

# Great Lakes Cheese Public Informational Meeting – 10-27-21 – 12PM

[(0:00)] Sheila Hess: Okay, we will go ahead and get started. Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the Public Informational Meeting about the Great Lakes Cheese proposed cheese manufacturing facility located in the towns of Farmersville and Franklinville and Cattaraugus County, New York. My name is Sheila Hess, I'm with CC Environment and Planning. I'm assisting Great Lakes Cheese with public participation and environmental review of this project and I'm also moderating today's meeting. Um, I'd like to take a moment now just to have the other members of the project team, please introduce yourselves, uh, briefly starting with Great Lakes Cheese.

[(0:39)] Matt Wilkinson: I'll start. My name is Matt Wilkinson. Um, I'm one of the code leads of the project, have spent quite a bit of time so maybe met some of the folks who are on the call here. So, I'll walk folks through some of the slides and some of the background of the project here. Um, and with that, I hand over to Craig Filkouski, who's one of the project co-leads.

[(0:59)] Craig Filkouski: Good afternoon. Uh, my name is Craig Filkouski, and I'm the Vice-President of Manufacturing for Great Lakes, uh, co-leading the project to bring it to fruition with Matt.

[(1:12)] Matt: And I see Ryan Brickner from DLC is on here also. Ryan, if you want to give a quick introduction to the folks.

[(1:18)] Ryan Brickner: Yeah, Tom's actually here with me too. My name is Ryan Brickner, I'm the Current Plant Manager of the Cuba Facility, and, uh, will be a part of the project that we're going over today.

[(1:28)] Matt: And John Jennings just joined. John, do you want to give a quick-- a quick introduction?

[(1:33)] John Jennings: Uh, good afternoon. My name is John Jennings, uh, I'm on the core team for the project, uh, previously been the Plant Manager of one of the Adams Facility, the Great Lakes Adams Facility.

[(1:46)] Matt: I think that's all of our team, Sheila.

[(1:48)] Sheila: Okay. Um, Corey? Oh, you're muted, Corey.

[(1:54)] Corey Wiktor: Sorry about that. Uh, good afternoon. My name is Corey Wiktor. I'm the Director of the County of Cattaraugus IDA, the Industrial Development Agency. We appreciate everyone, uh, jumping on today for this key meeting and this outreach of the proposed project in the town of Farmersville and Franklinville. And our agency has been, um, you know, looking to assist the project buy of tax incentives in abatement on the value-added, uh, to that site. And

again, our whole drive is to retain the 229 families that currently work at the Cuba facility and the hopes of new manufacturing jobs and the retention, critical retention of agriculture jobs within Cattaraugus County, and the surrounding community, uh, counties such as Wyoming, Allegheny, uh, etcetera. So, it's our-- it's our sincere pleasure to be here today and to assist Great Lakes Cheese and their team with this proposed project.

[(2:51)] Sheila: Okay. Thank you, Corey. And the Dennis Group?

[(2:54)] Frazer Daly: Hi, good afternoon. Uh, it's Frazer Daly, I'm a Project Manager with The Dennis Group. Dennis Group is a design-build engineering firm, um, who works exclusively with food and beverage manufacturing facilities. Um, now, I turn that over to James.

[(3:15)] James Walton: Good afternoon. My name is James Walton with The Dennis Group, and I'm a Senior Civil Engineer.

[(3:23)] Ted Baudendistel: Hello, my name is Ted Baudendistel, I'm an Environmental Engineer working on permitting and design of the wastewater treatment facility.

[(3:32)] Rogério Cantera: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Rogério Cantera. I'm a Civil Engineer with Dennis Group as well and also supporting, uh, project management activities.

[(3:43)] Sheila: Okay. Is that everybody on the project team? If I missed anyone, please introduce yourself. Okay, thank you. Um, I'd like everyone to know this meeting is being recorded. Um, I'm just letting it another person here. Uh, this meeting is being recorded and the recording will be available, uh, online for this meeting and also the 6:30 p.m. meeting tonight. So both of those meetings will be recorded and will be available online. In addition, these meetings will be transcribed and written transcripts of each meeting will also be available both online and as hard copies in document repositories.

So the purpose of today's meeting, just to go over it really quickly here is to, uh, provide information about the proposed cheese manufacturing facility and to facilitate and encourage public review and comment. Our agenda, including the introductions, which we just did is to go over the background and description of the project, discuss the environmental review that's been conducted to date, and the permits that have been applied for, talk about where to find more information about this project and how to participate today and going forward. We also will have an open discussion, um, at the end of the presentation.

A couple of housekeeping notes. One is that, you know, we recognize that having a Zoom meeting instead of an in-person meeting can be somewhat challenging. To try to keep it a little more organized, we would ask that you hold questions and comments during the presentation portion. Um, there's going to be lots of time at the end. So, if you could hold your questions and comments, that would be great. If you're familiar with Zoom and you know how to use the chat, you can post to the chat while you wait and I can bring those up as a moderator when we get into our discussion period. Um, also, note that this meeting is specific to the proposed cheese manufacturing facility, and only topics directly related to this project will be discussed. So that means that, um, this meeting, we will not be discussing other projects that may be relevant to

Cattaraugus County. Um, if you have other topics that you want to talk about, uh, the best contact would be Corey Wiktor and his number is 716-699-2005 and his contact information is going to be provided at the end of the presentation as well.

Um, video. So, as we move through the presentation, the project team will be, um, discontinuing their video unless they're speaking. And then at the end, when we are in open discussion, anybody who would like to use video is welcome to do so.

With that, I'm going to turn it over to Matt Wilkinson with Great Lakes Cheese.

[(6:56)] Matt: I'm gonna take myself off mute. Thanks, Sheila. So, if there are questions, as Sheila had mentioned, feel free to bring them up at the end. But we are happy to answer as much as we possibly can. And a lot of the information that you're going to see and hear especially as it relates to the project background has been presented in the past so some of you may have seen information out there. But again, we welcome any commentary via Corey whose name was on here as a contact, or if you have specific questions or specific needs then, um, for a specific topic, perhaps then you can let us know and we're happy to give you direct contact details for the appropriate folks at Great Lakes Cheese, or at Dennis Group for you to use also. But to give a real quick background on what the project is and we do have some images in here in a moment.

This project here is a manufacturing plant that would produce cheese. So, it's various styles of cheese that I used in the U.S. cheese market. The facility will bring in milk from New York, the very vast majority of our milk, I'm talking 99% plus of this milk will be coming from within the immediate Western New York area. So, it is a big supporter of the local dairy community that runs-- runs in Western New York. It is a complete replacement of the Cuba, New York facility that's about 30 minutes drive from the Franklinville location. So, all of the production of cheese that's currently performed in Cuba, as well as the packaging of cheese performed out there, will move from Cuba to Franklinville. The reason for that has been communicated quite extensively, but the reason for that is the Cuba facility is very old. It's around 70 years old, the oldest components, and it is near the end of its economic useful life, so what that really means is that it's more economical for the company and from quality perspectives and various others, for us to construct a brand new facility rather than continue to modify or enhance, and hold a location.

