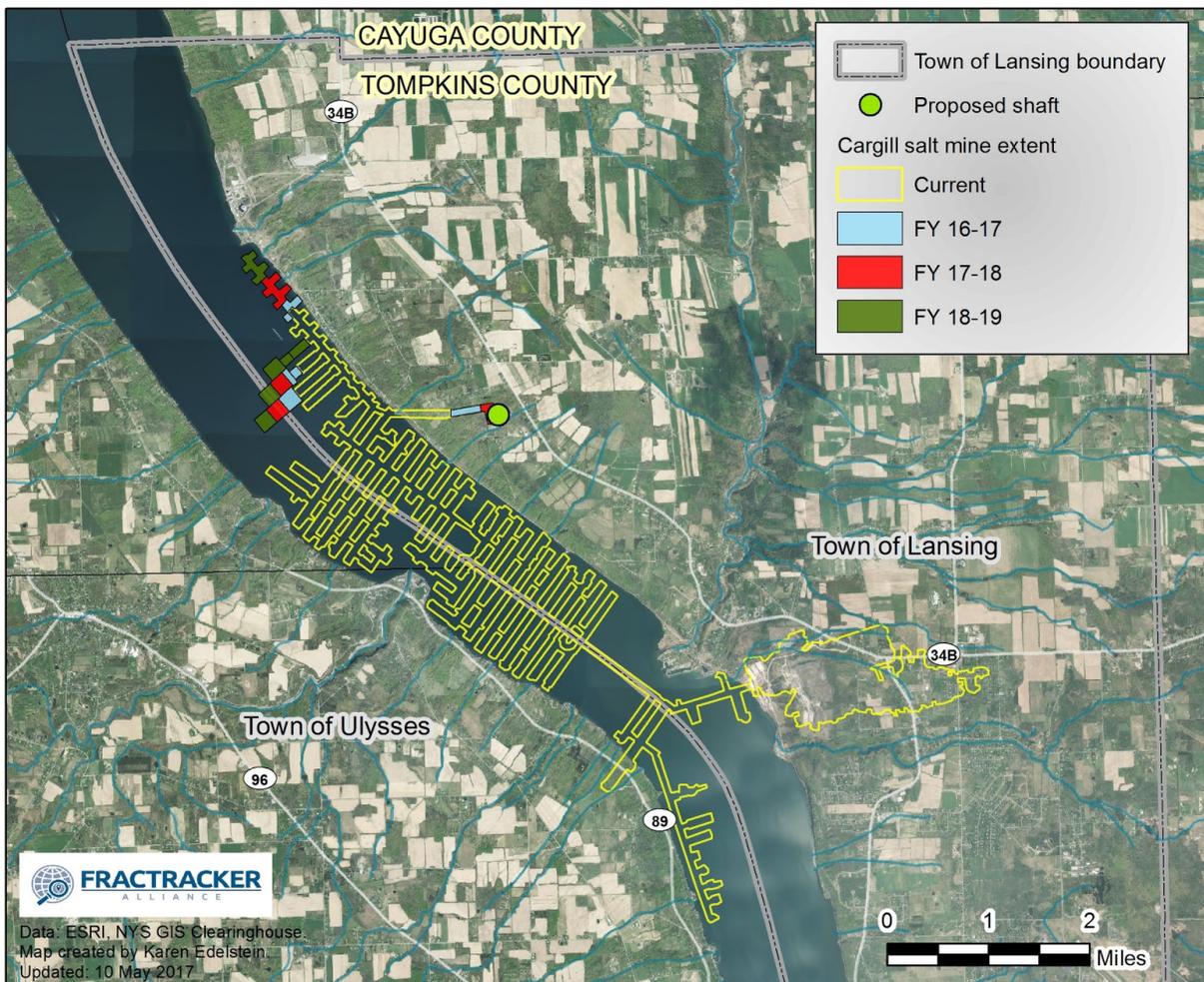
May 30, 2017

To All who enjoy living around Cayuga Lake,

In 1994, the largest salt mine in the United States - the Retsof Mine outside Geneseo - collapsed, flooded and permanently closed, after damaging a freshwater aquifer, drying drinking wells, creating sinkholes, destroying roads, and releasing methane and natural gas. This occurred 67 miles from Cayuga Lake. What if the permitted salt mine under 22% of Cayuga Lake had a similar failure? Our lake is ALREADY severely impacted with contaminants and invasive species, and there are big businesses who continue to put our most precious resource, our lake, at risk.

