

From: [Sullivan, Grace \(APA\)](#)
To: [Greenwood, David N \(DEC\)](#)
Cc: [Hubbard, Jennifer M \(APA\)](#)
Subject: Re: Cannon Project in Lewis, NY
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 9:10:07 AM

Received. Thank you.

From: Greenwood, David N (DEC) <david.greenwood@dec.ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2026 8:44 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Sullivan, Grace (APA) <Grace.Sullivan@apa.ny.gov>; Hubbard, Jennifer M (APA) <Jennifer.Hubbard@apa.ny.gov>
Subject: Re: Cannon Project in Lewis, NY

Dear Michael J. Audino:

Thank you for your comment on Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Project No. 2021-0276. The APA is collecting public comments on this project during the public hearing that is ongoing. I will forward your comment to APA's hearing staff for inclusion in the record.

DAVID N. GREENWOOD
Administrative Law Judge

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Office of Hearings and Mediation Services
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 8:17 PM
To: Greenwood, David N (DEC) <david.greenwood@dec.ny.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Cannon Project in Lewis, NY

You don't often get email from michaeljaudino@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hon. David Greenwood,

My name is Michael Audino. I've been reading in the Adirondack Explorer about the cannon testing proposal offered by Mr. Hopmeier. I wish to offer some comments about the proposed firing range in Lewis, NY.

I spent 36 years working for Benet Laboratories in Watervliet, NY. I'm sure you are aware that Benet Laboratories is the design agency for Army and Marine Corps large caliber cannon that are produced at the Army's Watervliet Arsenal. I am a mechanical engineer and spent my entire career at Benet Laboratories working various cannon topics. The last 6 months of my career was as the Acting Director of Benet Laboratories.

What I wish to share with you (and was briefly noted in the Jan/Feb issue of the Adirondack Explorer article) is the noise and shock waves generated during the firing of large caliber cannon. These cannon generate anywhere between 6 and 13+ mega joules of muzzle energy when fired. The chamber pressures (inside the cannon), depending if its an artillery cannon or a tank cannon, can reach 102,000 pounds per square inch. When I was working and we had guests come in who were not familiar with cannon, we would often compare the energy and thrust of a large caliber cannon to that of the launch of the Space Shuttle at its rear launch nozzles. The two scenarios are very similar in regards to thrust and the temperature generated. The noise and shock waves generated from a large caliber cannon will not go unnoticed by the residents in Lewis.

The Army has numerous firing ranges including Aberdeen, MD, Yuma, AZ, Ft Sill, OK.....and more. They are set up for this kind of testing and are located away from populated areas.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s, there was a contractor in Malta, NY called the Wright-Malta Corporation. That company (now long gone) conducted large caliber cannon testing similar to what Mr. Hopmeier wishes to do in Lewis. Area residents were regularly calling Wright-Malta and their town representatives about the noise generated from the cannon testing. At first, the firings were limited to certain times during the day. That did not stop the complaints and, eventually, the Wright-Malta Corporation pulled up its tent stakes and left. Prior to their departure, projectiles were captured in a very large, sand-filled, vessel.... far larger than what Mr. Hopmeier is currently proposing. The issue is that the muzzle end of the cannon cannot be covered since that is where the projectile departs the cannon. And that is where the noise and shock waves are generated during the firing test.

When I was monitoring firings at Aberdeen Proving Ground (for one of our designed cannons), the aftershock sometimes broke the windows of the cars in the parking lot. For me and other observers, we had to stand behind very thick concrete bunker walls.

The bottom line I'm offering is that large caliber firing tests should be done at various Army proving grounds where all safety equipment including a fire house, trained equipment monitors, safety personnel, etc. already exist.

Though I only spoke with him once, I am familiar with some of Mr. Hopmeier's proposals over the years since 2010. A few of the proposals were to be executed in the now defunct missile silo in Lewis.

Thank you for letting me take a bit of your time on this very important issue.

I would like to remain anonymous about this matter but feel free to use any of the information

I have offered here.

If you would like to discuss this further, do not hesitate to call me at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Michael J. Audino
Retired Engineer from
US Army Benet Laboratories