



535 Lansing Station Road  
Lansing, NY 14882  
March 10, 2006

OEP/DHAC  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Sir or Madame:

I represent the Finger Lakes Ecology Association (FLEA), a group that concerns itself with the water levels of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, the two largest Finger Lakes in New York State. Since its founding in 1993, FLEA has advocated applying the sciences of hydrology, climatology, geology, and hydraulic engineering to the management of water levels in Seneca Lake, Cayuga Lake, and the New York State Barge Canal downstream to Baldwinsville, NY. Some of our members who own marine businesses on and/or live on Seneca Lake have become very concerned because the water level of Seneca Lake is below the range that the Seneca Falls Power Corporation is required to maintain for this time of year. People cannot get their boats in the water and even worse, some shore-side residential water systems cannot get water because the lake level is lower than normal.

FLEA has observed that Seneca Falls Power Corporation has consistently maintained Seneca Lake above the required levels each winter; however, Seneca Lake levels have now dropped below the required levels associated with the Hansen Plan Rule Curve. Seneca Lake is presently at elevation 444.8 feet as measured at gauges at Watkins Glen, Dresden, and Geneva, NY as of March 9th. The attached graph downloaded from the New York State Canal Corporation's website demonstrates that this level is below the required range of lake water levels for early March (please see the bright red line on left-hand side of the graph).

The level of Seneca Lake has a direct impact on the lake's ecology, as well as the negative impacts to property owners surrounding Seneca Lake, including but not limited to, shallow shore wells, fishing boat charters, and the impact of low water levels on seawalls and docks due to frost heaving. **We are all very concerned about the low water level because there is no snow pack this year that will melt and replenish the water levels of the Finger Lakes that have been lowered in the usual way for the winter season.**

FLEA understands that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has regulatory oversight over the Seneca Falls Power Corporation operation of their Waterloo and Seneca Falls hydroelectric generation facilities (Project #2438). Could FERC inform FLEA (at the Lansing, NY address above) about what steps they are taking to ensure that Seneca Falls Power Corporation is operating within the FERC license requirements to minimize the negative impacts that low lake levels are having on Seneca Lake's ecology and marine businesses and on the surrounding lake shore residents?

Thank you very much for your immediate attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Donna L. Scott  
President  
Finger Lakes Ecology Association