

To : CTF Members & Alternates, Representatives of DOE, NYSERDA & WVES
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
DATE: July 21, 2008
RE: **Inquiry into Other Seismic Studies**

Route 219 Landslide

I contacted NYDOT Region 5 Route 219 Engineer in Charge, Gene Wardzinski and was referred to the NYDOT Geotechnical Bureau. I spoke with Bureau Director Robert Burnett.

A review of the May 20, 2008, NYDOT summary report (Scoby Hill Landslide Report, available online at https://www.nysdot.gov/portal/page/portal/ver-STAGE/regional-offices/region5/projects/us-route-219-section5/repository/Route_219_report.pdf) indicates that:

- During construction of embankments north of Scoby Hill Road a landslide was triggered and cracks developed. Initially assumed was shallow, local movement due to excessive water in soil and drainage measures were attempted. Further investigation required installation of inclinometers much deeper than expected. A failure plane was detected about 100 below the surface. The landslide is about 3,300 ft wide parallel to the highway and 1,300 ft perpendicular. High groundwater was indicated generally within 6 ft of the surface. Additional experts from Federal Highway Administration and Landslide Technology, Inc. provided assistance.
- The slide area is the result of multiple glacial deposits. The failure plane, near the basal shear zone, was not detectable through ordinary subsurface exploration. The basal shear zone might be the result of an ancient landslide.
- The study analyzed a number of mitigation options before selecting one which will include permanent instrumentation monitoring.

Conversations with NYDOT staff indicate:

- A full report is in working draft form and is awaiting approval by the department. A public release date is not known.
- The report does not discuss an ancient earthquake but rather discusses landslides and glacial soil deposits. Staff does not view this as related to seismic activity. The landslide area is entirely within the hill area.
- The study authors reviewed the USGS Open File Report 79-989 "Glacial Geology and Stratigraphy Report of the WNYNSC and Vicinity" and apprised its author, Robert LaFluer, of the unusual geologic conditions found at the landslide location.
- Further information and inquiries will need to be directed to the Region 5 public relations staff.

Coal Fired Power Plant/Springville CO² Sequestration

I spoke with Bob Singer of Ecology and Environment on July 21, 2008. There were three plants proposed in the area – Jamestown, Huntley and Lackawanna (old Bethlehem Steel plant). The Jamestown plant is considering carbon dioxide sequestration but will be doing it within 10 miles of Jamestown, they are negotiating a contract for some testing/drilling now. The proposed Huntley Station plant in Tonawanda had considered a well in the Springville area but this was based only on existing seismic data.

(Considerable data is available from past oil and gas exploratory studies.) No in ground testing had been performed, here or at any of the other sites. Plans for that plant were abandoned last week. (Article attached.)