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MICRON

First construction related to Micron's semiconductor plant begins in Clay

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Onondaga County recently cut this service road through woods off Caughdenoy Road in Clay for the installation of a new sewer line. The new line will serve residential, commercial and industrial developments spurred by Micron Technology's planned semiconductor plant nearby. (Rick Moriarty | rmoriarty@syracuse.com) Rick Moriarty | rmoriarty@syracuse.com



Clay, N.Y. – It's not every day senior politicians hold a groundbreaking for a sewage pumping station. Nonetheless, that's exactly what Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon did in the town of Clay on Thursday.

It wasn't just any old sewage pumping station, however.

This one will carry waste from much of the residential, commercial and industrial developments that are expected to be drawn to Clay by the huge semiconductor plant [Micron Technology](#) is planning to build in the town.

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And that makes it a much bigger deal than most sewer projects because it's the first construction related to the Micron project and the substantial development it will bring to Clay and perhaps other parts of the county.

"It's the first piece, the first groundbreaking of the development of something much bigger, and that's the Central New York semiconductor cluster," McMahon said.

Workers have already cut a path through the woods off Caughdenoy Road north of Route 31 for the installation of sewers that will connect the new pumping station to the county's Oak Orchard wastewater treatment plant.

The pumping station will be built at the southeast corner of Route 31 and Caughdenoy Road -- directly across Route 31 from where Micron is expected to break ground on its semiconductor fabrication plant this fall.

A vacant home on the property will be demolished later this month to make way for the pumping station.

Owing to its significance to the Micron project and its highly visible location near it, the pumping station will look nothing like your average sewage pumping station.

Instead, it's designed instead to resemble a nearby railroad depot building that now serves as home to the Clay Senior Center, said Shannon Harty, commissioner of the county's Department of Water Environment Protection.



A new sewer pumping station that will serve Micron Technology and other developments in Clay is designed to resemble a nearby former railroad depot building. EDR

She called the new line key to future development in the area.

"Without robust sewer infrastructure, there is no foundation for industry, no expansion of housing and no protection for our waterways," she said.

The new sewer line will carry municipal waste, including that produced by Micron. But it will not carry industrial waste from Micron's semiconductor manufacturing process. A separate line will do that.

The pumping station and new line will cost \$37.6 million, which will be paid by users via their sewer fees.

The new line was planned before Micron announced it had selected Clay for its chip plant. But its arrival is expected to spur much more development in the area than was expected previously.



A car passes sewer lines awaiting installation along Caughdenoy Road north of Route 31 in Clay on April 3, 2025. The lines will service Micron Technology's planned semiconductor plant and other nearby development. (Rick Moriarty | rmoriarty@syracuse.com) Rick Moriarty | rmoriarty@syracuse.com

Micron has said it will spend up to \$100 billion to build the chip plant over 20 years. It will employ up to 9,000 directly, with more than 40,000 other jobs being create over 20 years by supply chain and other associated development, according to the company.

The chips Micron makes in Clay will go into the company's computer memory products.

Howard Lutnick, President Donald Trump's commerce secretary, recently signaled he could withhold CHIPS Act funding promised to companies like Micron as he pushes the firms for bigger projects in the U.S.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, McMahon said he is not worried that the Trump Administration will try to kill the Micron project.

"One, it's not in the interest of the United States of America not to be making memory technology chips that support the AI revolution, 5G, every sort of technology that we have, let alone the Department of Defense, which is a customer of Micron," he said.

"Second, I've been working with these agencies, talking to the leadership of these agencies, and the conversations have never been about not doing a project. It's been about how do we go faster and how do we do more?"



Officials hold a groundbreaking ceremony for a new sewer pumping station in Clay on April 3, 2025. The station will serve Micron Technology's planned semiconductor plant and other nearby development. (Rick Moriarty | rmoriarty@syracuse.com) Rick Moriarty | rmoriarty@syracuse.com



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