

Carol Thompson's piece in the June 27 edition of the Valley News began with the headline:

"County could become home to nation's largest Slaughterhouse"-

Unfortunately this is completely inaccurate and we respectfully request a retraction.

Beef processing is only one piece of the closed-loop livestock and biofuels Cleantech project that Bion is proposing. In actuality, the proposed slaughterhouse facility would be one of the smallest, if not the smallest, combination slaughter / food preparation (cooking) facility to be built in the U.S. in the last decade. Slaughterhouses in the Midwest typically process from 2,000 to 6,000 head per day, while this facility would be sized to handle about 600 head per day; and it will utilize state-of-the-art process and environmental controls.

But a focus on this one aspect of the proposed project misses the point entirely! The project as proposed will leverage vertical integration with proximity to markets and a proven, comprehensive break-through waste treatment technology for livestock manure to ensure long-term, stable regional economic benefits with an environmental profile that is well within regional standards for farming throughout upstate New York. These benefits to the local and regional economy are generated and remain available only if the underlying business is able to successfully compete in the global marketplace by employing advanced technologies to assure environmental sustainability.

The environmental implications of the project will be documented and shared openly with the public as the project is developed and will ultimately be the subject of intense scrutiny through a stringent, public review process. The project will only become a reality by successfully addressing the concerns raised through this process of oversight.

Note however, that once these reviews have been completed, project economic activity -- both in construction and operation-- will benefit the region's economy while creating a large number of non-transferable, skilled and semi-skilled jobs for members of the community. Contrary to your assertion, the skills required for the vast majority of these jobs do not lend themselves to an alien labor pool, illegal or not. Rather they will have to be filled by individuals from the existing skilled labor force in place in the region's agricultural and industrial economy.

The clear communication of these points at the committee meeting was disregarded in your inaccurate and clearly biased piece. It would be understandable if your article were off a little bit. However, erring by a factor of 10 on the facility size and ignoring other direct input from the presentation indicates that essentially no fact checking was performed. Bion is available to the press and stands ready to answer any and all questions in the pursuit of open and transparent communications. However, there has been no attempt to contact us to provide input to this initial story or since --a modest effort that could have helped to avoid some of the continuing errors, misunderstandings and misrepresentations in the first place.

This headline is being displayed on Google and is damaging our hard earned reputation as the leader in development and implementation of livestock environmental waste treatment technologies and needs to be corrected.