

Sullivan, Grace (APA)

From: Greenwood, David N (DEC)
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Sullivan, Grace (APA); Hubbard, Jennifer M (APA)
Subject: Fw: Comment on APA Project 2016-0276 (Unconventional Concepts/Lewis NY)

TO: John McNeil
The Vermont Idea Company, LLC

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: John McNeil <john@vermontideacompany.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 11:47 PM
To: Greenwood, David N (DEC) <david.greenwood@dec.ny.gov>
Subject: Comment on APA Project 2016-0276 (Unconventional Concepts/Lewis NY)

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Dear Judge Greenwood

My name is John McNeil, and I write to offer comment on Unconventional Concept's (UCI) application for ballistic testing. I have reviewed most the comments offered to date and believe the strongest consideration should be given to the analysis provided by Dr Dillon on 4/7/2026. Many misconceptions exist in statements from other commentors, but Dr Dillon's stands out as the most accurate description of the nature and need for UCI's proposal.

I am an engineer with 26 years experience developing and testing rockets, ordnance, and flight safety systems. Over those years, I have worked with Dr Dillon, UCI, and many of the other respondents to this issue. I have performed analysis of range safety related topics, including noise and blast, for rocket and ballistic test facilities at Cape Canaveral, Vandenberg, and many other locations. Dr Dillon's comments accurately state that there is a strong need for this facility, that it will not present hazards to the community, and the impact of this facility will be no different than the typical hunting noise.

I am also a lifelong user of the Adirondack park. This is the place where I learned to canoe, hike, and ski as a child. Over the years I have watched many of the woods I explored be developed and built up. I personally want to see this application approved because I believe it will help preserve the wild nature of the woods between Lewis and the Jay Mountain Wilderness.

Ballistic testing has social, economic and environmental benefits consistent with the APA's mission to protect the resources of the park. A ballistic test range is an extremely low impact industry with high-paid skilled jobs. and the environmental impact is better than most other possible uses. Ballistic testing and the Park's wildlife share a common need; large expanses of land devoid of human presence. UCI depends on the continued wild nature of the park for its economic survival.

Test ranges are one of the most effective means to preserve natural spaces, short of designating it a wilderness area. Test ranges keep humans out and prevent development. Some of the most varied wildlife I've ever seen has been from my years spent on DoD test ranges, where animals are free to roam land restricted from human access. Ballistic testing at UCI will mean those woods will remain wild woods for generations to come.

John McNeil
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