

PRESS RELEASE

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A Public Comment Hearing on the impacts of a permit for the industrial development at STAMP (Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park) in Genesee County

Contacts: Catherine Landis: wrenlandis@gmail.com, 315-558-8667
Margaret Wooster miwooster@gmail.com, 716-833-5892
Grandell Logan, Tonawanda Seneca Nation: grandelllogan@gmail.com

When: THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 starting at 6PM

Where: Town of Alabama Fire Dept., 2230 Judge Rd, Alabama 14125

Who? The Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC) has applied to the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for an “Incidental Take Permit” that would destroy over 600 acres of endangered and threatened species habitat for their proposed STAMP industrial development. The Tonawanda Seneca Nation, whose territory borders STAMP, and many environmental and social justice groups across New York State have overwhelmingly opposed this permit as harmful to endangered and threatened species, to the “Alabama Swamp” wildlife refuge, and to the Tonawanda Seneca people. The DEC has set this hearing so that they can hear from the public. People are invited to speak at the hearing and/or to submit their comments in writing to the DEC at DEP.R8@dec.ny.gov (put “GCEDC STAMP” in subject line), by midnight May 11. See www.wnyea.org for more information, including the Tonawanda Seneca Nation comments.

- “The Tonawanda Seneca Nation opposes this habitat destruction and would directly be impacted by it. The permit would allow for unmitigated incidental take on Nation lands when—inevitably—increased human presence, noise, excavation, light and traffic would disturb these species and turn them away . . . We do not want our Territory, people or future generations to be burdened by the negative impacts of these projects. This is a human rights issue for the Tonawanda Seneca Nation and the Haudenosaunee, who would bear a disproportionate burden from the industrialization of the land at STAMP.” - Tonawanda Council of Chiefs
- “The GCEDC further fails to account for the indirect take impacts on public land, including an estimated daily increase of 600 diesel trucks per day on a country road and a wastewater pipeline discharging over 1MGD of effluent into Oak Orchard Creek in the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. —Lynda Schneekloth, President, Western New York Environmental Alliance.
- “We have serious concerns about the proposal and the precedent it would set for two at-risk species in NY. Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl populations are in long-term decline, and the recognized primary risk is loss of habitat. . . The loss of over 600 acres of actively used habitat would have major impacts not only at the site, but statewide and even nationwide.” – Andy Mason, Conservation Chair, NYS Ornithological Association, Inc.