We write to you today with a request to pick up the phone or send a letter. The aim is to bring transparency and environmental review to the expanding salt mine beneath our Cayuga Lake. We need the Governor and the DEC to know we care about this lake and want to protect it.

Any day NY DEC could issue a permit to allow Cargill to drill a new shaft to access the northern reaches of their mine (in Lansing, across from Taughannock Park). This proposed shaft project urgently needs a substantive and unbiased environmental review before being issued a permit.



Here's our request of you who enjoy Cayuga Lake and want it available for the future.

1. **Call** Governor Cuomo: **518-474-8390 (press 2 after the recorded message to get a live person)**

After you've called, **email** him here:

<http://governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php>

AND

2. If you have energy, **call** NYS DEC Commissioner, Basil Seggos at **1-518- 402-8545**

After you've called, **email** him: Basil.Seggos@DEC.NY.Gov

Lastly,

3. Please **track** that you've made contact here: [Tracking form link](#)

What do we want the Governor and the DEC to do regarding Cargill's Application?

Here are your requests!

- **Require** a DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) for both parts of the Shaft 4 project: a 2,500-ft deep shaft and a one-mile tunnel to connect the shaft to the mine
- **DELAY** the permit for Shaft #4, at least until an adequate DEIS has been completed
- Complete **public meetings** on these projects in all communities that could potentially be affected by impacts to Cayuga Lake: Ithaca, Lansing, Genoa, Ledyard, Aurora, Cayuga, Springport, Union Springs, Aurelius, Montezuma, Ulysses, Covert, Sheldrake, Canoga, and Seneca Falls

Talking points for your phone calls and emails

- There is a permitted salt mine under 22% our lake that continues to expand. An Environmental Impact Statement is needed.
- New Yorkers own the lake and it is the State's responsibility to ensure our resources are protected.

- Independent geologists have reviewed documents related to the Cargill's existing mine and proposed Shaft #4 and are concerned about the risk of flooding during proposed shaft construction by upward reaming drilling.
- Cargill's existing shafts are already draining groundwater resources from a very large area into the mine. A 4th shaft will worsen this problem. The proposed storage of Shaft 4 leakage waters in the mine is risky and should not be allowed.
- The old salt mines under the Town of Lansing are unsafe due to pillar erosion caused by the storage of under-saturated shaft leakage waters in the old #4 level salt.
- We CANNOT have a repeat of the Retsof mine, which collapsed in the same geologic group only 67 miles away in 1994.
 - The Retsof Mine collapse caused long term salinization of a freshwater aquifer, left drinking wells dry, created sinkholes, destroyed roads, and released methane and natural gas.
- There is no closure plan for this mine. For the safety of residents and our valuable resources, the State must require an adequate and publically-vetted closure plan.
- The value of the post-closure bond, \$3.5M, is completely insufficient financial security for Cayuga Lake, a multi-billion dollar asset. The bond must be raised orders of magnitude to protect our lake ecosystem, water resources, and tourism.
- We need more transparency from Cargill and DEC regarding the operation of this mine and potential risks involved to Cayuga Lake and its nearby residents. This is crucially important, considering the collapse of the Retsof Salt Mine, located not far away.

Further Information:

- Cargill
 - DEC has variously maintained that the mine is grandfathered in and has never needed an Environmental Impact Statement, they see no potential adverse environmental impacts, and Cargill does not recognize their right to regulate sub-surface mining.
 - Dry abandonment of the mine preserves options for other uses such sequestration of carbon dioxide. A planned flooding of the mine may slow surface subsidence issues, but could also put the lake at risk of long-term salinization. An accidental flooding may increase the risk of lake salinization. Even if mining stopped today, there may be no good options.
- Retsof
 - <https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/circ1182/pdf/14Retsof.pdf>
 - <https://ny.water.usgs.gov/pubs/fs/fs01798/FS017-98.pdf>
- You can also see further information on our webpage, [here](#).

Thank you for voicing your concerns now!

CLEAN

Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now!

Clean the Lake. Protect the Lake.

If you would like further details on our efforts for transparency and environmental review to protect Cayuga Lake, please feel free to send us an email at CayugaLakeEANow@gmail.com.