Effort to build computer chip plants in Marcy moves ahead with approval of wetlands permit

Marcy, N.Y. — A computer chip manufacturing facility planned for the Utica area is taking another step toward reality.

The multibillion dollar project will get a long-awaited wetlands permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The permit will allow work on the facility to move ahead, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s office.

The Army Corps will issue the permit Friday, according to U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer’s office.

The SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering in Albany and Mohawk Valley EDGE, an economic development group, are leading the project, which could attract $45 billion in investment and create 5,000 jobs over the next 10 to 15 years, according to Cuomo.

The state plans to build three chip manufacturing plants on vacant SUNY-owned land in Marcy in three phases. Private companies would locate at the site to build the next generation of computer chips.

Cuomo has been working to spread nanotechnology-related projects throughout the state. The Utica area has been a major focus.

The Nano College merged with the SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome earlier this year. The SUNYIT campus is home to the 253,000-square-foot Computer Chip Commercialization Center, where companies will work on chip-related research and development.

In the Syracuse area, Cuomo announced plans for a nanotech-focused hub in DeWitt in March. The center will concentrate on industries including energy, medical devices and film production.

The project involves a state investment of $15 million and will create up to 350 jobs, according to Cuomo. The hub’s first tenant is a film production company that plans to start shooting its first movie in the
Syracuse area in September.

Nanotechnology comes into play in the movie business in the form of powerful computers used for tasks like editing, sound and special effects.

The Nano College **also plans** to open a research and development facility at Electronics Park in Salina that will focus on defense-related work. The state is spending $28 million on that effort, which will create up to 250 jobs.

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