



Letters

B-G seeking new license

Dear Editor,

After nearly 38 years living near and working at the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) Blenheim-Gilboa Hydroelectric Power Project (B-G), I feel a true sense of pride acknowledging that B-G will turn 50 in a few short years.

This milestone will coincide with the expiration of B-G's operating license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and this upcoming milestone signals that it's now time to embark on the license renewal process.

On April 10, the Power Authority announced it would pursue a new license through FERC's multiyear rigorous process that encourages public participation.

It is anticipated the process will conclude in 2019 with a new license.

So, whether you bring your children to B-G's visitors center events, fish our stocked reservoirs or hike our trails—some of the most beautiful anywhere—a new license will ensure these community enhancements continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

The opening step for seeking a new license involves filing a legal Notice of Intent and a Pre-Application Document with FERC, copies of which are available at NYPA's new relicensing website: www.bg.nypa.gov

B-G is a pumped-storage hydropower plant that operates like a giant storage battery, holding water in its upper reservoir until needed, then releasing it into the turbines that spin to create electricity.

B-G's energy storage ability is critical to the safety, reliability and security of New York State's electric power grid.

At a moment's notice, B-G can supply power to help strengthen a stressed grid during times of high electricity use, like heat waves, when the risk of outages is greatest.

Though the plant has never been a particularly big revenue generator in the electricity marketplace, the Power

Authority is pursuing a new license because of B-G's extraordinary value to the operation of the state's power system.

The completion in 2010 of a four-year, multi-million dollar overhaul of B-G's four pump-turbine generating units further highlights the Power Authority's unwavering commitment to the project's operating excellence and long-term importance.

With a full-time work force of approximately 150 employees, the majority of whom live in Schoharie County with their families, and an annual payroll of about \$12 million, B-G also delivers significant value for the area economy.

Under Power Authority stewardship, you can be confident the recreational, educational, environmental and energy benefits you have come to enjoy will be maintained, so that B-G can continue to play an integral and varied role in our community and in New York State.

Lynn Hait

NYPA regional manager