In addition, and I'm sure it's been seen out there several times, the Cuba location was looked at as an alternate site. However, it is simply not large enough to take the facility that we've got here. So, the summary of it all is - we went into the evaluation phase of this project to identify a new location, this Franklinville/Farmersville location is really the only location we have left in New York and that continues to meet the needs of the facility that requires this much milk in producing this type of product. So, here we are looking to save the jobs of the employees that are in the Cuba location and work to try and reinforce and strengthen the dairy industry in this area to give an idea of this-- the amount of milk that we take in currently in Cuba, it's a little under two million pounds a day. And that's a correction I'd like to make sure is out there as there's a number of media articles that are referencing gallons per day. However, it is two million pounds per day is taken into the old Cuba facility and it's a little over 4 million pounds of milk per day will be taken into the new facility. So roughly double the size.

Our intent is to bring the employees from the Cuba facility to this new location so it does work to-- to save those jobs within the community. The number of cows that it takes within the dairy community and Western New York to support this facility in today's world is a round number around 30 thousand cows, doubling that number for the new facility. So that's a fairly large contributor to the Western New York economy and dairy facility or dairy market. This one plant is about 8% of all of New York's dairy industry would be running through this location.

So, as we look at this and look at the project background and how it got to this point, it's not just our facility that we're really looking to support here, but it is all of the Western New York dairy community, part of how we've ended up in this location. If we get down to some of the tax of the facility itself, this-- some of these numbers are subject to variation, but not material variation, but the facility as it's designed right now is around four hundred and eighty-six thousand square feet, that's in the main manufacturing plant itself. The main image that was in the drawing that Sheila shared a moment ago.

In addition to that waste, that, uh, that food manufacturing plant, you will also have a wastewater treatment facility that will be located geographically to the north of the manufacturing plant itself. So that, uh, that manufacturing-- there we go, I think, Sheila. So, the manufacturing plant you can see the main building right in the middle of the screen here. The wastewater treatment facility that houses, I'll call it a machine room for simplicity, is the building that's the top left of this drawing, past that trailer parking lot there. So that facility there, yeah, that one. Just a little bit to there. There you go. That facility right there is where the wastewater treatment plant will be. The reason that that has to be there, and Ted will cover this in a little more detail, is the water that's being discharged from our plant will be processed and-- and cleaned, scrubbed by us ourselves. So, we will treat the process water from the cheese manufacturing operations ourselves before it is discharged out to the-- to the waterways that are in the area.

It is not, and we have had some questions on this, it is not water that is taken out of the cheese manufacturing process and discharged straight into a stream. That is not what happens. It is processed through the wastewater treatment plant first to take out contaminants that would be in that water. If we just want to skip back again to the prior slide, Sheila, I'll make sure I hit all the points that are on there.

Um, again, so the wastewater treatment facility, the nearest creek is Ischua Creek, it's just to the immediate west of this location just behind where the golf course is and a little bit to the south of there is where the location will be. Ted or James will touch on that in a moment also. In that image, and we can skip to it again in a moment, but also just quick-- real quick on these points, the other pieces of infrastructure that you'll see out there, a number of parking areas. So, some of those are for employee car parking. When we get to the image, Sheila can point those out. Into the north of the site is a fairly large trailer. It's really a laydown area. So, these trucks will be parked there. Their refrigerated vehicles, those trailers that are to the top left of the image. They're not sitting there with trucks running in there. It's a trailer is dropped there and then it is left there until it is needed for other purposes, but these are intended, in general, to be refrigerated trailers.

The employee parking areas, you can see to the-- to the left of the drawing here, down there, in

front of the building. So, the building itself runs in two major manufacturing areas. The reason you see the two parking lots is to have most employee parking as close as you can get it to where those employees are going to be working, minimizing how far folks have to drive on the road and this kind of thing. So, we have two car parking areas that are in there. The-- it's not really depicted in this image. There are several stormwater ponds that are on the site. One of them is to the bottom right of where the image is here. So, that-- that green area that you can see that's very close to Triton Valley. So, anyone who's living in Triton Valley there would obviously be interested in that. That's intended to stay as a dry pond so it will not, under normal circumstances, be filled with water. But it is there as a catchment basin if needed for water, typically in a flood situation coming out of Ischua Creek.

You can see, sort of, depressions in the ground toward the green areas in front of the parking lots closer toward New York 16 there, and New York 16 is running north-south. Geographically, it's running north-south. So north is to the left of this drawing and south is the bottom of this drawing. Those other depressions you can see in the image are also stormwater detention basins. So, water from the site is not intended to run onto the road or run to the south into Triton Valley. It will be captured in these ponds or sent out by normal water management mechanisms back out to Ischua Creek as it naturally would have done. But that's those depressions that you see in the ground right there and just replacement that the circular building you can see on the top left there and the square building next to it, that's the ODOT facility that's out there. So, or not ODOT, NYSDOT, so New York State Department of Transportation building there. Salt is stored in that area and that's used by Highway management. And I think that should be a summary of the site layout, Sheila.

So the project site location, I think we've pretty much touched on this, but the red outline, you can see on the right-hand side, the right-hand side of New York 16 that is. That is the main project site that you could see from the image, the rendering on the prior slide. So, our building is intended to run north to south. It's oriented north to south and fills that whole area. On the left-hand side of New York 16, roughly in the middle, you can see another red circled area. This is-- this is part of the golf course that's in there. It's part of their land. Our current intent for that is it will not be acquired by GLC but there would be an easement that would run a discharge, a water discharge pipe that would run from the wastewater treatment facility, we saw in the rendering, through to Ischua Creek and outpour at that particular point right there. So, through that area will be an underground pipe. It will not be visible. You will not see it. But if you're right at the creek itself, the outpour would be visible. But that is what that is depicting right there.

As far as positioning, we are crossing over the Franklinville, um, Farmersville county line or-- or municipal line. So, part of the building is not depicted on this drawing but where you can kind of see that hedgerow that Sheila is highlighting there. The south of that hedgerow is Franklinville and the north of that is Farmersville. So, we are crossing both municipalities in there but the very vast majority of the project is in the town of Farmersville.

This image here is of the current Cuba facility or Empire Cheese facility. This is the plant that is going to be retired. This is all various ages so when you're seeing different colors of roofing, different images, or different looks of how things look, it has been expanded a number of times at the time, but the core of this building is its running pretty old, around 70 years. So, it has

reached the end of its useful life. And this plant here is currently not going to continue producing cheese once we move over to the Franklinville location. However, since we have received a number of queries around what we are going to do with Cuba, that is still TBD, still to be determined. We do not yet have a final disposition for this plant. We have been working with the senator and assemblyman for the region as well as other officials from the area to figure out what could be done as far as the use of this site and the use of these buildings in the future. But as of right now, it is not something that we have an answer to.

