

# GUIDE

TO THE UPCOMING ARMY CORPS~SLC

# HEARINGS

# Speak out!

During the afternoon and evening of March 18th, important public hearings on the coal-fired **St. Lawrence Cement** proposal will be held by the US Army Corps of Engineers, a Federal agency. The hearings will be held in the Arts Center auditorium at Columbia-Greene Community College on Route 23 in Greenport.

Time for statements will be limited to **5 minutes** per person, and you must **sign up to speak** when you arrive on the day of the hearing. If you absolutely cannot attend, written comments will be accepted until **April 1**. You can participate in the public hearing and also send written comments.

The **enclosed information** is intended to help members inform themselves on key issues related to the St. Lawrence Cement proposal so as to participate more meaningfully in the Army Corps' review. More detailed information can be found at our website at: **WWW.FRIENDSOHUDSON.COM/ARMY**

Need a lawn sign?  
Call (518) 822-0334

As always, you do not need to be an expert or a novelist to comment on this project. Some of the best letters we've read are brief, heartfelt, and to the point. It is always helpful to describe who you are and what you value about this area that SLC would despoil.

Also in this packet are **5 postcards**, which we urge you to read, sign, stamp (23 cents) and mail. Each addressee can help determine the outcome of the Corps review, and needs to hear that you are opposed to the project. If you need additional addresses of public officials, please visit **WWW.STOPTHEPLANT.COM**

If you would like more detailed background on a particular topic, or would like to review the actual SLC application, or have particular ideas or expertise to contribute, or just have questions, please contact Sam, Sue or Susan at the Friends office: **tel** (518) 822-0334; **email** sam@mhcable.com ...

TUESDAY

Mar.  
18<sup>TH</sup>

COLUMBIA  
GREENE  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
Arts Center  
Auditorium

Directions on back page

## ▼ IN PERSON

Two sessions on Tuesday the 18th:

**AFTERNOON: 1~4:30 PM**

**EVENING: 6~11 PM**

- Get there *early* to ensure a seat
- Sign up to speak when you arrive
- 5 minutes maximum per speaker
- Wear something *red!*

## ▼ VIA EMAIL

Send electronic mail comments to:

**Saint.L.Cement@usace.army.mil**

## ▼ BY LETTER

Written comments also accepted:

**US Army Corps of Engineers  
NY District Regulatory Branch  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1937  
New York NY 10278-0090**

# DEADLINE

**FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS:**

# April 1<sup>ST</sup> @ 5 PM

*The Corps says that all comments sent in any form will be considered equally. Members are urged nevertheless both to attend the hearing and to submit letters. If possible, please send copies of your letters to: FRIENDS OF HUDSON, BOX 326, HUDSON NY 12534 ...or email copies to: SAM@MHCABLE.COM*

# GUIDE

## TO ARMY CORPS~SLC ISSUES

St. Lawrence Cement has applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (a Federal agency) for permission to:

*“discharge fill material, dredge with ten years maintenance and upland disposal, and install structures in the Hudson River to improve an existing marine terminal servicing [its] cement manufacturing facilities.”*

The company seeks these permits in order to build a vast dock facility in Hudson, which would require dredging of **62,000 cubic yards** of sediment from the River. This waterfront operation is critical to SLC’s hopes of building a massive mining and cement-making operation in Greenport. Coal, slag, and other materials would be offloaded from barges and ships, and stored at times in open piles—right next to Hudson’s only public waterfront park.

Waterfront structures would also include an 82-foot-tall pump house, a 75-foot-tall conveyor-reversing structure, and a dock conveyor. Materials would come in and out via 754 foot by 80-foot **HudsonMax** vessels, with 32-foot drafts and 36,000-ton cargos, as well as other 521-foot- and 400-foot-long ships.

This waterfront operation would be connected to the 40-story plant on Becraft Mountain by 2.1 miles of conveyor belts.

Though the immediate subject of the Corps’ review are the waterfront operations, the public can comment on all aspects of the project, especially due to the Corps’ requirement to look at “cumulative impacts” from the action.

