

Paul Herrmann
60 Church St Apt 9K
Saranac Lake, NY 12983-1825



ALBANY NY 120
12 DEC 2025 AM 1 L

Ms. Barbara Rice, E. D.
NYS APA, POB 99
Ray Brook, NY 12977

RECEIVED
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
DEC 15 2025

Re: Howitzer Problem 12977

Suggest Reclassify
Missile Silo Site to
"Industrial Use" where
everything is "compatible"
Avoids adversarial
hearing but requires
"legislative" or
public common hearing.
Proponent could
present his proposed
use and address public
questions and concerns.
Reclassification suppose
to be along regional
boundaries but site may
meet that requirement.
Paul J. Herrmann, Esq.
NYS APA Senior Atty
1979-1989
P.S. Reclassification
hearing should be held
near site at a place and
time convenient to the
general public. Best
Paul J. Herrmann
185I SOCIETY
ALBANY LAW SCHOOL
Over

518-891-5455
paulj.herrmann 1989
@gmail.com



RECEIVED
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

DEC 15 2025

From: [Bates, Angela \(APA\)](#)
To: [Sullivan, Grace \(APA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Correspondence [Ragan, Andy and Erica] #1408742P
Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026 12:16:09 PM

From: Kelsey Barrett <Kelsey_Barrett/NYEC@chamber.state.ny.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 10:07 AM
To: Bates, Angela (APA) <Angela.Bates@apa.ny.gov>
Subject: Correspondence [Ragan, Andy and Erica] #1408742P

*** Please Do Not Reply to this e-mail Message.***

*** Any questions regarding this correspondence should be directed to the staff person listed below as the 'Please Respond To' contact. ***

Mr. & Mrs. Andy and Erica Ragan
17 LEDGEMONT DR, FAIRPORT
Fairport, New York 14450
Phone 5854300226
ekragan@gmail.com
County _Other New York
Addressed to: Governor

Email Subject: Michael Hopmeier Howitzer tests. Other military contracts on rented private land

Issue 1 24400 Adirondack Park

Correspondence Number: 1408742P
Date Of Correspondence: 01/24/2026
Date Received: 01/24/2026
Date Entered: 01/24/2026
Referred To: APA
Date Referred:

Routing History:

01/28/2026 10:07 AM (Routed By --> Kelsey Barrett) (Routed Via Outside Agency Email to --> APA) This correspondence has been acknowledged and is being forwarded for further action from your agency.

Please provide a copy of response or notation of any other action recommended or taken. --
Please respond to Kelsey Barrett

Incoming Correspondence:

Dear Governor Hochul,

Please do not be the Governor that allows this type of project in the Forever Wild Adirondacks. Governor Pataki turned down opening a landfill to the rest of the state in the same town, Lewis, with the comment "I don't want to be the Governor who trashed the Adirondacks." Please don't be the Governor that turns the Adirondacks into a military test site.

This has been a ridiculous proposal from the start. A man not grounded in what the Forever Wild mandate is, has no care for any of the towns or people where he rents a former nuclear silo for his own benefit at high cost to NYS and Adirondack residents. More than 1606 letters mainly against his project from all over the country. The APA needs your support in this battle.

Thank you,

Erica and Andy Ragan

(Also homeowners in Jay, NY, which will also be affected by this project)

https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/community-news/land-use/howitzer-hearing-adjourned-again/?utm_source=Adirondack+Explorer&utm_campaign=c0e78c0122-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3a0c6b0008-2a6f9de66f-47544494&mc_cid=c0e78c0122&mc_eid=143c9d23a1

From: [McKeever, Keith P \(APA\)](#)
To: [Sullivan, Grace \(APA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Website Contact Form - Howitzer Testing Site in Lewis
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:37:07 PM

Grace,

Should I send these to you?

Keith McKeever

Director Public Information

NYS Adirondack Park Agency

PO Box 99

1133 NYS Route 86

Ray Brook, NY 12977

Office (518) 891-4050 | Cell (518) 354-9698

www.apa.ny.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including any attachments, may be confidential, privileged or otherwise legally protected. It is intended only for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are prohibited from disseminating, copying or otherwise using this email or its attachments. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply email and delete the email from your system.

From: apa.sm.AgencyMeeting.PublicComment <AgencyMeeting.PublicComment@apa.ny.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:14 PM

To: McKeever, Keith P (APA) <Keith.McKeever@apa.ny.gov>; Stodola, Damion (APA) <Damion.Stodola@apa.ny.gov>; Brosseau, Benjamin (APA) <Benjamin.Brosseau@apa.ny.gov>

Subject: FW: Website Contact Form - Howitzer Testing Site in Lewis

From: Amy McNamara <notifications@cognitofrms.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:14:25 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: apa.sm.AgencyMeeting.PublicComment <AgencyMeeting.PublicComment@apa.ny.gov>

Subject: Website Contact Form - Howitzer Testing Site in Lewis

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Amy McNamara
Contact the Agency

Entry Details

I AM CONTACTING THE
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY ABOUT

Agency Board Meeting Public Comment

NAME

Amy McNamara

EMAIL

amy.w.mcnamara@gmail.com

IF YOU ARE CALLING IN, PLEASE
LIST THE PHONE NUMBER YOU WILL
USE.

