



Seneca County
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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WATERLOO, NEW YORK 13165

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October 14, 2020

Timothy Walsh
Acting Regional Director
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, New York 1414

RE: GREENIDGE STATION POWER PLANT
DEC ID: 8573600004

Dear Director Walsh:

The news of the issuance of operating permits for the Greenidge Station Power Plant in Dresden, New York is extremely concerning and disappointing to the residents of Seneca County.

Seneca Lake represents not only a primary source of municipal drinking water for Seneca County and other communities surrounding the lake, but is an important resource for all aspects of the ever more important tourism economy.

The decision to allow spent cooling water to be discharged into Keuka Outlet, almost directly into Seneca Lake, can only serve to increase the growth of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)/Cyanobacteria in Seneca Lake. This has a direct detrimental impact on the health and safety of thousands of residents in our community.

Further, the lack of support for a DEC designated trout fishery, by not requiring appropriate fish screening to the cooling water intakes, as well as the high temperature discharge, is totally inconsistent with your agency reports:

"Adverse impacts to aquatic life can also occur through the discharge of cooling water (the temperature often raised by 10 to 20 degrees F back to the lake or river, a process known as thermal pollution. Thermal pollution can kill fish outright, block fish migrations, cause the growth of nuisance species, and create other problems as well." (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32847.html>)

Greenidge's operators stated intent is to "scaling up" power production from the on-demand needs of the public utility customers limit of 6% capacity to 100%, with that increase going solely to the "behind the meter" use for "bit coin mining" without any public benefit. The decision to issue permits for the operation of this power plant, which no longer serves as a primary electrical power supply to the public power grid

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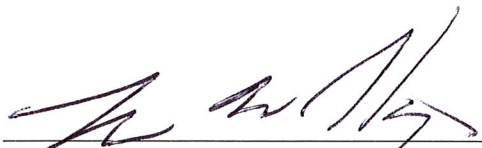
Deputy Clerk
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Tim Walsh, Acting Regional Director, DEC
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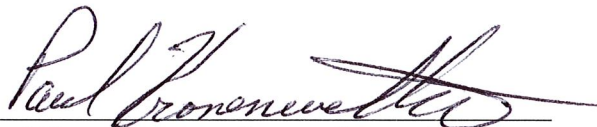
is both illogical and inconsistent with the efforts to preserve and protect the natural resources of the Finger Lakes.

The Seneca County Board of Supervisors believes that to protect the people and irreplaceable resources of Seneca Lake for the community, the issuance of the operating permits must be reconsidered and substantially altered, if not denied outright.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Hayssen, Chairman
Board of Supervisors



Paul Kronenwetter, County Supervisor
Chairman, Environmental Affairs Standing Committee

SENECA COUNTY

RH/PK/de/ ml

xc: Honorable Pamela Helming, New York State Senate District
Honorable Philip Palmesano, New York State Assembly
Hon. Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NY State Dept. of Conservation