## The Army Corps is charged w

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property ownership  
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energy needs

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fish and wildlife val  
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flood plain values  
food and fiber produ

## PUBLIC WELFARE

- ▶ **Bad Track Record:** The claims and promises of SLC and its Swiss owners (Holcim) cannot be trusted due to their very poor record of compliance over the past 10 years.
- ▶ **Economic Harm:** Our region is enjoying an economic revitalization based on a mix of clean, sustainable industries such as agriculture, high-tech, home improvement, light manufacturing, real estate, retail, and tourism. The project does not fit into and would harm this healthy, balanced growth trend.
- ▶ **Lack of Public Need:** There is not a lack of supply of cement in the United States. SLC’s goal is to build a huge, cheap plant which would allow the company to corner the Northeast cement market. SLC’s ongoing history of anti-competitive behavior (price-fixing) is just one of many ways this project could harm the public welfare.

## HUDSON WATERFRONT/SOUTH BAY

- ▶ **Open Piles:** Stockpiling of open piles of coal, slag, and other materials immediately next to the Hudson Waterfront park is unacceptable, and would impair residents’ ability to enjoy the State and City’s investment there.
- ▶ **HudsonMax Vessels:** SLC proposes to use ships and barges as long as 754-foot long by 80 foot-wide.
- ▶ **Public Park:** The St. Lawrence dock operation would permanently and irreversibly blight its immediate neighbor to the north, the Hudson Waterfront Park. It would destroy the Park’s potential for picnicking, recreation, cultural activities, and especially watersports such as kayaking and canoeing.
- ▶ **Land Title:** There is substantial evidence that SLC does not hold title to as many as 7 acres along the Hudson River where it intends to build its dock facility. The Corps must investigate these complaints fully, as it cannot continue review of any project which is proposed for land which the applicant does not have a right to develop.
- ▶ **Contamination:** There is a Superfund site and also an Inactive Hazardous waste site adjacent to the proposed St. Lawrence Cement operations on the waterfront; and the Hudson River is well known to be contaminated with PCBs.

## with assessing “all factors in the public interest,” including:

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historic properties

land use  
mineral needs  
navigation  
recreation

safety

shore erosion and accretion  
water quality  
water supply  
water conservation

wetlands

~  
... and in general,  
the needs and welfare  
of the people

- ▶ **Estuary Plan:** New York State’s Hudson River Estuary Management Action Plan places top priority on increasing public access to the Hudson River. The City of Hudson’s waterfront park is just beginning to restore much-needed access for Columbia County residents, but SLC’s plans would render the Park virtually unusable.

### VISUALS

- ▶ **Dock:** SLC’s sprawling industrial structures at the Waterfront, along with its enormous stockpiles and Titanic-sized barges would create an unacceptable visual impact, especially from the River and the Village of Athens waterfront.
- ▶ **Plant:** The cumulative impact of this waterfront blight with the massive industrial structures atop Becraft Mountain (including a 406-foot stack, and over a dozen other major buildings) is unacceptable.
- ▶ **Inadequate Mitigations:** St. Lawrence Cement’s proposed “mitigations” to these visual impairments hardly offset the new impacts of its sprawling proposal. Many of the structures SLC offers as mitigation have been out of service for 25 years or more, and should have been taken down long ago. By accepting these as “mitigations,” the Corps runs the risk of actually encouraging companies to leave unused blight in place until such time as they can be used as bargaining chips.

