

**Re: Town of Lansing - Cayuga Operating Company LLC
SPDES Permit Renewal and Water Withdrawal Permit**

Dear NYS Department of Environmental Conservation,

On behalf of Community Science Institute (CSI), we thank and commend the DEC for extending the public comment period for the permit renewal applications for the Cayuga Operating Company LLC, including the revised SPDES permit and the renewal of Water Withdrawal Permit WSA #11,753. In our initial comments on the permits, we also requested that a public hearing be held on this matter. We understand that the DEC has until January 26, 2026 to make a determination about a public hearing. **In this letter, we are again respectfully requesting that the DEC hold a public hearing to allow community members, scientists, and stakeholders the opportunity to review and discuss the limits and conditions proposed in the updated permits as well as their relevance in terms of past and future site uses.**

CSI is a community-based 501(c)(3) organization and state-certified water testing lab that has partnered with hundreds of volunteers and stakeholders across Central New York since 2000 to monitor water quality. Part of our mission is to inspire and empower communities to safeguard water resources by cultivating scientific literacy. Providing a forum for residents to ask questions about these permits allows them to build a greater scientific understanding of the permit requirements including how they relate to past, current, and future uses of the facility. With talks of a proposed data center in the former Cayuga Power Plant getting increased attention, it is critical that our community have the opportunity to hear from the DEC directly on the matter of these permit applications.

The following are specific questions that we would like to be addressed during a public hearing to add context to the permit applications:

- What are the known environmental impacts from the former Cayuga Power Plant? How has the legacy of that contamination impacted water quality in Cayuga Lake?