This image right here is the facility that GLC also runs manufacturing cheddar cheese in Adams Center, New York, which is close to Watertown. It's up to the north also near Fort Drum from a reference point perspective. So, this facility here as around rough number is roughly half the production capacity that the new Franklinville Farmersville facility will have in there. But as an indicator, this facility is not-- it's still kind of old but that, that grayer roof that you're seeing there, the newer part of the building, that day is around 10 to 15 years old. It is a rough indicator of what the new facility itself will actually look like. You see on the bottom of the right-hand side of the image, that tower that's there is a-- it's a drying tower. So, the new facility will have something very similar to that as seen in the rendering and the rest of the facility is cheese manufacturing and packaging. So, if we, I guess if we imagine adding the whole size of that building again to the other end of it, the south side of this image, then you've got roughly what we would be looking at with the Franklinville plant. But again, the reason this image is here is to give you an indicator of what the new plant would look like.

And the rendering, I think, we've already walked through but this is clearly an image or rendering of what it is that the new facility is currently designed to be. I do caveat that with that this final design is not entirely complete. So, we do still have other reviews that are going on with state agencies such as the Department of Transportation, with DEC, with the town boards as far as going through site design and building permits, and a number of these other things that will be touched on in a moment. So, it is possible some minor changes could be made to what you're seeing right here, but this is very close to what the final design is intended to look like.

And with that, I'm going to hand it over to Ted who's on our team. And as he mentioned at the beginning, he is our environment engineer. He works for Dennis Group but has been involved with all-state agencies and with various others to ensure that the environmental requirements and the [inaudible]. So, Ted.

[(19:46)] Ted: Thanks, Matt. So obviously with a project of this size, there's, uh, a lot of environmental impacts that we're going to have to alleviate and design solutions into our project. That starts with, uh, a high-level view. New York has some rigorous environmental protection activities and one of those being the State Environmental Quality review secret process. We've already conducted that. It's a high-level view just to basically ensure that all, um, agencies are involved and have a chance to understand that this project is occurring and give a cursory evaluation based on the initial high-level design of the project. The seeker process revealed that in their terminology, there have been no significant adverse impacts anticipated. Now, of course, we're going to have to design and investigate to ensure that we meet all those requirements, but as an initial evaluation, Seeker has been approved for this site.

So, the investigations are kind of where we start when we're looking at a site or an environmental review. Um, some of those investigations have already been completed around natural resource reviews. So, we've gone out to the site, done-- done investigations of existing information on GIS databases about where potential wetlands and streams and wildlife are. We've gone out to the site physically and delineated all those wetlands, uh, to confirm that we're either going to mitigate those impacts or that we're going to design around them and not build on them or affect them in any way.

As part of the wildlife evaluations, we've ensured that the project won't, uh, impact any threatened or endangered species. Another investigation that's currently still ongoing, we've completed what's called the Phase 1A Evaluation, ESA, Phase 1A for cultural and historic resource review. Um, that's been delivered to DEC, they've given feedback on that. Now, currently, we're going through the ESA Phase 1B, which includes actual people on the ground, site investigations, basically looking for artifacts and any sites that might exist that would cause concern. Um, that report is currently in development. And based on that report, we may have further investigations to do once SHPO, the State Historic Preservation Office, um, gets a chance to review that report.

Some of the other investigations that have already occurred - we've conducted a topographic survey just to understand the site layout so that we can design our stormwater and-- and where exactly we would want to put the facility and how we're going to route drainage around the site. Um, soil borings to ensure that we structurally can, uh, you know, handle the building and loads and everything associated with that, and then, uh, we're still-- we've completed the traffic study, but we're in the consultation, as Matt mentioned, with New York State DOT. So James will cover that in a bit.

Next slide. So, this is a picture looking west across the site. So, um, you can see the buildings are down along New York 16, but this is, of course, after the corn had been harvested. But essentially, this is-- this would be the backside of the plant looking west currently. You see that row of trees to the left, that's kind of the southern boundary of the site, uh, and wastewater would be to the right of this photograph.

Next slide. This is, uh, the picture to the left there is a picture from New York 16 looking west. The building you see there is kind of the southern maintenance shed, part of the Ischua Creek Country Club. The plan here, Matt mentioned, is we're going to, you know, you-- as we construct it, of course, there will be some impact here, but, essentially, it's going to be a buried pipe going across this area that we-- we are going to obtain an easement. The other two pictures show the location along Ischua Creek that's looking west, so that's the east side. So, essentially, uh, and the one on the right is the east side. So, essentially, what we are planning to design as the outfall here, um, we would pipe the water-- the treated water, uh, through a pipe that would then discharge above the high water level, uh, through some, um, some gravel and rock to dissipate any erosion concerns that might be caused on the stream. Essentially, we've designed the outfall to not impact the stream bed or alter the stream in any way other than providing a slow additional flow of our treated water-- weight water into the Ischua Creek.

Next slide. So, as part of the project, we're going to have to obtain several permits, and those are

in process. The permits are designed to prevent, uh, any adverse impacts to the environment, um, so some of the permits that we're going to have to obtain are, of course, the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit through New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Uh, this basically tells us what we're going to need to do in order to make the water amenable to entering Ischua Creek. So, essentially, it defines what our treatment process is going to have to be. As Matt mentioned, it's, you know, we're taking the sanitary water so any of the employee showers, bathroom, sinks, that will be taken and discharged to the town of Franklinville in a separate collection and conveyance system. The cheese manufacturing, uh, water that hits the floor will be taken to the on-site treatment facility where we will, uh, perform rigorous pretreatment of the water using anaerobic digestion and aerobic digestion, to remove the-- the concentrated food, uh, particles that are included in the wastewater as well as control any other requirements as specified under New York State DEC discharge parameters. The-- basically, the effluent limits.

One of those, of course, that we expect to see is cooling because this is a trout stream, uh, and just to not adversely affect any-- any, uh, fauna or wildlife, fish, anything in the stream will be controlled for that. Also, another major permit that is ongoing is the Air State Facility Permit for air emissions. So, you know, like any industry or agricultural activity that might have odors or pollutants that could be emitted to the air, we will be designing in and obtaining permits to control those emissions according to state standards. And-- and finally, traffic that will be is currently ongoing that James is going to talk a little bit more about.

So the wastewater discharge, the current plan is as we've mentioned, the wastewater treatment facility is on the north end of the property. Um, we-- after the water is treated on-site, we would-- and meet all effluent targets as required, all the sampling will be conducted up there, will discharge through a pipe down under Route 16 to the discharge structure that I mentioned. Um, it's showing that they're just south of the Ischua Country Club is where we would go into the creek. If you see that blue line there on the left-hand picture, that's showing the high-water mark, all of our work will be above that line as we dissipate the flow into the street-- into the creek.

Next slide. So, obviously, you know, at a cheese manufacturing facility, we are going to generate wastewater. There's a lot of cleaning activities that need to occur. The milk, obviously, has a high content of water in it that we will recycle as much as possible within the cheese manufacturing process, but there will be a quantity of wastewater that needs to go elsewhere after it's been treated and all of our treatment will ensure that we meet any discharge standards that need to be met. Those standards are set by the state, that's currently being evaluated by them for the expected constituents that we would have in our wastewater and-- and then they, from their evaluation, they will tell us what water quality or what effluent limits we will need to meet with our treatment. And it's currently under review for them to be able to promulgate what those limits will be at this location.