(914) 263-8197

SUBJECT

Howitzer Testing Site in Lewis

MESSAGE

I am concerned about the Lewis howitzer canon testing site. We live in a rural area but not rural enough for a possible errant canon projectile. Aside from that danger the noise will be a serious disturbance to human and wildlife for the surrounding area. Please take this into consideration when reviewing the proposal.
Sincerely, Amy McNamara, Westport

From: [McKeever, Keith P \(APA\)](#)
To: [AldingerIII, Frederick W \(APA\)](#); [Burth, John M \(APA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Website Contact Form - Essex County weapons range project
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 10:07:40 AM

Keith McKeever

Director Public Information

NYS Adirondack Park Agency

PO Box 99
1133 NYS Route 86
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Office (518) 891-4050 | Cell (518) 354-9698
www.apa.ny.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email, including any attachments, may be confidential, privileged or otherwise legally protected. It is intended only for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are prohibited from disseminating, copying or otherwise using this email or its attachments. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply email and delete the email from your system.

From: apa.sm.contact <contact@apa.ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 6:32 AM
To: McKeever, Keith P (APA) <Keith.McKeever@apa.ny.gov>; Caldwell, Elaine M (APA) <Elaine.Caldwell@apa.ny.gov>
Subject: FW: Website Contact Form - Essex County weapons range project

From: Sue Torrey <notifications@cognitofrms.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 6:31:27 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: apa.sm.contact <contact@apa.ny.gov>
Subject: Website Contact Form - Essex County weapons range project

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Sue Torrey
Contact the Agency

Entry Details

I AM CONTACTING THE
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY ABOUT

Other

NAME

Sue Torrey

EMAIL

sdmtorrey@gmail.com

SUBJECT

Essex County weapons range project

MESSAGE

Dear APA --

I write to you as a lifelong Lake George camper and Adirondacks lover.

For all things holy, dear god do NOT let this weapons testing range go through!!! It is morally, spiritually, and characteristically in direct opposition to the spirit and purpose of our sacred mountains, lakes, streams, and ALL the wildlife -- animate and inanimate -- that calls the ADKs their home.

PLEASE do not let this pollution of this gorgeous, important, and increasingly rare wild area go forward!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul,

Sue Torrey

From: [Bates, Angela \(APA\)](#)
To: [Sullivan, Grace \(APA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Correspondence [Sierak, Michele] #1413293P
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 3:15:17 PM

Post public comment period comment received by Governor.

From: Kelsey Barrett <Kelsey_Barrett/NYEC@chamber.state.ny.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 2:48 PM
To: Bates, Angela (APA) <Angela.Bates@apa.ny.gov>
Subject: Correspondence [Sierak, Michele] #1413293P

*** Please Do Not Reply to this e-mail Message.***

*** Any questions regarding this correspondence should be directed to the staff person listed below as the 'Please Respond To' contact. ***

Mrs. Michele Sierak
124 Sixth Ave
Pelham, New York 10803-1608
Phone 9142352239
michelesierak@verizon.net
County_Other New York
Addressed to: Governor

Email Subject: HOWITZER and the Adirondacks

Issue 1 24400 Adirondack Park

Correspondence Number: 1413293P
Date Of Correspondence: 02/08/2026
Date Received: 02/08/2026
Date Entered: 02/08/2026
Referred To: APA
Date Referred:

Routing History:

02/11/2026 02:48 PM (Routed By --> Kelsey Barrett) (Routed Via Outside Agency Email to

--> APA) This correspondence has been acknowledged and is being forwarded for further action from your agency.

Please provide a copy of response or notation of any other action recommended or taken. -- Please respond to Kelsey Barrett

Incoming Correspondence:

Help stop this increasing ploy to militarize private properties and disregard zoning written or implied. The push to fire howitzers in the ADK , or any non military site in NYS must be disallowed, and those who are strong arming the opposition need to be stopped, and a message sent. It is, I believe, in your power to ban howitzer or other testing in NYS , not on a military base. It is also in your power to use imminent domain powers to end this owners attack on the peace of the adirondacks. Please help in this situation and end the push from others.

Sincerely



Board of Directors

Nadine Lemmon, Chair
Robert Basch, Vice Chair
Angela Julien, Vice Chair
JP Laqueur, Secretary
Jeffrey P. Bender, Treasurer

Ed Bergstresser
AD Bhatia
Julie Blackburn
David E. Bronston
Lynn Cheung
Nigel Hall
Mark Harbaugh
Frederick Harris
Alpa Inamdar
Kevin Marks
Juan Martinez
Elizabeth Martyn
Stephen Pagano
Anjana Poonthota, MD
Michael E. Reed
A. Joseph Scott III
Susan Stashower
Edward Thompson
Jody Valdés
Curt Weinstein

Advisory Council

Kent L. Barwick
Ramón Cruz
Frances Gotesik
Robert J. Kafin
Mary Beth Kelly
Frederick Osborn III
Enrique Peñalosa
Drew Raines

Paul Steely White
Executive Director

1 Steuben Place
Albany, NY 12207
518.434.1583
www.ptny.org
ptny@ptny.org

Barbara Rice
Executive Director
NYS Adirondack Park Agency
P.O. Box 99
1133 State Route 86
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Dear Executive Director Rice,

On behalf of Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), I write to respectfully urge you to deny the pending application for a commercial military artillery firing range proposed for the Town of Lewis in Essex County, within the Adirondack Park.

