



New York State Division  
Izaak Walton League of America  
125 Euclid Drive  
Fayetteville, New York 13066

October 26, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Our organization, ***The New York State Division of the Izaak Walton League with members residing from the Western Finger Lakes area to the Utica-Rome area***, has been following the developments on the gas storage proposal at the southern end of Seneca Lake. We know that the DEC and other regulators have been well informed of the concerns of numerous organizations, of business owners, and of many county, city, and town governments in the immediate area as well as similar entities along the Seneca River as far east as the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County.

Without going into details already known to DEC, we mention some of the main issues raised in response to the Crestwood proposal:

The receiving salt cavern is not structurally sound, having suffered a huge collapse in the 1960's.

There is a potential for an explosion which could pollute Seneca Lake, a water source for 100,000 people.

A significant industrial operation could dramatically harm the wine/tourism business in the Finger Lakes area.

Frequent trains carrying pressurized butane and propane over an old railroad bridge traversing a gorge in Watkins Glen State Park present a danger to sightseers in the gorge.

Lastly, any leaks from brine holding tanks into Seneca Lake would increase the salt content of the lake which is already the saltiest of the Finger Lakes.

We are adding our comments to those already received by your office with a respectful request that DEC consider its mission as presented on its web site: "To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being."

In our view, the many risks associated with this proposal are inconsistent with the responsibilities and goals detailed in the DEC's mission, and we urge that this application for gas storage at the foot of Seneca Lake be denied.

Our organization feels strongly on this issue since we find guidance from our national organization's Mission Statement ---*To conserve, maintain, protect and restore the soil, forest, water and other natural resources of the United States and other lands : to promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to such resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization*

Very truly yours,

Les Monostory,  
New York State Division President

Cc: Acting Commissioner Marc Gerstman  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-1010