Next slide. In terms of the air emissions, um, we do anticipate that we will have a low rate anaerobic digester, um, as part of that. Um, this is very similar to what goes on at municipal treatment plants. You may have heard about this where methane or biogas generated from some of the biosolids at the plant, um, will be captured, and to control, uh, emissions around volatile organic compounds and other sources will need to install a flare, both for safety, as well as to

control these emissions. However, we are evaluating options for reusing all this methane because there is a lot of power consumption at the plant. And so if we can alleviate that with some of our wastewater treatment and biogas generation, of course, we're going to take advantage of that as well as protect the environment. So that permit is currently under review with New York State DEC and there will be public comment periods as that permit goes out for review as well.

Next slide. And another, you know, as we designed the facility, we did make considerations around the prevailing wind. So, the wind rose at the right on top of the project location site shows that the prevailing winds in this area are generally from the west or southwest going to the east up the hill, so away from any habitation. So, if there are any nuisance odors, um, from the cheese manufacturing process that, you know, aren't controlled either in a flare or other types of scrubbers or filtration, in general, those would be moving towards the east. I'll turn it over to James so he can talk traffic.

[(30:57)] James: Thanks, Ted. As part of this project, Clark Patterson Lee was contracted to perform a traffic impact study going from agricultural use to industrial use. We're certainly going to see an increase in traffic and they've analyzed the existing traffic, looked at the intersections along NY 16 to see what the impacts are so that they can recommend if improvements were needed or any, say, traffic signals were warranted. So as part of this project, the levels of service for NY 16 remain acceptable. The only improvements that we were looking at would be the possibility of turn-lanes from New York 16 into the facility. So, we will have three driveways to separate the various streams of traffic. The southernmost driveway which is in the town of Franklinville that is intended only for milk receiving trucks. So, milk receiving trucks enter the facility through the south driveway, they unload, they're cleaned and sanitized, and then they exit the building and return back to the road, and go back to the farms to collect the milk for the next day.

The middle driveway is really the bulk of our traffic stream is employees entering and exiting. So all of our employee traffic enters and exits that driveway and then they go to their respective north and, um, south employee parking area. The north driveway is the shipping and receiving truck traffic. So that driveway has actually been shifted, now, it corresponds and aligns with the country club's driveway, and it's on the north side of the DOT facility. And that was intended to provide greater separation distance between our driveways and we're working with New York State DOT on the exact details at each of those three locations.

So the bulk of our traffic for the shipping is entering from the south from I-86 primarily traveling north along 16 through the village into the facility. The bulk of our milk receiving truck traffic is entering from the north as Matt had mentioned earlier, collecting from surrounding counties, different farms from the north. So, the bulk of our milk trucks enter and exit back out to the north and travel north on 16. So, we've looked at the various traffic streams through the village, and we are actually working with the New York State DOT to adjust the signal timing at Elm Street if it's warranted. The bulk of our facility traffic stays on 16, um, and then travels back to where they need to go. And that is it for the traffic.

[(34:33)] Sheila: Thank you, James. Okay. So, I just want to share at this point, um, some details about how to find information about this project. The easiest way if you have access to a

computer and the internet is to visit the Cattaraugus County IDA website and this is the address here and it-- the homepage of the IDA website looks just like this image. So, there's a Great Lakes Cheese Project Page link right on the front, um, homepage. So, if you go to [cattarauguscountyida.com](http://cattarauguscountyida.com), you're going to see the Great Lakes Cheese project page. You can click on that link and, um, four items pop up here. Uh, one that's most important is this repository of information. So, if you click on the link called Repository of Information, then, what you will have access to at that point is all of the documents that we've talked about today and documents that will be coming online as this project review progresses. So, right now, you can get information about the Seeker process that was conducted, the, uh, joint permit application that was submitted to DEC, and the Army Corps of Engineers, application for the Speedy's Permit, application for the air permit, um, the enhanced public participation plan, which I circled here. I'm going to talk about it a little more in a second. And the Phase 1A cultural resource investigation. So, these are the documents that are currently in our repository online, hard copies of these are also available at four locations. One is the Blount Library in Franklinville, the DEC Office in Allegheny, the Cattaraugus County IDA, and the Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development. So, in Ellicott Ville and Little Valley. So hard copies of everything that's on the list of documents will be located at these locations if you want to see those. Otherwise, you can review all of these online.

Um, Before I go on, just I'll note too that the recordings of this meeting, the transcript of the meeting will be posted to the repository as well. Um, when-- when draft permits are issued by DEC for air and speedy's, for example, those will be open for public review and those will be posted. So, checking back period periodically, you'll see that new information is posted as we go along.

The public participation plan, I just want to mention, um, this specifically, because all of the information that we talked about today, there's additional detail in this document, which you can get online and that those four locations I mentioned. So, more information about the project, its background, um, also information about outreach and notices that will be posted, public information that's shared, and how, um, to participate is in this document.

In terms of how to participate, in addition to any discussion or comments today, you can also provide comments throughout the permit review process. You can submit those, um, in a couple of different ways. The easiest might be to send to Corey Wiktor, which I will show, um, contact info here in a sec. Um, you can provide comments on the draft permits. Once those are posted, you can provide comments during public meetings, um, so there will be other public meetings and those will be advertised on the website and in the newspaper as this one was. You can provide comments directly to DEC or the IDA as I mentioned. A couple of, um, contacts, I'll put here. Corey, as we mentioned, and we include his mailing address in Ellicott Ville for the IDA, which is 9-- PO Box 1749 Eastwest or East Washington Street, Ellicott Ville, um, and his phone number 699-2005, that's a 716 area code, also his email [corey@cattcoida.com](mailto:corey@cattcoida.com). David Dank is, uh, is the Regional Permit Administrator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. You can reach out to the Regional Permit Administration Office that's located in Buffalo, New York, and there's a telephone number 716-851-7165.

So that concludes the presentation portion of our meeting today, and we're going to open it up for

questions, comments, or just general discussion. I would invite anyone who would like to, can turn on their video at this point for the discussion and you can still use chat if-- if you would. Um, if you do have a question or comment, please introduce yourself and then share, um, your information or your question and then I'm going to stop sharing my screen now. However, if a question requires some visuals, I will share it again. So, okay, open for discussion. Thank you.

[(40:17)] Lisa Kurowsky: Hi. My name is Lisa Kurowsky. I live directly across the street from where the Cheese plant is going to be. I'm across from the state garages on Route 16 and, um, probably my impact is going to be higher than, uh, most of the other ones because that's apparently right where the staff or the employee driveway is going to be right across from my house. So, um, I do have a concern with traffic. I mean, I can't, a lot of times, I asked a few years ago to have my post office box, my, um, mailbox on the other side of the street because I couldn't cross the street quickly to get my mail. So, I had to then put my mailbox on the other side. So now I'm going to have all this traffic in and out and getting in and out of my driveway could be a nightmare. So, I'm happy to hear that there's going to be turning lanes, but this is-- this is going to be a challenge. Um, and then during construction, one of my major concerns are, um, the dust and the noise and this is two years of noise and dust that, um, you know, we'll be adversely affected by and, uh, one more concern is, um, I have very good water. I have, um, a well, I'm one of the few houses on that stretch of the road that has, um, not-- that does not have sulfur water. So, um, with all the construction, even if you're not digging wells, all that construction is going to stir things up, and I'm concerned about my water. So those are my concerns. I don't really have a question, I just wanted to voice my concerns.

