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DATE: August 25, 2011

TO: Peter Petrone Parsons 301 Plainfield Road, Suite 350 Syracuse, NY 13212

FROM: Christopher D. Hohman

SUBJECT: Phase 1 Pump Station and 6-inch Force Main, Onondaga Lake Upland Project, Town of Geddes, Onondaga County, New York

Recently, your office forwarded to us the location of a proposed pump station and 6-inch force main for a portion of the Onondaga Lake Project. This proposed impact was not part of the initial work completed in 2010, or currently in progress (Hohman 2011a, Hohman 2011b). This new APE (area of potential effect) consists of a small 10 x 10 ft pump station to be located at the southern end of Wastebeds 1-8. In addition, there is approximately 678 m (2225 ft) of a proposed 6-inch force main extending from the pump station to a connection with other force mains along the western edge of Onondaga Lake (Figures 4-7). It is expected that the force main will be buried 1.2-1.5 m (4-5 ft) below the surface. A review of literature and maps, as well as soil borings, was conducted to determine if the pump station and force main will impact any precontact or postcontact cultural resources.

The cultural resource survey included in this report applies only to potential archaeological and architectural resources. PAF understands that the USEPA has initiated government-to-government consultations with the Onondaga Nation in compliance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(b) regarding properties of religious and cultural significance. However, at this time, USEPA has not asked Honeywell, Parsons, or PAF to address the task of identifying religious and cultural properties. Therefore, no analysis has been performed as to whether the new proposed areas of potential impact included in this letter report may have an effect on Properties of Cultural and Religious Significance.

Previous assessments and surveys completed by PAF have not identified any known precontact sites or postcontact structures from the 19th century within the project areas for the proposed pump station and the force main (Hohman 2010; Hohman and Versaggi 2010; Hohman 2004).

The region of Onondaga Lake and the Onondaga Lake watershed has been our homeland since the dawn of time. We have been a steward of Onondaga Lake since time immemorial and will continue to do so forever, as that is what has been mandated from the Gayanashagowa, the Great Law of Peace. In the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua the United States government recognized Onondaga Lake as part of our aboriginal territory.

The Lake is the spiritual, cultural and historic center of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Over one thousand years ago, the Peacemaker brought the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca Nations together on the shores of Onondaga Lake. At the lakeshore, these Nations accepted the message of peace, laid down their arms, and formed the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The Confederacy was the first representative democracy in the West.

To symbolize the Confederacy, the Peacemaker planted a white pine, the Tree of Peace, on the shore of Onondaga Lake. It is understood that the Peacemaker chose the white pine because the white pine's needles are clustered in groups of five, just as the five founding Nations of the Confederacy clustered together for strength. The boughs of the white pine represent the laws that protect all the people. An eagle was placed at the top of the tree to watch for danger from without and within. Four white roots of peace reach out in the four directions towards anyone or any Nation who wishes to come under this tree of peace.

As the birth place of the Confederacy and democracy, the Lake is sacred to the Haudenosaunee. The Onondaga Nation has resided on the Lake and throughout its watershed since time immemorial, building homes and communities, fishing, hunting, trapping, collecting plants and medicine, planting agricultural crops, performing ceremonies with the natural world dependent on the Lake, and burying our ancestors - the mothers, fathers and children of the Onondaga Nation. The Onondaga Nation views its relationship to this area as a place where we will forever come from and will return to.

It brings great sadness to the people of the Onondaga Nation that despite our long stewardship of the Lake and its watershed, it took only one hundred years of abuse to wreak havoc to the Lake, its tributaries and all the plants, animals and marine life that depend on the Lake and its watershed. Industry interfered with the Onondaga Nations's relationship to the land and disturbed the ancestors that were interred throughout the watershed - either by direct excavation or contamination, or indirect efforts such as construction on top of grave sites. We wish to bring about a healing between us and all others who live within our homelands around the lake. We must in order to protect the future generations "whose faces are looking up from the earth."

We are one with this land and this Lake. It is our duty to work for a healing of this land, and all of its waters and living things, to protect them, and to pass on a healthy environment to future generations - yours and ours.

¹The Onondaga Nation requested that the oral tradition concerning the significance of Onondaga Lake to the Onondaga and Haudenosaunee Confederacy be included in this report. The Onondaga Nation's statement may not necessarily reflect the views of the Public Archaeology Facility, Parsons, or Honeywell International Inc. Further, the inclusion of the Onondaga Nation's oral tradition shall not constitute an admission of any fact or law in any judicial or administrative proceeding. In addition, the statements and findings made in this report by Honeywell, Parsons, and the Public Archaeology Facility may not reflect the opinions and views of the Onondaga Nation, and do not constitute an admission by the Onondaga Nation of fact or law in any legal or other proceeding.

Pump Station

Two soil borings were completed previously in the vicinity of the pump station: WB18-SB-01 and SB-53 (Figure 8). SB-01 is located approximately 30 m (100 ft) northeast of the proposed pump station and SB-53 is located approximately 30 m (100 ft) to the southwest of the proposed pump station. SB-01 contained 1.55 m (5.1 ft) of Solvay waste, on top of 3 m (10 ft) of marl. Below the marl is silt and clay. The soil horizons are indicative of lakebed below 1.5 m (5 ft) of fill consisting of Solvay waste.

