

ORIGINAL

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**FINGER LAKES ECOLOGY ASSOCIATION**

4692 COOLS DRIVE, GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456



535 Lansing Station Road  
Lansing, NY 14882

P-2438

JUL 29 2008  
FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY OF THE  
COMMISSION

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
OEP/DHAC  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Ms. Salas:

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 it's 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 has again been below the range that the Seneca Falls Power Corporation is required to maintain for this time of year. Several people have complained to our organization that they cannot get their boats out of hoists and into the water and that sail boat keels are getting stuck in the mud at marinas.

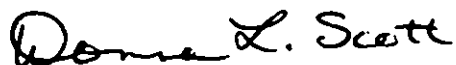
We wrote to your agency about this problem in 2006; we appreciate your efforts at that time, and since then, to help bring the Seneca Falls Power Corporation into compliance with their contract. Several times this summer Seneca Lake water levels have dropped below the required levels associated with the Hansen Plan Rule Curve (446.0 ± 0.1 feet). The attached graph downloaded from the New York State Canal Corporation's website demonstrates that this level has been below the required range of lake water levels for summer (please see the bright red line on left-hand side of the graph). Due to the presence of rock shelves that extend far out from many shores of Seneca Lake, even moderately low water has a negative effect on the ability of residents and marinas to use their docks, hoists and boats. Since tourism in summer and fall is a major business in the Finger Lakes, we are concerned about possible negative impacts on this part of our local economy.

Since 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 please inform FLEA (at the Lansing, NY

address above) about what steps they will take 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 marine businesses and on the surrounding lake shore residents?

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

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna L. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Donna L. Scott

President

Finger Lakes Ecology Association (FLEA)

Cc:

NYS Senator George H. Winner, Jr.

NYS Senator Michael Nozzolio

NYS Assemblyman Brian Kolb

NYS Assemblyman Robert Oaks

Last Modified: 07/17/2008

### SENECA LAKE LEVEL at GENEVA - 2008

