



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Buffalo District

News Release

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues permit for Oneida-Herkimer Landfill

Ava – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today issued a permit to the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority to construct a sanitary landfill at State Route 294 and Gleasman Road, Ava, N.Y. The project includes the placement of fill into approximately 46.6 acres of federally regulated wetlands on an approximately 532-acre site.

“We fully considered all concerns relevant to our permitting authority during our evaluation, and we worked with the applicant to ensure that wetland impacts were avoided and minimized to the maximum extent possible,” said Lt. Col. Glen R. DeWillie, Buffalo District Commander.

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The wetlands to be filled represent the lowest quality, least diverse wetland areas on the property, and the project design avoids approximately 123 acres of higher quality, more diverse wetlands on site. Compensatory mitigation includes the construction of approximately 32.6 acres of wetland on the project site and the funding of at least 22 acres of wetland restoration and construction off site and within the Black River watershed. These measures ensure no net loss of wetlands within the project watershed. Additionally, the applicant proposed to acquire and place under permanent protective easements approximately 56 acres of the ecologically rare and significant Rome Sand Plains in Oneida County.

The Corps' permit authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act focuses primarily on the placement of fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. An environmental assessment was performed, and all material and comments received during the public interest review process were fully considered in the final decision. Many of the concerns raised during the evaluation process are outside the scope of the Corps regulatory authority and fall under the jurisdiction of local and state regulatory agencies.

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