

2 NEW EDITORIALS

against the St. Lawrence Cement project

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005



The case for the coast is clear

EXCERPT: “By building a facility serviced by huge ships and barges delivering raw materials and hauling away cement [SLC] would undermine the cultural and recreational uses of the waterfront and the surrounding area. ... No manmade features, not even the existing cement plants, come close to dominating the coastline the way the St. Lawrence project would. The proposed plant would not redevelop the coastline, its very scale would redefine it. Nothing in the policies of the Coastal Management Program authorizes the Dept. of State to take such drastic and unprecedented action. We have grave reservations about the health impacts of the plant, especially now that the company has proposed a shortened smokestack. We share the concerns of those who believe the proposal diminishes the national treasure of Olana. And we see no evidence that the plant would have an appreciable positive impact on the local economy after its construction. But for this decision, we believe the nation has a stake the preserving the integrity of the coastline. And the Department of State has a duty to reject outright the St. Lawrence proposal.”

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2005



Decision time on cement

EXCERPT: “A growing cohort of determined citizens... argue that the plant would unleash a plume of pollutants, damage the region's considerable scenic and cultural resources and discourage the small businesses, tourists and second-home residents the local economy has increasingly come to depend on. These critics also regard as inflated the company's claim that the plant will create many new jobs - especially if St. Lawrence closes the old plant once the new one is built. And in the middle, as is always the case when a big new plant seeks permission to build, is New York, in particular Gov. George Pataki. ... A negative decision would deal the project a heavy blow because the Army Corps of Engineers could not then issue important permits without which the company cannot proceed, whatever the outcome of the other reviews. [SLC] could appeal the ruling to the United States Department of Commerce, which oversees state plans for managing coastlines, but reversals are rare. ... This page has urged Mr. Pataki on several occasions to block the project, not least because it is so obviously inconsistent with his vision for the Hudson River and, more broadly, his sound record of environmental stewardship. Here is another chance for him to do so.”

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