

SIDC Director James Walsh acknowledged that the timing of yesterday's soil testings was "unfortunate." "I wasn't even aware it was going to be happening," he added, noting that the testings were arranged by the state Facilities Development Corp. "I can understand why people would perceive that this means we are

proceeding with construction."

But in fact, he said, the construction has been delayed to allow OMRDD time to evaluate testimony presented at Monday's hearing, and a final determination on the site has not yet been made. Walsh added, however, that OMRDD still hopes to build the homes at Corson's Woods, which is why the soil tests were conducted.

"As far as the agency is concerned, we have determined that

is the most desirable site," he said. "But a final decision will be made in about six weeks."

Walsh added that the decision will be reviewed by Gov. Mario Cuomo's office. Cuomo visited the woods last month and talked with environmentalists about their objections.

In addition to the implications of the testings, Buegler said he was concerned about the damage from yesterday's work. "A truck came into the site itself and

crushed down the vegetation," he said. A "tractor-like vehicle" brought in by the truck is "completing damaging" the underbrush, he added.

"The problem with the state has been that they have never let us know what is happening beforehand," Buegler said. "We find out only indirectly; we can only respond to their actions and not to their planning. We wonder what else they are planning that nobody knows about."