

2.3 Procedural Issues

Several commenters indicated that the NYSDEC did not provide adequate public notice of the SMI applications, hearing, and issues conferences.

Response to comments

The NYSDEC is responsible for noticing certain documents in a newspaper such as the Notice of Complete Application. All notices have appeared in the ENB and the Reveille between the Lakes, the official newspaper for the Town of Seneca Falls is the Reveille between the Lakes. The NYSDEC often uses the paper in which the hosting town publishes its legal notices. The NYSDEC's Division of Environmental Permits staff was not aware of the traffic concerns outside of the Seneca Falls/Waterloo area because no comments on the issue were received in the Stage 1 permitting process or in the scoping of the DSEIS for the Stage 2 permit process. Therefore, an additional notice was not sent to these communities, some of which are located up to 40 miles away. Now that the NYSDEC is aware of the issue, it will attempt to notify these towns in the future by adding notes to the file. In the interim, the NYSDEC highly recommends that all interested parties read the ENB on a weekly basis. This document is free and available on-line to the public. It includes all SEQR and UPA Notices for all of the NYSDEC's nine Regions. The link to this site is <http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>.