Eric C. Doane

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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 Ms. Loyzim:

 My wife and I have been residents and taxpayers of Maine for 40 years. We are retired and currently in the process of relocating to Ellsworth and building a home on land we own on Green Lake. Our future plans will likely be determined by the regulatory decision in this case. It is doubtful that we would proceed with building plans given the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) current recommendations. Obviously, the DEP’s decision will impact the value of our real estate, local building contractors and the potential property taxes for the town of Ellsworth.

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, I am concerned that these conditions could render hydroelectric generation and operation of the project uneconomic. The cost of constructing a fish passage likely will make it too expensive to keep running the hydroelectric project at Green Lake.

The Green Lake Water Power (GLWP) has been a good neighbor and excellent steward of the resource. I believe that GLWP should continue to operate its project in order to generate hydroelectric energy – a renewable resource – and provide the many significant recreational and aesthetic benefits that GLWP provides today. Lacking in the DEP’s recommendation is any consideration of the costs for a small power generator such as GLWP to implement those recommendations. From our standpoint, the DEP’s recommendations provide doubtful environmental and fish species benefit while negatively impacting the current fish and loon population, property owners and human recreation.

Thank you for your consideration.

 Sincerely,

 Eric C. Doane

Kimberly C. Doane

Sen. Nicole Grohoski Nicole.Grohoski@legislature.maine.gov

Rep. J. Mark Worth James.Worth@legislature.maine.gov