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## SL to respond to DEC consent order

By CHRIS KNIGHT, Enterprise Senior Staff Writer

SARANAC LAKE - The village plans to tell the state Department of Environmental Conservation that its sand and salt pile will be removed from Van Buren Street by an August 2010 deadline.

But village officials say that doesn't mean they can't build a salt and sand storage facility on the site before that date.

Under a consent order it signed with DEC, the village is required to outline its plans for the Van Buren Street site by Oct. 30.

Village Manager Marty Murphy said they had to pick one of three options: Construct a sand and salt storage shed, build some kind of containment device, or permanently remove the sand and salt pile. The consent order requires construction of a shed or containment device to begin by May 1, 2010 and be complete by Aug. 1, 2010.

Since the village hasn't committed to building anything on the site at this point, Murphy says it really only has one choice.

"The only option we're left with is saying we'll remove it," Murphy said. "But that does not necessarily preclude any of the two previous options from happening within the time frame."

Between now and May 1, the village board will have to decide whether to build a structure or containment area on Van Buren Street, Murphy explained. If nothing has been built by Aug. 1, the sand and salt pile will have to be removed.

DEC issued the consent order in June after the Adirondack Council threatened to sue the village if it didn't cover or move the sand and salt pile, which the environmental group said was contaminating a brook that drains into Lake Colby. The Council withdrew its threat of legal action after the village signed the consent order and paid a \$1,500 fine.

In 2005, the village received a \$175,000 grant from the state to build a salt and sand storage shed. Village officials initially planned to work with the town of Harrietstown and secured a permit from the state Adirondack Park Agency to build the facility next to the town's highway garage on John Munn Road, but village trustees were split over that plan and it never moved forward.

After the DEC consent order was issued in July, village crews built a berm along the brook and set up silt fencing to try and prevent pollutants from getting into the water.

But DEC is looking for a more permanent solution.

"At this present time, if the only long-term solution we can commit to is removing the sand, then that's acceptable to them," Murphy said. "But that, in and of itself, would not preclude us from building any kind of containment area in the future down there."

DEC spokesman David Winchell declined to comment until the agency receives an official response from the village by the Oct. 30 deadline.