

## **Geneva CC Resolution – Opposition to Greenidge Generation permits and expansion for bitcoin operation.**

### **Overview**

Greenidge station is an old coal power plant (1937) with a bad environmental history. It shut down in 2011. After its purchase by Atlas Holdings of Greenwich, CT in 2014 it was restarted and later converted to natural gas (2017) for use as a “peaker plant”- to be used during periods of high demand when excess energy is needed by the electric grid. It operates under the name Greenidge Generation LLC.

The DEC permits allow Greenidge to withdraw 139 million gallons per day from Seneca Lake, to operate without screens on the intakes and to discharge 132 million gallons of water at temperatures of up to 108 degrees F, significant risks to native fish and for HABS.

Greenidge is using a 67-year old steam turbine that operates at 35% efficiency and should have been retired decades ago (by comparison modern turbines operate at 65% efficiency). Meaning it is using more natural gas, emitting more greenhouse gases, and using more water for cooling than a modern turbine with closed cycle cooling.

Reports from 2020 indicate that Greenidge can generate 5 bitcoins per day, or about \$175,000. The proposed expansion will increase capacity by about 50%. It can afford to protect the air and water, but is not being required to do so.

An Article 78 lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club, Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes, Seneca Lake Guardian and numerous citizens advocates [sued](#) the Planning Board of the Town of Torrey, New York, claiming a recently approved 24/7 bitcoin data mining’s operation whose increase in power usage would harm fish populations, increase algae blooms and interfere with boating and swimming in Seneca Lake was adopted in violation of the State SEQRA Law..

## Resolution

### Support for the Article 78 action by the Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes, Seneca Lake Guardians vs. Greenidge Generation plan.

**Whereas** Greenidge Generation, LLC has DEC permits that allow it to emit up to 650,000 tons of greenhouse gases per year affecting air quality in the region.

**Whereas** Greenidge Generation was restarted and converted to natural gas in 2017 for use as a “peaker plant”- to be used during periods of high demand when excess energy was needed by the grid.

**Whereas** in 2019, Greenidge Generation received approval to operate a “data center” using excess electrical capacity.

**Whereas Greenidge Generation** is permitted to withdraw 139 million gallons per day from Seneca Lake, to operate without screens on the intakes and to discharge 132 million gallons of water at temperatures of up to 108 degrees F. The temperature limits for trout streams, like the Keuka Outlet, is 70 degrees F. This stresses and kills trout and other cold water fish.

**Whereas** the hot water discharge into the Keuka Outlet will increase the incidences of HABS in this portion of Seneca Lake.

**Whereas** the system is not using protective measures to prevent fish, eggs, and other aquatic life from being killed at their water intake location.

**Whereas** the Finger Lakes economy is based on agri-tourism and the acceleration of the deterioration of Seneca Lake as a recreational destination will adversely impact the Geneva economy and many other lakeside communities.

**Whereas** there is no public benefit for this project in that it is not necessary for the electric grid, it has created few new jobs, and it pays comparatively small taxes compared to the environmental remediation investment needed.

**Therefore, now, be it Resolved** that the Geneva City Council of the City of Geneva, NY is supportive of the Article 78 action (described above) in safeguarding the future of Seneca Lake for its residents and visitors and the economic and health benefits that it provides and

**Be it further resolved** that the Geneva City Council urges the State Legislature to study the environmental impacts of bitcoin mining and enact standards for future conversions;

**And finally, be it further resolved** that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the following entities:

- Town of Torrey Planning Board, David Granzin, Chairman,
- Town of Torrey Board, Patrick H. Flynn, Supervisor,
- Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation,
- Yates County Board of Supervisors,
- Ontario County Board of Supervisors,
- State Senator, Pamela Helming, 54<sup>th</sup> District, NY State Senate,
- State Assembly, Jeff Gallahan, 131<sup>st</sup> District, NY State Assembly
- Governor, Andrew Cuomo, State of New York.