

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 Ms. Loyzim:

We are writing you for your help and assistance to ensure that the ecology of Green Lake and the value of properties surrounding this beautiful natural resource are maintained. We recently completed the construction of our retirement dream home on Green Lake and moved in late last fall (2023). Doug is an avid fisherman and we are both nature enthusiasts. Green Lake is a unique cold water lake with a native population of arctic charr and landlocked salmon. The lake supports many fish species and we love our loons. Having recently gone through the building process, we have seen first-hand the numerous protections in place (e.g., setbacks, maintaining natural woodlots, etc.) to protect its natural beauty. In fact, our neighborhood had an in-home sprinkler system requirement to further protect the environment. We strongly believe in protecting natural resources for the benefit of all.

Through reading multiple correspondences between Green Lake Water Power company (GLWP) and various agencies, we learned that changes are being proposed that could seriously affect the ecology of Green Lake as well as the value of our new home. The hydroelectric project that is run by GLWP has been critical to maintaining the health of the lake. Their participation in the project will likely be compromised if responsible leaders do not step in to help.

We have 2 main concerns with more details related to these concerns below:

1. 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.
2. We also oppose the fall drawdown restrictions contained in condition 1A.

For concern #1, we have learned a number of reasons why fish passage requirements may not be appropriate for Green Lake. Most important among those is that upstream fish passage could introduce invasive species and upset the delicate ecosystem that currently thrives in the lake. Moreover, it is not clear that the regulating agency has “done its homework” and the associated

For concern #2, we were literally shocked to see the lake drawdown so early in the season and subsequently learned that there was not sound reasoning behind this timing. Although our new home was not yet built, we had a boat on the lake. We had to take it out in September because the lake level had dropped so much. 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.

We have learned from lake residents that the Green Lake Water Power company (GLWP) has been responsible and has done a good job taking care of the lake levels. They are a small business and they appear to care deeply about the lake environment. I think they should be allowed to keep using the hydroelectric power plant to make renewable energy while regulating the lake levels for fish, loons, property owners, and human recreation.

We are counting on our leaders to make good, informed decisions and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Douglas Stein and Mary Stein

Handwritten signatures of Douglas Stein and Mary Stein in cursive script.

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