



For Immediate Release: 06/23/21

Contact: Shane Mahar | 518-603-0791 | shane.mahar@nypa.gov

NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION ANNOUNCES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR EARTHEN EMBANKMENT INTEGRITY PROGRAM

Public Input Will Help Establish Protocols for Future Work Along Canal System

The New York State Canal Corporation today announced it is now accepting public comments on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for its Earthen Embankment Integrity Program.

“Approximately 125 miles of the Canal system is comprised of earthen embankments and the safety of our infrastructure and those that live and work near our network of waterways is our highest priority,” **said Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton.** “I encourage all those interested to offer comments during this time as we work to establish the necessary protocols for maintaining the integrity of these embankments and ultimately the long-term safety of the Canal system.”

With public input through the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process, the Canal Corporation is developing a guidebook to establish policies and procedures for the management of the earthen embankments along the entire 524-mile Canal system. This new guidebook will set forth protocols for safety, inspection, maintenance, community outreach and related environmental concerns, including a procedural approach as to where vegetation will be removed from these embankments in the future.

Members of the public wishing to register a comment may do so by emailing NYSCC-Embankments@bergmannpc.com.

In addition, individuals may provide verbal comments on the DGEIS and draft guidebook during two virtual meetings. The meetings will be held on July 14, 2021 at 10 am and 7 pm. Please visit www.canals.ny.gov or call 518-433-6811 to register in advance of the meetings. Each speaker will be allowed two minutes to offer their comments.

All comments must be received by August 5, 2021 and will be incorporated into the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement and associated guidebook for the Canal

Corporation's Earthen Embankment Integrity Program when they are adopted at the conclusion of the SEQRA process later this year.

For further information, please visit the Canal Corporation's [website](#).

###

About the New York State Canal Corporation

New York's Canal system includes four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The canals form the backbone of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and connect hundreds of unique and historic communities.

The New York State Canal Corporation is a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.

Like Canals on Facebook at [NYS Canal Corporation](#)

Follow Canals on Twitter at [@NYSCanalCorp](#)