SB-53 contained 6 inches of modern topsoil above 1 m (3.3 ft) of Solvay waste. A grey and black sand with a trace of Solvay waste was encountered between 1.2-1.8 m (3.8-6.0 ft) below the surface. Below the grey and black sand was approximately 4.3 m (14 ft) of marl, with sand, silt and clay horizons reaching 12 m (40 ft) below the surface. The grey and black sand may represent low lying surfaces underneath water near the shoreline of Onondaga Lake, with the lower marl representing a deeper development underneath earlier lake levels.

The proposed pump station is located between the elevations of SB-01 and SB-53. The soils encountered within SB-01 and SB-53, suggest that the area where the pump station is located presently was not on a stable, dry shoreline of Onondaga Lake during precontact times. Instead, the soils document wetlands similar to those depicted on the late 18th century map, which identifies swamp of black ash, soft maple and some cedar (Figure 10). Therefore, the area of the pump station will not require any further archaeological testing or monitoring.

Force main

The force main will be situated from the pump station along the western shore of Onondaga Lake to its connection with an existing force main (Figures 5-7). Just to the south of the proposed pump station is an artificial drainage that separates Wastebeds 1-8 with much of the causeway that was created in the 20th century. Just to the south of drainage is a piece of land that juts out into Onondaga Lake. This piece of land was created by fill placed in the general area of the former Syracuse Yacht Club (Figures 1-3). The Syracuse Yacht Club was constructed between 1898 and 1899 on the western shoreline of Onondaga Lake. The yacht club consisted of a large clubhouse, as well as several boathouses, all of which were built on wooden piers driven into the lake bottom. In 1917, a fire destroyed the clubhouse, leaving nothing but ashes on top of the wooden piers (Thompson 2002). Between 1961 and 1967, waste from the operation of the Crucible Plant, later of Colt Industries, was placed on this peninsula of land and was used to fill in the area (C&S 2003) (Figure 9).

In 2001, boring samples were taken for three monitoring wells (Figure 9). The soil boring for Monitoring Well 1 (MW-1) is located closest to the proposed force main. That soil boring identified 2.4 m (8 ft) of fine to coarse sand and gravel with ash and cinders, with loose fine to coarse sand identified from 2.4 to 3 m (8 to 10 ft) below the surface. Below this loose sand, the material graded to native lake sediment identified as marl.

The soil borings for Monitoring Wells 2 and 3 identified 4.9 m (16 ft) of fine to coarse sand and gravel with brick, ash, cinders and metal shavings. At a depth of 4.9 m (16 ft) below the surface, marl was encountered in Monitoring Well 2.

The remainder of the force main will be located along the causeway that was part of the Willis/Semet barrier wall project (Labuz letter to Richard Mustico of NYSDEC, February 13, 2007). The causeway was created in the 19th century and by 1904, three companies used this area as a water intake source. It the mid 20th century, the area was used for a facility barge loading dock and an associated overhead conveyor system. The causeway was evaluated for sensitivity prior to the Willis/Semet barrier wall project (Labuz 2007) and has since been removed and backfilled.

Summary and Recommendations

Based on these findings, the pump station and force main will be located in an area that contains fill over lake sediment or in former wetlands. The fill along the causeway and in the vicinity of the pump station exceeds the proposed depth of the force main (1.2-1.5 m [4-5 ft]). Deeper excavations would impact areas that were either under the precontact lake levels or in the wetlands along the edge of the lake. It is unlikely that evidence of precontact landuse would be found within these wetlands. No further archaeological investigation is recommended for the pump station and 6-inch force main along this portion of the eastern shoreline of the Onondaga Lake project.

References

C&S Companies

2003 Preliminary Site Assessment Report, Lake Pump Site, Town of Geddes, New York.

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- 2011a Cultural Resource Management Report, Phase 1B Reconnaissance Survey, Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Slurry Pipeline and Fiber Optic Line, Towns of Camillus and Geddes, Onondaga County, New York. Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.
- 2011b Cultural Resource Management Report, Phase 1B Reconnaissance Survey, Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Geddes Brook Floodplain, Towns of Camillus and Geddes, Onondaga County, New York. Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.
- 2010 Work Plan Addendum for Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Onondaga County, New York. Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.
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Hohman, Christopher D. and Dr. Nina Versaggi

2010 Cultural Resource Management Report, Phase 1B Archaeological Work Plan, Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Wastebed 13, Geddes Brook IRM, Tributary of Geddes Brook, Ninemile Creek RI/FS, Shoreline Survey and Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM, Town of Camillus and Geddes, Onondaga County, New York. Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.

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2002 The Golden Age of Onondaga Lake Resorts. Purple Mountain Press, Fleischmanns, New York.



Figure 1. 1910 Sanborn map of Syracuse Yacht Club (top portion).



Figure 2. Syracuse Yacht Club (from Onondaga County Parks, 1998).

Figure 3. Syracuse Yacht Club (from Thompson 2002).





Figure 4. Location of pump station and 6-inch force main on 1978 Syracuse USGS quadrangle.



Figure 5. Construction Plan of pump station and north section of 6-inch force main.



Figure 6. Construction plan of central section of 6-inch force main.



Figure 7. Construction plan of southern section of 6-inch force main.



Figure 8. Boring locations of WB18-SB-01 and WB18-SB53 in relationship to pump station and 6-inch force main (in red).



Figure 9. Monitoring well locations in relationship to 6-inch force main.



Figure 10. Late 18th century map, with approximate location of pump house and force main.