



Seneca Falls Power Corp. ORIGINAL

Hydroelectric Operations & Management

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

October 1, 2008

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code DHAC 12.2
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Seneca Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC License No. 2438
Seneca Falls Power Corporation (SFPC)
Locking and Low Water Levels**

Dear Ms. Bose:

Please see the attached letter directed to Ms. Carmella Mantello of the New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC) dated October 1, 2008 regarding locking and low water levels. This submission consists of 9 copies.

Sincerely,



Ron Kilmartin

RFK:dp

Enclosure: Letter to Carmella Mantello dated October 1, 2008, NYSCC



Seneca Falls Power Corp.

Hydroelectric Operations & Management

October 1, 2008

Ms. Carmella R. Mantello
Director
New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC)
200 Southern Blvd.
P.O. Box 189
Albany, New York 12201-0189

SUBJECT: FERC Project #2438-020 - New York
Seneca Falls Power Corporation (SFPC)
Locking and Low Water Levels

Reference: 1. SFPC letter to NYSCC 081508 Subject as above
2. NYSCC letter to SFPC 091008
3. SFPC letter to NYSCC 091708
4. NYSCC letter to SFPC 092508

Dear Ms. Mantello:

We do not question the absolute first priority water rights of the NYSCC. We were attempting to solicit cooperation to reduce the current impact of the dry conditions on Seneca Lake. While remnants of the recent hurricane have hit the lakes both west and east of Seneca Lake, Seneca Lake has remained an isolated island of dry conditions.

Due to the low waters at Seneca Lake, all SFPC discharges from the Seneca Falls Power Plant were suspended several weeks ago, so that all flows indicated on the USGS gage at Highway 89 are solely due to discharge from Locks 2 and 3. Attached are printouts of elevation (NGVD) and discharge September 1 to 29, 2008.

The only discharge from Seneca Lake that is under SFPC control has been the Waterloo discharge needed to make up for lockage discharge needed in order to maintain Van Cleef Lake levels. There are two operational priorities for the Waterloo Plant that trump meeting the rule curves during drought: 1) Minimum daily flow and 2) maintain Van Cleef lake levels within the rule curve for navigation.

The water level at the highway 89 USGS gage is basically the same as Cayuga Lake; the attached graph of water level at the gage indicates a drop from El 382.15 to El 381.15 (NGVD), or a loss of 1.0 feet in the interval from September 1 to 29, 2008. This would seem to parallel the drop at Seneca Lake over this period, and to confirm a general drought condition in this part of New York, as noted in the USGS map transmitted with Reference 3.

Sincerely,



Ron Kilmartin

Enclosures:

1. USGS hydrograph of instantaneous discharge at Station 0423730 September 1-29, 2008.
3. USGS hydrograph of gage height at Station 0423730, September 1-29, 2008.

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