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Current Conditions in Rochester:

46° WIND 6 NE WIND CHILL: 43° HUMIDITY 86%



Your Opinion

Irondequilt Bay swing bridge opens for boating traffic

How does the bridge opening effect you?

- Longer commute to where I want to go
- It's great. Now I can get my boat out
- Doesn't affect me at all

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Full Story Detail

New jobs at former Army Depot

Watch

Reported by: Jecoliah Ellis
Monday, Mar 24, 2008 @05:40pm EST



Two new businesses and nearly 200 jobs are on their way to the Former Seneca Army Depot. It was all made possible through state funding. The depot is between Cayuga and Seneca lakes, south of Waterloo. The Army stored munitions on 10,000 acres there, before phasing out operations in the early 90's. Jeff Warren is the brain behind Top Quality Hay Processes. He has patented a way to cut, dry and bail hay in five hours, usually it takes

five days. "It's an expensive process but in the long run it will be less expensive. It will be better for the environment because we're not compacting the soil as much. We're bringing it off the field the same day," said Warren.

Warren says this process will help alleviate the hay shortage worldwide. Working next door to him will be Mike Coia. His company, Seneca BioEnergy, will be making bio-diesel fuels. "We're going to be crushing soy beans and canola seed to make the actual vegetable oil and that is produces in the bio-diesel," said Coia. Senator Mike Nozzolio says both companies will bring business to local farmers. "There will be hundreds of farmers in this region now benefitting from this. They'll be able to put more land in production and have a ready market close by," said Nozzolio.

The hay plant expects to be up and running as early as May. The bio-diesel company will start production next year.

Future of Depot Industrial Park

The size of the Depot is as big as Manhattan. 850 acres of it is zoned industrial. Which is actually the largest plot available right now in New York state. "We think there are many selling points that make this attractive and we think the sky is the limit," said Nozzolio.

Senator Nozzolio requests state funding for revitalizing the depot every year. What makes the depot an ideal spot to do business is it's in a prime agriculture area, it has railroad infrastructure and it's close to the Thruway. "You can cross the state in either direction within a half hour of this site so from an access, distribution standpoint it makes it very viable."

Mike Palumbo runs FLAUM Management. The company is now in charge of re-developing the Depot. "We think it's just a matter of time before someone looks out here and says hey this is where we need to be," said Palumbo.

In order to make room for new businesses, developers here at the Depot will be knocking down old warehouse pads. Developers don't expect a big company to move in tomorrow, they say it may take years to find the perfect tenant. But when they do, there's no doubt it will be good for the local economy.

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