

Scott and Donna Oxley
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Ellsworth, Maine

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April 9, 2024

Ms. Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner
State of Maine - Department of Environmental Protection

RE: Green Lake WQC
DEP Application #L-020024-33-D-N
Green Lake Hydroelectric Project
(FERC Project No. 7189)

Dear Ms. Loyzim:

We are residents of Green Lake. We oppose the conditions included in the draft Water Quality Certificate circulated on March 14, 2024, conditions 3F-H, that would require the construction of upstream fish passage facilities in the future based on activities at the Ellsworth Dam.

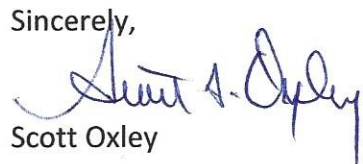
Green Lake is a unique cold water lake with a native population of arctic charr and landlocked salmon. The lake supports many other species as well. It is not appropriate to order fish passage before determining whether fish passage makes sense for Green Lake. Upstream fish passage could introduce invasive species and upset the delicate ecosystem that currently thrives in the lake. In addition, we are concerned that these conditions could render hydroelectric generation and operation of the project no longer economically feasible.

We also oppose the fall drawdown restrictions contained in condition 1A. With global warming, warm water and weather have been continuing later into the fall. The water temperature study done by the Green Lake Water Power Company (GLWP), combined with data from MDIFW, show that the timing and spring drawdown restrictions of the current license no longer reflect the best available science on arctic charr, and may even be causing harm to them. The summer and winter level restrictions should remain in condition 1A, but everything after that should be removed. MDIFW should specify any needed conditions for arctic charr in Green Lake. By putting fall drawdown conditions in the WQC, MDEP is removing the ability of MDIFW to do so. MDEP would also be hindering the ability of GLWP to provide enhanced recreational use of the lake at no danger to the arctic charr.

GLWP has been a good neighbor and excellent steward of the resource. We believe that GLWP should continue to operate its project in order to generate green hydroelectric energy, protect the Hatchery water supply, and provide the many significant recreational and aesthetic benefits that GLWP provides today.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Scott Oxley in blue ink.

Scott Oxley

Handwritten signature of Donna Oxley in blue ink.

Donna Oxley