[(41:58)] Sheila: Okay, thank you. Um, one thing I'll make a note of to is that, um, whether you have a comment or question, I'll give the project team an opportunity to respond here on this meeting. But we also, as I mentioned, we'll be following up after the meeting with, um, response information and documentation, that once again, will be up for everyone to review on the website. So, [clears throat] at this point, is there anyone on the project team that would like to respond to the comments that we just heard, the concerns around traffic, noise, dust, and water?

[(42:36)] Matt: I'll allow the other team in a second, but just to run through those as far as the road goes, so James has run through some of the steps that have been taken with CPL who are the traffic engineers as well as in DOT themselves. So, the final design for the road and the final changes that are being proposed are not yet final so to speak. So, DOT has not yet finalized exactly what it is that they're going to require or what changes could be there. So, the final positioning of those driveways, that is not yet, again, final. It's not known. So, what has been depicted in James's drawing as a civil engineer is he drew out a proposal that's been submitted to DOT and DOT is now in a period of time where they're evaluating and will provide commentary back. Their initial commentary was things like, we got to take a look at widening the highway so that we can have some turning lanes that are in there. But these are not yet final conclusions. Maybe at the very beginning of the-- the call here, what we preamble and preempt all of this with is the session that we're holding here right now, this environmental session is to collect feedback early on in the process because some of these permits are not yet complete.

In our discussion with DEC, however, what we had all agreed on is that it would be good to collect community feedback early on so that if there is any change that needs to be incorporated

into what's happening, there is still time for DEC and DOT and obviously has to consider that and take that into consideration in the designs that we're working on. So that is why we're actually chatting here probably three or four months earlier than would have been normal for this process step. But we thought, especially DEC, thought it would be a good idea to let everyone be heard at this preliminary point in time.

But what we can say on the traffic side of things is once we know what those final designs and those pieces would look like, we're happy to come out there and meet with folks who are right along New York 16 and show you in more detail what could-- what could happen out there? What it could look like? And-- but right now, I guess, like you said, it's a comment you've made. There will be more traffic. There will be some construction and it's up to us to manage that. And DOD, of course, to manage highway safety is their primary objective. And like you said, if someone's crossing the road, then that's in the highway safety bucket of things. So, we would work with DOT, also, to converse with you on what could potentially be done to try and manage any concerns that you may have there.

The next one I'll touch on and anyone else can join in if they like. The water quality one, um, actually I'm not going to hit that. I'll let Ted take that one in a second. There's obviously water discharge that's out there. But as far as earth water, we're not going deep. So, I'll let James or Ted comment on that more-- more thoroughly. But like you said, you would expect if you've drilled a well and you touch the water table, potentially, there's a possibility of leakage into that water table through the balls that you've drilled, which we are not in this project drilling wells. We are taking municipal water as our freshwater supply. But I'm not going to comment on if there's any concerns or if any mitigations we, perhaps might need to make to impact groundwater. Because my cursory opinion is there's probably not a lot there. I'll defer to James and Ted in a second.

On the dust and what's happening on the project itself, a real quick overview of the schedule of the project that we're looking at here, time, that is, a timeline. So, we're planning to break ground on this guy in April of next year. So, the spring is our target. The building itself, so the earthworks and so forth that will run early on, so during the summer of next year. When it comes to things like dust, although there's not zoning code there in Farmersville that covers this, you can expect us to take some dust mitigation measures. So if, for example, the ground is drying out, then we can run a water truck along, for example, that's going to spray water and keep dust low and although Farmersville doesn't have regulation on this, we obviously want to be respectful of our neighbors and not come across like bad guys so we're going to take measures to manage things like dust and noise and light and we will attempt as much as we can to keep the construction work that we're doing to within daylight hours. So really trying not to extend from beyond dusk till dawn, or go on to dusk rather. So, we're going to try and keep things during the daytime not run into the night.

If we were-- if we were going to have to work into the night for some reason, for example, concrete. So, concrete me require us to work at night if we have a setting problem or curing problem, then we can do things like we'll notify you of what's happening. We'll notify you that potentially, we're starting early this day, four in the morning, five in the morning, something like that. But luckily a lot of the work is pretty far out to the east from where the houses are on-- on the highway itself. So, the driveways show you're going to have some noise while that's being

done but the building pad itself is a couple of thousand feet away. So, hopefully, we're not going to be too impactful for you, but certainly you will hear some things that are happening out there.

Um, and what were your other points that was there? I think you had the dust, the noise that could come from construction, I'll finish my thought on that, on the schedule actually. So, break ground in April, we'll be working on construction through the summer. The intent is that we have a fully closed in building much earlier than two years though. So, let's say that absolute latest, we intend to have the building itself, the actual show building with its certificate of occupancy, finished by the end of 2023. So prior to that, and Frazer can comment on the details of the schedule more. But prior to that, we will fully enclose the building and the exterior work that would generate a lot of the noise that you would be worried about, that would be finished. So, once the inside work starts, your noise and your light, that's inside, it's fully contained inside the walls of the new show. For the whole year of 2024, all of our work is intended to be fully contained inside the building. So, you won't have-- at least you won't have dust and you won't have things like that still going on outside. You'll have people working inside and you're unlikely to hear them or see any light coming from there. So it won't be as bad as maybe the overall, we've got a three or four-year project ahead of you. It won't be as like we've got dirt and bulldozers moving around out there for three or four years. The bulk of their work is done in a relatively short period on that schedule.

But on water, Ted or James, did you have anything you wanted to comment on on water quality?

[(48:55)] John: Yeah, I'd also add there in terms of the traffic, you know, when we met with the D's or the Department of Transportation there, there was some discussion that, you know, the-- the speed limit is 55 miles an hour in front of that section of road and I think depending on the outcome of the traffic study. It might warrant reducing that to 45 miles an hour which would help some of the speeding near the high speed of traffic going through that area as well, people living there.

[(49:24)] Matt: Good point, John. So, one of the-- there are some additional studies still going on with the road. So, like I said, we're kind of preliminary here. So, we are still discussing with DOT what's happening. One of the proposals we have, for example, like John said, is to reduce the speed limit, then that's purely from a safety aspect. It's also from a queuing on the highway perspective that we believe if this traffic were reduced from the 55 to the 45 zones, it would be better, especially for folks who are living along 16, right in front of the building there and also for the school, that's just to the south. So, with the additional traffic, we have talked to the school superintendent. We do want to make sure that we're not creating an unsafe condition out there in the long term. And Ted or James, anything on water quality?

[(50:05)] Ted: Yeah, I was going to talk to water quality. So, um, like we mentioned in the-- in the talk that all the sanitary water will be collected in a separate system. The town of Franklinville is planning projects to expand their water service up 16, as well as the wastewater. So we'll be-- we'll be conveying all of the sanitary waste to wherever their, they decide their tie in point is. We can get the sanitary waste. This will all be in hard pipe. So, there's no interaction with the ground surface. We're not putting in any septic fields or anything like that to deal with sanitary wastewater. The cheese manufacturing wastewater, so any of the water that hits the floor

drain there will be conveyed from the plant, from the manufacturing facility, to the on-site wastewater treatment facility where it will be treated all in, uh, you know, non leaking tanks or in, um, in buildings, in vessels, in piping. And then from there, it'll be hard piped under 16 across and the first time, it actually touches atmosphere after it was in the plant was at the end of the discharge pipe, um, where then it's just has flowed dissipation once it's already treated to flow down into the creek. So, in my mind, there's no opportunity for impact to groundwater anywhere in the system.