PTNY has worked for more than 40 years to expand, protect, and promote New York's parks, trails, and public lands. We are the statewide nonprofit that helped lead the creation and expansion of the Empire State Trail, advocate for record Environmental Protection Fund investments, and support safe and sustainable recreation across every region of New York—including the Adirondack Park. Our members, supporters, and partners live, recreate, and invest in the Adirondacks. We therefore have a direct and substantial interest in maintaining the Park's quiet, ecological integrity, and recreational character for current and future generations.

After careful review of the proposal and the materials submitted, we believe the project is fundamentally incompatible with the purposes of the Adirondack Park and should not be permitted to move forward.

The Adirondack Park is protected by law because it is exceptional. It is not merely open land, but a globally significant landscape defined by quiet, ecological integrity, recreational opportunity, and the long-standing principle that human use within the Park must be compatible with its natural character. The proposed firing range conflicts with these values at every level.

First, the project is incompatible with Adirondack Park Agency land use classifications and the statutory purposes of the Park. The site is located in an area designated for Rural Use, a classification intended to accommodate low-intensity development that preserves open space, quiet, and natural resources. A commercial artillery firing range, involving high-powered weapons, repeated detonations, and extreme noise levels, is the opposite of low-intensity use. Approval would represent a radical departure from established APA precedent and would weaken the integrity of land use protections throughout the Park.

Second, the project would impose unacceptable noise impacts on surrounding Wild Forest lands and neighboring communities. The Adirondack Park is internationally known for its quiet recreational experiences—hiking, paddling, cycling, wildlife viewing, and camping. According to the applicant's own noise analysis, sound levels would reach ranges described by New York State guidance as "very objectionable" and, at times, "painfully loud," extending miles beyond the project site. These impacts would not be occasional or incidental; they would be integral to the project's operation. Noise of this magnitude would permanently degrade the character of nearby



Board of Directors

Nadine Lemmon, Chair
Robert Basch, Vice Chair
Angela Julien, Vice Chair
JP Laqueur, Secretary
Jeffrey P. Bender, Treasurer

Ed Bergstresser
AD Bhatia
Julie Blackburn
David E. Bronston
Lynn Cheung
Nigel Hall
Mark Harbaugh
Frederick Harris
Alpa Inamdar
Kevin Marks
Juan Martinez
Elizabeth Martyn
Stephen Pagano
Anjana Poonthota, MD
Michael E. Reed
A. Joseph Scott III
Susan Stashower
Edward Thompson
Jody Valdés
Curt Weinstein

Advisory Council

Kent L. Barwick
Ramón Cruz
Frances Gotsik
Robert J. Kafin
Mary Beth Kelly
Frederick Osborn III
Enrique Peñalosa
Drew Raines

Paul Steely White
Executive Director

1 Steuben Place
Albany, NY 12207
518.434.1583
www.ptny.org
ptny@ptny.org

Forest Preserve lands, undermine recreational use, and irreversibly alter the experience of residents and visitors alike. For an organization like PTNY, whose mission centers on strengthening public confidence in the Adirondacks as a place of quiet recreation and natural immersion, this degradation would have statewide implications.

Third, the environmental review conducted to date is inadequate for a project of this scale and consequence. The application relies on incomplete and insufficient analysis of noise, wildlife disturbance, public safety, cumulative impacts, and alternatives. The absence of a rigorous, transparent, and independent assessment deprives decision-makers and the public of the information necessary to evaluate the true costs of the project. At a minimum, these deficiencies warrant denial. At most, they demonstrate that the proposal is inherently unsuitable for this location.

Fourth, approval would set a dangerous precedent. The Adirondack Park's protections have endured for generations because clear lines have been drawn and upheld. If a commercial artillery firing range can be approved within the Park, it becomes difficult to articulate meaningful limits on future incompatible uses. Once such a line is crossed, it cannot easily be redrawn.

Finally, denial of this project is consistent with New York State's broader commitments to environmental stewardship, climate leadership, and the protection of public lands. The Adirondack Park is a cornerstone of those commitments. Its value lies not only in what it provides today, but in what it preserves for future generations. Protecting the Park's quiet, ecological health, and recreational integrity is not an abstract principle—it is central to the state's identity and to PTNY's mission.

We recognize that land use decisions are complex and that agencies must weigh competing interests. In this case, however, the balance is clear. The proposed firing range is incompatible with the Adirondack Park's legal framework, environmental values, and public purpose. Denial is not only justified; it is required to uphold the integrity of the Park and the laws that protect it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued stewardship of one of New York's greatest treasures.

Sincerely,

Paul Steely White

Executive Director
Parks & Trails New York