

WaterFront Questions to Cargill, Jan. 17, 2024

1/ In January 2023, a Cargill engineer wrote to DEC's Rigley that the company planned to begin storing inflow waters in the "Southern region" in February 2023. Did the company begin storing inflow waters in S3 at any time during 2023? If so, when and is that practice continuing today?

2/ In December 2022, a Cargill engineer wrote to a consultant at JT Boyd that the company planned to build a system to raise the salt content of inflows to 24-25% before sending them to S3, a project that was to be completed by "the fourth quarter of 2023." Has that system been completed? If so, when?

3/ What is the current rate of water inflows into the Cayuga mine?

4/ The NYS DEC wrote in October 2023 that it wanted to review all of the reports that were cited by JTBoyd in its conclusions about the safety issues related to storing inflows in S3 (including Respec and Agapito reports from 2021 and 2022). Has Cargill provided those reports to DEC? If not, does it consider them proprietary?

5/ Several emails between DEC and Cargill refer to the DEC intention to file a Notice of Incomplete Application for the permit modification. Has Cargill received a NOIA from the DEC? If so, when?

Cargill's Official Response, Jan. 17, 2024:

Storage of groundwater in abandoned parts of a mine is a common industry practice, including at the Lansing mine for many decades. The primary sources at Lansing are groundwater in regions near the #1 shaft, which has been in place since 1916, and brine water from our operations.

The DEC provides comprehensive oversight of the facility, including monitoring rates of inflow to ensure it remains in compliance with its permits and all laws and regulations in place to protect public health and the environment. The permit modification relates to where storage occurs at the Lansing mine and is currently under review by the DEC.