[(51:29)] Lisa: I appreciate you approaching all of that. And I, um, I understand that with construction there's dust and there's noise, and I'm not-- I'm not naive to that fact, but, um, but the overabundance of it is-- is what is the concern to me. So I appreciate you approaching those.

[(51:48)] Matt: And assuming all this goes ahead during the process as well, we're happy to give you, like, if there will be construction managers who are on the side continually and obviously, myself, or Craig, John, Thomas, some other folks, Ryan, who will be permanent around the area as part of the project, we're happy to give you numbers and if you had a concern and you're welcome to contact one of us directly, we'll take a look at what the concern might be. But we certainly don't want people out there simmering or something and then let it blow up that we would like to have an open communication, especially to our neighbors around here. So, again, you're welcome to have our contact details, talk to us directly if any concern is coming up at the time.

[(52:25)] Lisa: All right.

[(52:29)] Sheila: Okay.

[(52:30)] Matt: And my last-- from just the corollary, I'm gonna throw on to Ted's comments there is the speedy's permit, the discharge permit that Ted overviewed earlier. That permit is referring, or it covers the water quality that's being discharged from our facility. So if you were concerned, for example, of water that's discharging from the facility into the creek and then, um, being absorbed into the ground and potentially infiltrating your groundwater supply, it's DEC is really managing that particular part of the process and their job is to look out for you and everyone else to make sure that our water is not going to have an adverse impact on folks and critters in general, as Ted mentioned there. So, the trout and the other creatures, that might be in the waterway is what they're looking out for that are very sensitive to any contaminant that might be in the water long before you know about it, those other things-- those other creatures know about it. So, we are working with them on that and there is also a common period that you can comment to DEC and you can contact Dave at DEC, whose name Sheila showed a moment ago and you could also ask them any questions that you may have around water table quality.

[(53:34)] Sheila: Okay. Thank you. Any other comments or questions? Scott. You're muted. Oh, there you go.

[(53:44)] Scott Howard: There we go. Hi, my name is Scott Howard. I'm a grandson of Jack Pixley who also lives across the street from your facility. Uh, the one-- the one question that him and I were talking about yesterday before I came to this meeting for him is with your discharge

pipe going into the creek, it doesn't very often happen but there is times where the creek has gotten so high where leaves its banks is - do you have a control measure where if you see, well, such as this week where we have a high rain event. The creek is almost at its maximum capacity, can you slow your discharge down, raise your dis-- you know, and kind of hold back a little bit so that you're not flooding the residents down the creek, and have you talked to the DEC about maybe going down the creek towards all the end farther? And I know from living down there for years, uh, there's a lot of downed trees, beaver dams, stuff like that, that might help the flow of the creek and not cause the flooding that we get when we get high rain event.

[(54:49)] Matt: So, to answer the question, the first part around the flooding component there, that, another study that was performed as part of this overall project was a flood study itself. It exactly identified where the floodplain sits out there today. And in the event that high water is breached, the high-water mark that Ted had mentioned on there and you do end up with a flood scenario, those ponds that are on the drawing and maybe Sheila if you can just crack open the side rendering, it's easiest to show it from there.

[(55:15)] Sheila: Sure. Give me a sec.

[(55:16)] Matt: About two of those big ponds, what they're there for, the dry ponds is to capture overflow water in the event that a flood, in our case, we're talking hundred year and 500-year flood situations are arising. So the water gets to the highest level yet recently expect it to be so rather than, for example, with flooding over the road, it would be flooding into the swing for the culvert that sits under the road and it's not going to overwhelm the culvert, we would assume, and it's going to be stored in those big ponds that are sitting right at the front of the facility.

That one. Again, if Sheila, if you just go to the bottom like that, I wonder if I can annotate this. Here we go. So, if we look at this here, this thing I'm circling in green and this-- this is depression you can kind of see in the image that's right here. These are essentially dry ponds that are intended to hold floodwater. So, if the creek starts to run high, the purpose of those is to capture it to prevent that water from-- from running out and flooding into Triton Valley or flooding into people's homes. So, the idea though is that it's going to capture as much water as what is currently known to be generated in the event of a 100-year flood situation. So that's what those things are designed to contain. And, James, I don't know if you wanted to add anything else there on the flood management.

[(56:35)] James: Um, I'll just add that we've looked at the hundred years and the 500-year event. We know what the flow rates are. And when you look at what the wastewater treatment plant discharges, we are a very small fraction less than one percent of flow. So just the natural fluctuation, um, there will be less water discharging because of the tailwater in the creek if there was a bank-full condition, so there is some natural tailwater, that becomes a flow regulation device for the wastewater. That's true.

[(57:21)] Matt: And as far as your last question, there on the positioning of the outfall, so the location where it's put right there, we-- we are not discharging to municipal. I guess that's the way to look at it. So, we cannot build a pipe and carry a private part for say, 15 miles, all the way down to Olean. So, what we've got is identified a location where the outfall can be built that has

minimal environmental impact, which fortunately is that spot. That's right there. But we have taken a look at some other locations that are all the way along that creek there, but you start to get to, for example, James could indicate with the land out here, we did a topographical study, which basically tells you the elevations of the ground in the whole area. So, we really need that pipe to be aiming downhill the whole time. We need to gravity feed it out to somewhere. So, the gravity feeding point we have is that spot over there. So, it will feed all the way down with natural gravity, to that point. If we had to travel miles to the south, you're obviously no longer gravity feeding, you're going to have to start pumping into things like this.

Additionally, there's no municipality currently out there in this range that has the capacity to be able to take the amount of wastewater that we're producing. So that's why we are building our own wastewater treatment facility, which is analogous to, uh, to a public wastewater plant. We will treat the water and discharge it to this nearest point but the overall that speedy's permit again, does take into consideration the outfall, the outfall location. The amount of water that we're discharging. It does look at the seasonality and this high-water limits that James indicated in his drawing. So, overall, we don't really think if DEC hasn't indicated they would see that we are causing any sort of increased risk of flooding, or-- or changing the water pattern materially that would impact something like you're indicating.

[(59:04)] Sheila: It's possible Scott was talking about just additional flood reduction by cleaning that area out. Is that right, Scott?