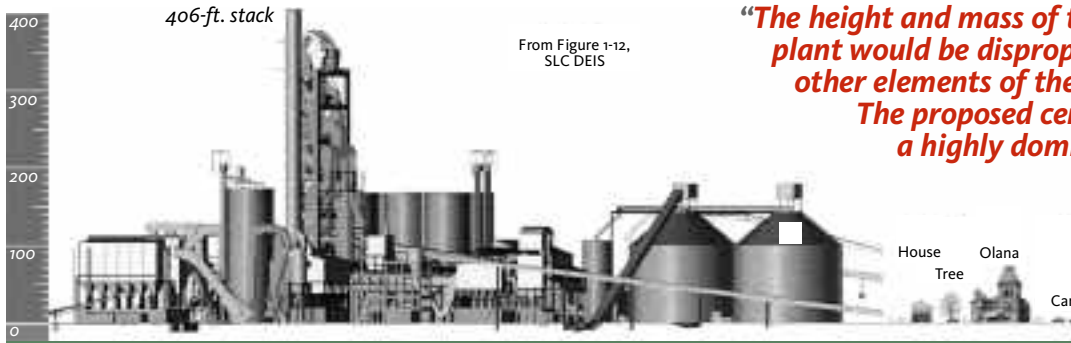
### HEALTH

- ▶ **Doctors:** The Medical Staff of Columbia Memorial Hospital voted 35-1 that the SLC Greenport proposal would pose “a serious risk to the health of the community.” The CMH doctors said that increased heart, lung and other life-threatening illnesses could be expected to increase as a result of the plant.
- ▶ **Increased Pollution:** Using the latest figures available from St. Lawrence Cement itself, the new plant (including fugitive dust emissions from the Waterfront) would be permitted to emit as much as 43% more regulated pollutants (just under 20 million pounds per year) than the existing Catskill plant (which emits just under 14 million pounds per year).

## KEY POINTS & REQUESTS

- 1 The project is not the type of clean, sustainable development we need. It is too massive and has too many adverse impacts for the community to endure.
- 2 The company and its proposal have lost the public’s trust and support, due to their poor track record and even worse community relations.
- 3 The Army Corps should require a full Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project.
- 4 The Corps needs to hold the public comment period open while it waits for other local, State and Federal agencies to review the project, which keeps changing.
- 5 The Corps’ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must conduct a “Section 106 review” due to the clear and severe impacts to historic properties and other scenic and cultural resources, which cannot be mitigated.
- 6 The company’s proposed “mitigations” and other changes to its “Hudson Valley Operation” do not and cannot offset the massively negative impacts of this sprawling new project.

FURTHER RESEARCH IS ONLINE AT:  
[WWW.FRIENDSOFHudson.COM/ARMY](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFHudson.COM/ARMY)  
OR CALL (518) 822-0334 TO ORDER A PACKET



***“The height and mass of the proposed cement plant would be disproportionate in scale to other elements of the regional landscape. The proposed cement plant would be a highly dominant visual element.”***

FROM CHAPTER 5 OF  
ST. LAWRENCE CEMENT’S OWN  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION AS MARCH 18TH APPROACHES, VISIT  
[WWW.FRIENDSOFHUDSON.COM/ARMY](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFHUDSON.COM/ARMY) — OR CALL (518) 822-0334

### ***About the enclosed postcards...***

Enclosed are five postcards to send to key addressees who can help determine the outcome of the SLC review: Governor Pataki, the NYS Parks Department, Department of State/Division of Coastal Resources, the US Army Corps, and the Corps’ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Even if you plan to send (or already have sent) comments to any of these agencies, please be sure to stamp, sign, and send each of them, to make sure that these crucial officials are fully aware of your opposition to the SLC plant.

## **Support**

### **OUR LEGAL CHALLENGES**

*Friends of Hudson continues to bring the highest caliber of legal, engineering, wetlands and other expert consultants to bear on the challenges to St. Lawrence Cement.*

*We once again will be drawing heavily upon these consultants for the Army Corps review. Please continue your generous support of these essential experts by using the donation form enclosed in this packet.*

# **DIRECTIONS**

## **TO THE MARCH 18TH HEARINGS**

The entrance to **COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** is on the south side of **ROUTE 23** in Greenport, near the intersection of Middle Road (between the Rip Van Winkle Bridge and the intersection with Route 9).

The **ARTS CENTER AUDITORIUM** entrance is on the plaza toward the back of the College property; look for signs for Arts Center parking lot. If you have a lawn sign, take it off the stake and put it on your dashboard or rear windshield of your car while you’re at the hearing!