June 1, 2026

Existing burden response:

"Disadvantaged" is a term used by NYSDEC based on what we believe is the US Census figures & reflecting the income of **full-time** area residents.

Existing Burden Report (EBR) Response

Lee Cole Village Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant

a) Relevant baseline data on existing burdens, including relevant criteria used to designate the particular disadvantaged communities pursuant to subdivision one of section 75-0111 of the Environmental Conservation Law

Response:
The Lee Cole Village community has experienced longstanding wastewater management concerns associated with the absence of a permanent on-site sewage treatment solution. Historically, wastewater handling has relied on interim disposal methods, including septic-based treatment and pump-and-haul operations, which present ongoing operational, environmental, economic and logistical burdens to the surrounding community.

The proposed wastewater treatment plant is intended to provide a permanent, environmentally sound wastewater treatment solution that addresses these historical infrastructure deficiencies while reducing potential impacts on nearby residents and the surrounding environment.

b) The environmental or public health stressors already borne by the disadvantaged community because of existing conditions located in or affecting the disadvantaged community

Response:
Existing environmental and public health stressors associated with the current wastewater management practices include reliance on pump-and-haul operations, increased truck traffic all hours of the day or night, potential odor concerns, and the risk of untreated or partially treated sewage affecting nearby surface waters if system failures occur.

The proposed wastewater treatment plant will eliminate these existing burdens by providing a controlled, engineered wastewater treatment process. Specific benefits include:

1. Elimination of pump-and-haul truck traffic currently required for wastewater disposal;
2. Eliminate the potential for untreated sewage releases or overflows;
3. Improved protection of local groundwater and nearby receiving waters, this is a surface water discharge;
4. Installation of a modern wastewater treatment system designed to meet or exceed the requirements of the draft SPDES permit issued by NYSDEC; and
5. Long-term improvement of public health and environmental protection for the surrounding community.

Additionally, previous site concerns involving sewage management underscore the need for a permanent treatment solution to prevent recurrence of environmental issues.

c) The potential or projected contribution of the proposed action to existing pollution burdens in the disadvantaged community

Response:
The proposed project will not increase pollution burdens within the disadvantaged community. Its main purpose is to reduce existing wastewater-related environmental risks.

The installation of the proposed treatment plant will replace temporary wastewater handling methods with a fully engineered treatment and disinfection process. Treated effluent will be discharged in accordance with SPDES permit requirements and applicable regulatory standards. The operation of the plant will be by an NYSDEC certified operator.

The project is expected to reduce pollution burdens through:

- Eliminate the risk of untreated sewage discharge;
- Improved wastewater treatment reliability and environmental control;
- Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection to significantly reduce pathogenic organisms, including fecal coliform;
- Post aeration to provide dissolved oxygen levels in the discharge effluent required by the SPDES;
- Reduced dependence on wastewater transport vehicles; and
- Improved long-term protection of surface water quality.

Overall, the project represents a net environmental improvement rather than an additional pollution burden.

d) Existing and potential benefits of the project to the community, including increased housing supply, or alleviation of existing pollution burdens that may be provided by the project, including operational changes to the project that would reduce the pollution burden on the disadvantaged community

Response:
The proposed wastewater treatment project will provide significant environmental, public health, and long-term infrastructure benefits to the Lee Cole Village community.

The community has needed a reliable wastewater management solution since development began. Existing and prior wastewater handling methods have been limited and have not provided a permanent treatment solution. The proposed project will address these concerns by implementing a modern treatment facility specifically designed to provide safe, efficient, and environmentally protective wastewater treatment.

Key community benefits include:

1. Reduction of existing wastewater-related environmental burdens;
2. Long-term elimination of dependence on temporary or less reliable disposal methods;
3. Improved water quality protection for nearby receiving waters;
4. Reduction in odors, truck traffic, and associated nuisance impacts;
5. Improved public health safeguards; and
6. Long-term infrastructure stability to support the existing residential community.

The property owners are making a substantial financial investment to correct prior deficiencies and provide a permanent wastewater treatment solution that protects both the local community and surrounding environment for the foreseeable future.

e) Confirmation that an enhanced public participation plan has been completed, including any proposed changes to the project resulting from community outreach and participation

Response:
An Enhanced Public Participation Plan (EPPP) has been completed in accordance with NYSDEC requirements and is included as part of this application package. The EPPP was prepared utilizing the NYSDEC template and outlines the

procedures for public outreach, notification, stakeholder communication, and public participation associated with the proposed project.

Any comments received through the public participation process will be reviewed and considered as part of the ongoing project evaluation and regulatory review process.