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August 8, 2014

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project 2685-026

Dear Ms. Bose,

Please be advised the overall relationship between the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage operation and local government needs to be revisited.

When the power plant was originally licensed, over a third of the land in the Town of Blenheim and a sizable portion in the Town of Gilboa was removed from the tax rolls. I am told under the law this is legal. This has created an undue hardship on the two towns stated previously as well as the Town of Conesville which lies in the school district affected by the property tax exemption enjoyed by NYPA. As a result of the tax revenue loss, the cost per student is more than triple than that in several other parts of Schoharie County.

What little NYPA has contributed to the surrounding communities pales when considering the services provided and property tax liability if the power plant was privately or corporate owned. As I stated, NYPA is said not to be legally liable for property taxes but there is a fairness issue to be considered in light of the negative financial impact by the loss of tax revenues to the affected towns and county. Until NYPA is willing to enter in a sincere discussion with an outcome that is reasonable for all parties I would have difficulty supporting their relicensing.

William A. Federice, Supervisor

Document Content(s)

FERC Letter.DOCX.....1-1