[(59:13)] Scott: So-- so, so my question was-- it had nothing to do-- I wouldn't expect you to run a pipe all the way to Olean, that would be insane. Um, what I'm talking about is once your water discharges into the creek, I don't know if you're familiar with the-- you've got to be familiar with the area building site. But you go down towards, um, Ischua, Coal Chutes Road, down in that area where the creek narrows, where the creek bottlenecks, um, just-- I was curious if you guys have done a study further down the creek just to see if there was something that Army Corps of Engineers, the DEC would finally do something as far as cleaning some of the mess off, to allow the water flow, to flow better which would, and really help, help your facility, um, you know, it's kind of like we have-- so three, I guess, it was three or four years ago and Ms. Kurowsky could probably answer this, probably more recently, but, um, I know that there was a beaver dam that was located somewhere down around behind the high school that they had to get ahold of DEC to remove because it caused the flooding to come up. If you're looking at your picture right here. If you see the-- where the EU's and Franklinville, that's where my grandfather's house is, um, the water came up all the way through his garage up into the front yard, um, and it was caused by down trees and narrowing of the creek and everything else.

My question was - is during your environmental study, um, of building a facility of such this size, have they've gone farther than the section from the Ischua Valley Country Club down to this road down at the bottom here, have they-- have you guys looked farther down the creek to see if any issues that could cause backing up of the water, um, in the future. That's-- and that kind of goes to the water quality too, as the creek water backs up, it's gonna cause-- cause water quality issues.

[(61:17)] Matt: You know, I think I'd really rather than Army Corps or DEC answer the question.

I'll defer to Ted in one second. So, this is non-factual, opinion-based comment. I'll give you now is my understanding would be that they do not want to clear, like, if you were talking a beaver dam. Then the beaver is one of the creatures that they might want to protect down there. So they're not going to want to say, "Let's knock down the structures that these animals have naturally built." If trees and things fall into the area naturally, then they're not generally clearing these natural features out of the waterway down there, but if it was starting to cause a problem, so, starting to cause flood scenarios, for example, then definitely DEC would be someone that we would want to chat to. Or you even would want to chat to about saying, "You're protecting the environment but it's causing these other problems that are out there." But actually, I think, Ted, you might have some more insight into how this area is managed by the agencies.

[(62:09)] Ted: Well, I think James kind of covered it when-- when he was speaking about, you know, obviously, the concerns are during flood stage and, you know, the amount of water were adding to that stream is-- is less than 1%. It's even-- it's minimal during a flood stage. It's all coming from rain. Um, I will mention one-- one additional thought about it is, you know, if we are constructing the pipeline to the outfall and we have to take down some trees in order to just get our pipeline there, we're going to have to talk to DEC and get permits to allow us to do that. So, um, similarly, you know, we can't be working on other people's lands to, you know, mitigate and maintain any-- any flood issues going forward. That's something that the Corps of Engineers would deal with. So it's kind of out of our control and purview. So.

[(63:07)] Scott: Thank you. Thank you. That answered my question. That was-- that was great. Thank you.

[(63:10)] Sheila: Thank you, Scott. Sally.

[(63:19)] Sally: Hi, first of all, I just like to say it's really great to see Great Lake Cheese coming into Farmersville and Franklinville. And I think it's going to be a wonderful impact to the community and hopefully the community will be a wonderful impact to Great Lakes Cheese. All of that is, I've talked to several people about the project already and have, of course, analyst questions that can't be answered in 15 minutes, but, um, I'm trying to figure out is there a way or have you and it may not be part of what this meeting is about with the-- with all of the permits and everything, but time within with the adaptive reuse strategy of Cattaraugus County. Um, if there have been specific bullet points or areas of interaction regarding how any sort of adaptive reuse of Franklinville and maybe Farmersville can, um, benefit Great Lake Cheese and the surrounding community. And also, um, I had some, I was trying to find specific things that would reinforce the community, the very community in Farmersville and Franklinville and, um, if there is any interaction with the local, um, the local farmers and co-ops to be able to make sure that the historical farms are being utilized and that it stabilizes the economic interaction with the community that's been there for a hundred years or whatever.

[(65:02)] Matt: Sure. I'll hit your last question first.

[(65:04)] Sheila: Actually, hold on.

[(65:07)] Matt: Go ahead.

[(65:07)] Sheila: Before you answer, Matt, I think Corey may also have something, but either way, if you guys could just reframe the part of her question or comment that you're addressing, that's going to be helpful. Um, there's just a lot said there, Sally, so, I just want to make sure that it's clear to anybody listening now or watching in the future what we're exactly talking about.

[(65:30)] Matt: So, I think that the two questions I just heard in there in summary, it was number one, what are we doing to engage with the local dairy farmers and then the co-ops? So, Sally and I spoke a little while ago. So, to reiterate what we are-- what I had said. GLC as a company does not work directly with the dairy farmer. So, what GLC does is we purchase our milk via dairy coops, the dairy co-ops engage with the dairy farmer. That's essentially the model that's out there for the acquisition of milk to run into a facility like ours. So, to real quickly answer the question of what's our level of engagement with the local co-ops and the local dairy farmers? For quite some time, since the very conceptual beginning of this project, GLC has been engaged with the co-ops that we utilize. So, and these guys are dealing with New York dairy farmers. That's where there's milk has been from Western New York, as you guys probably know, the milk does not travel that far. So, we want milk that's coming from very close to the facility itself from an overall quality perspective. So, when it comes to - are we working with Farmer X or Farmer Y? We ourselves do not, but we do work with co-ops who are working with Dairy Farmer X and Y, and those co-ops are working with the farmers that make the most sense for the economics of the area and for the dairy industry in the area to determine which farms are they going to source this milk from.

And we will talk with them about that. But our general objective is we need it to be close, we want to minimize transportation costs, make sure that the quality is there. So long as they hit those requirements, which generally means working with the dairy farmers who are the closest by, then that type of objective is what's going to be hit. But without a doubt, yes, we've been working with the local co-ops to ensure that the milk supply is going to be there and that it is going to be by default help with the local dairy community that's out there. So that's the second question I think that Sally had.

The first one, I'm interpreting that question to mean - what are we doing to make sure that we engage with and support the local community in Farmersville and Franklinville? So as a general statement because there's a lot of things that we will need to do. So, I can say we're going to use Bob's garage right now to maintain our trucks or something like that. We're not at the point of being able to have that kind of granular understanding of everyone that we will work with or even knowing everyone that's out there. But one of the processes that we've been going through for a couple of months now is we have been soliciting requests from a lot of the local folks who are representing the community out there to help us know who exists out there, who would be able to help us initially with the construction phases of the project.

So we as a general, a very general rule, what we're looking to do is to try and work with folks who are as close to the plant as we can get. So, let's just say as a simple way of putting it, we want to work with folks in the county first. We want to work with folks who are in Western New York, if they're not in the county. We want to work with folks in New York state if they're not in Western New York, and only then would we start to look beyond those borders, but we really are

trying to do as much as we can as a company to support and run everything we can as much as possible within the local community out there. When we get a little closer to having some real local needs like an example that I gave Sally the other day was, we'd need a lot of folks that need to have some lunch. So, I'm sure Mr. Wagner over at the Country Club will be really happy with a lot of folks needing lunch out here, but there will be other needs that we have. So, we will work with people like Corey and others in the community to identify who out there would be willing to help us with this job or that job. And again, we're going to look for it to be supported locally from within Franklinville, Farmersville first. But again, all I can really give you right now is philosophically. We work with people as close as we can get. Of course, there are economical constraints. You can't charge a double but so long as everything's competitive, we're going to choose the local guy first.

