

Comments regarding the proposed Great Lakes Cheese Manufacturing Plant
Gibson Hill Road (County Route 20)
Towns of Amity and Angelica
Allegany County, New York

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Submitted By email to

I received information regarding this project this afternoon and understand the comment period ends today at 5 p.m. **A project of this magnitude with potential environmental impacts should be progressed with a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement.**

Impacts to cultural resources have not been fully evaluated. In other projects that I have been involved with, artifacts of Native American habitation have been found on riverine floodplains. There is no evidence of a full archaeology study, nor communication with interested tribes of concern related to this project.

The proposed footprint of this industrial complex with associated parking areas appears to be in a location that is likely to have prime/and or unique farmland soils. These soil types should be protected in a county with such limited agricultural resources. Once built upon, these soils cannot be restored.

I have not received any information regarding how much water this facility will use, not how the effluent will be treated before being discharged into the Genesee River. With the river's unique natural habitat and use as a recreational and fishing resource, the waters need to be protected. Allegany County, New York is also attempting to promote its outdoor recreational resources for tourism and economic development, which includes a "Blueway" or river trail along the Genesee River (see Western NY Wilds [Discover the Western NY Wilds in New York's Southern Tier \(wnywilds.com\)](http://wnywilds.com)). Potential impacts to wildlife, recreational resources, fish habitat and water quality need to be addressed. This information is lacking. Please send me data regarding how much water will be used for the operation of the cheese processing plant, and how much effluent will be discharged back into the Genesee River. What other waste by-products will be produced, and how will they be handled (land spread, landfilled?).

The plan view for the cheese manufacturing plant does not address energy use, stormwater runoff, pollution control or the use of green infrastructure in their site development plan. I recommend that the facility make use of LEED through the Green Building Council [LEED rating system | U.S. Green Building Council \(usgbc.org\)](http://usgbc.org) and the SITES initiative, developed by the American Society of Landscape Architects [The Sustainable SITES Initiative® \(SITES®\) | asla.org](http://asla.org).

Climate change is a concern for all, and a new industrial facility can be built better than those of the past. I would like to see a more detailed plan for this facility addressing energy use, stormwater management, pollution control, and green infrastructure [Green Infrastructure | US EPA](http://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure).

As Allegany County, New York strives to improve its economic base, I encourage you to consider the social and environmental impacts of your decisions.