

Nancy Patterson
41 Weymouth Way
April 12, 2024

Melanie Loyzim
Commissioner
State of Maine
Department of Environmental Protection
DEP-Hydropower@maine.gov

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

Dear Commissioner Loyzim:

For 48 years I have enjoyed Green Lake. My family has fished, swum, sailed, waterskied, paddled, hiked, ice skated, cross-country skied, and ice-fished from our camp which is very near the Green Lake Water Power (GLWP). I am on the Invasive Plant Patrol Team and the Green Lake Association Board and am also a loon counter. I work hard to steward this lake. I treasure the clean water, the beauty, and the opportunities for recreation that Green Lake offers. I share with you an utmost concern for our environment. I am grateful for the work of the DEP and am dedicated to conservation and the protection of our natural resources. Therefore, I am looking for common ground in understanding the conditions (3F-H) for Water Quality Certification as expressed in the draft for Green Lake Hydroelectric Project.

I need to understand the cost/benefit of requiring a fish passage from a warm water lake (Graham Lake) to a cold water lake (Green Lake) and what that has to do with the pristine water quality that has been maintained for years on the lake. I am concerned that Green Lake Water Power will not find the passage economically feasible and that we don't know if the passage will even be effective (if there is good reason for it) due to the differences in water temperature, lake levels, and habitat.

I am even more concerned that we don't know what benefit there will be to the species, habitats, and water quality now in Green Lake, and I wonder if there will be a cost in introducing disease and competition from invasive species that would negatively impact the species currently present. Green Lake is a unique cold water lake with a rare population of Arctic charr and land-locked Atlantic salmon. How will they and other species fare with competition? *I would like to see the fish passage requirement removed until further research is done and communicated.*

My other concern is the requirement for a drawdown date. With climate change, we have had warmer weather and warmer water later into the fall. The Green Lake Water Power (GLWP) has an excellent sense of when the best time would be for drawdown. It has kept the lake levels safe and appropriate for many years. I have full confidence that the GLWP can and will monitor water levels and complete the drawdown when it is most suitable for both wildlife and humans. I agree with the winter and summer level restrictions. *I would like to see the 1A conditions for the drawdown date removed.*

I want MDEP to grant WQC to GLWP with the above stipulations so that it can continue to operate its project in order to generate hydroelectric energy – a renewable resource – and provide the many significant recreational, aesthetic and environmental benefits that it does today. Let's find common ground and continue to **protect the environment**.

I strongly support my son Jed Patterson's comments to you. Thank you for hearing our concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy Patterson
Green Lake Camp Owner