[(69:25)] Corey: Thank you, Matt. Thank you, Sally, for the question. Um, again, my name is Corey Wiktor from the County of Cattaraugus IDA. And I'll start maybe at the high level of this and then maybe approach into the-- into the question or the answer, um, because it may take me a few minutes and it's only because what this project represents, you know, we understand and certainly understood as a company like Great Lakes Cheese has demonstrated, not only in New York State, not only in Cuba but up in Adams, New York is remarked, five states, 3,000 plus employees, you know, everything we've learned literary since June 3rd at 3:30 p.m. I sat in the same spot, our first meeting with GLC, and their team has been, um, trying to find a site and-- and I want to make it just kind of out there that if it was not for that, uh, the commitment of the ownership, family ownership, multi-generation and you're looking at a family that has 80% stake, 20% is into the employees. So, they have a piece of the action after a bested period. Um, this whole project has been predicated on their commitment to their employees, literally and-- and to the agriculture community, knowing the history, the quality, but literally, the love of agriculture in this community, Great Lakes Cheese has embraced.

And I can say, literally, since June 3rd as our first meeting in Cattaraugus County. They have demonstrated everything of about local utilization, um, meeting with landowners, meeting with neighbors, meeting with school districts, meeting with IDAs, the state, they have gone, literally, out of their way to make it known that, you know, "We want to be a neighbor. We're going to be a neighbor if everything goes well." And some of this question, a little bit, Sally, is that, as Matt said, some of the granular type things like-- like trying to capture as much economic development is certainly on our-- on our radar. Um, you know, I'm still, you know, we're still walking with the project if you will. So-- so we locally don't want to overshoot or look at this as a 1000% slam dunk because we have some key permits and some things key hurdles to clear, but I can assure you is what we've said to the municipalities of Farmersville and Franklinville that as a project of this magnitude, the largest private economic development project in the county, um, you know, something like this will transform and the research we've done on past Great Lakes Cheese projects and investments, they have demonstrated literally multiplier effects for economic development in that-- in that region.

So it will be our job, it will be our-- our focus. It is our focus now, but we're certainly still dedicated daily to making sure that, you know, their needs if you will, um, to get across those hurdles, you know, some of those state permits. So-- so we are looking at this. We would certainly love to entertain, you know, professionals like yourself or who out there because, at the

end of the day, this is going to take a consortium of a group and ad hoc group commitment of local towns to say, "How can we and the economic development world, help GLC, and vice versa?" So we know that there will be those multipliers, um, you have a wonderful village, historic buildings, you know, ideal type situation and as Matt alluded to when you start to bring in let's just call 229 people, you're going to need services, you're going to need gas, lunch, your tires rotated, ancillary commercial, um, service parts, you know, name it. And so we know that and I think more of that will come about in time, as we, as a collective development team, work to, you know, secure those necessary permits, um, and then therefore Great Lakes Cheese can put that, you know, ceremonial stake in the ground and allow basically this is going to occur. So, um, that is happening.

Certainly, we're having those discussions and-- and, you know, one commitment that the IDA has made, um, is that to the-- to the community and to the towns that-- that are hosting this project is, how can we bring in additional development to spur a tax base, to build a new home, to put-- to put a child in the school district or to retain that? We know a project of this magnitude will certainly as that pebble gets thrown in the pond, those rings are certainly something we want to capture. And, in turn, help GLC, um, you know, make their welcoming to Cattaraugus County that much better. Um, so at the end of the day, this is a company that I can't speak highly enough in terms of doing this job for 15 years that, uh, have a-- have a real keen, um, commitment, again, as Matt said assuming pricing and quality and you know, they have-- they have demonstrated that already. Um, more so up some projects that we worked on in the past.

So, I do believe there's-- there will be a great opportunity to help capture that ancillary development and have those, um, meetings and discussions and I know certainly our board, the IDA board will commit dollars, uh, to retain professionals to help us because, again, that's a skill set that goes beyond, you know, someone like, you know, that we may have because this is literally a probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Cattaraugus County and the surrounding communities to pull some of this ancillary development when you have, literally, an engine of this magnitude being built in the towns of Farmersville and Franklinville. So, we certainly recognize the opportunity and you know, again, I think in time, you know, as some of these permits get secured, that focus will be, literally, number one. You know, right now, it's probably 1B but at the end of the day, you know, our team is not going to go away when they, you know, secure those permits. Now, it'll be hypersensitive to how can we help, you know, further monetize this type of project not monetize in a capitalistic way but to benefit a community, a revitalization, a commitment of a family and that's one thing we've stressed at the IDA.

We've turned this to vernacular of not a job, but it's a family. GLC should be commended for retaining 229 families, period. And the commitment to grow it by X number, is truly been monumental within the state, with agriculture, and the-- and, really the-- the opportunity of manufacturing is beyond a home run. So, I know I'm going down the rabbit hole. [crosstalk] I'm sorry.

[(76:56)] Sheila: Yeah, Corey. I'm gonna-- that's all right. I just want to make sure there's time in case other people--

[(77:02)] Corey: I know. I'm sorry, guys. I'm sorry.

[(77:06)] John: I would add to Corey's thing. I mean, this-- there's the construction side of this project that's going to take a lot of, you know, employees to build this thing. But once it's up and running, there's going to be needs and services, that's facilities going to need for years and years and years to come. And this-- this facility really represents, I want to use a number of 50 years for a milk market for the dairy farms that's going to supply this. So those dairy farms are going to need services as well that might otherwise not have been sustainable had we closed the facility in Cuba and not reconstructed this in New York state. They would have jeopardized their milk market, but now this is coming to town, this represents a long long term market for those dairy farms and ultimately the needs they're going to have to sustain their-- their operations as well. So it's-- it's pretty significant as Corey trying to explain to you. This-- this will be a very significant economic impact to the area.

[(78:00)] Sheila: Okay, thank you, and Corey, thank you as well. That was a fantastic summary. Just wanted to move forward, um, in case there's some other folks on the call or the Zoom meeting that have any other questions or comments on different topics. So, um, anybody else? Okay. Anyone who already had a question or comment, do you have another one?

[(78:38)] Lisa: Hi. This is Lisa Kurowski, again. I'll get my camera on. I do appreciate the fact that this is a better community that this is something that our community has needed for a long time and it is absolutely going to, um, increase the economic advantages in this area that have been needed for so long. You know, I do not-- like I've said this to somebody before I don't remember who, but I don't want to be the person to stop this project because it is needed. I just don't want to be the first affected by it. So, I appreciate you approaching everything, I appreciate your openness, and I appreciate the fact that you're going to keep us informed.

[(79:26)] Sheila: Thank you, and for the clarification there. Also, I'm just putting the contacts page back up in case anybody didn't get that information. And I'm going to go ahead and close the formal meeting, um, and just reiterate that the information will be available online. There's a lot there now, we'll post the recordings and the transcript of the meeting as well.

[(79:56)] Matt: Thanks, everyone, for joining, and thank you, Sheila, for hosting this.

[(80:00)] Sheila: Thank you. And I'm stopping the recording.

[(80:08)] Matt: Thanks, Sheila.

[end]