

TOWN OF BLENHEIM

1748 State Route 30

N. Blenheim NY 12131

518-827-6115

July 28, 2014

To: Secretary Kimberly D. Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426
FERC Docket No. P-2685

cc: Andrew Berrick
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Products
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Title: Town of Blenheim Resolution #15 of 2014

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Town of Blenheim hereby offers the following comments and suggestions regarding studies and issues to be considered when determining whether FERC should grant the New York State Power Authority a new license to operate its Bleheim-Gilboa Pump Storage Power Plant (hereinafter referred to as "B-G Plant").

The Town of Blenheim requests that a socio economic study be completed in an effort to determine the extent of the extreme financial burden that has been placed upon the Town of Blenheim as a result of the B-G Plant's operation within our Town. Our Town lost nearly 1/3 of its tax base as a result of the B-G's confiscation of property through eminent domain and we receive no benefits from the New York State Power Authority. Furthermore, our Town's school district lost a substantial amount of it's own tax base. Additionally, our Town is tasked with providing all of the essential services to the B-G Plant. Our Town's Blenheim Hose Company provides emergency fire protection services to the Plant. Our Town is also tasked with maintaining the roads and infrastructure in the vicinity of the B-G Plant. Our Town contracts

with and pays an ambulance squad to provide emergency medical services to our residents, and consequently we pay to provide emergency medical services to the 150 plus employees at the B-G Plant. As you can imagine these financial constraints placed upon us by the B-G Plant have resulted in our Town's near inability to adequately serve our residents. In order to provide these services to the B-G Plant without any tax revenue to offset the expenditures, our Town is forced to charge our Town residents one of the highest tax rates in our entire County; meanwhile our Town can only provide minimal services to our residents.

The Town of Blenheim further requests that a hydrology study be undertaken to determine whether the B-G Plant can operate in a manner that will reduce the amount of flooding in the Town of Blenheim. The Town of Blenheim is directly affected by the acts that the B-G Plant undertakes in operating its facility as the facility's lower reservoir and tainter gates are in the Town of Blenheim. Many residents of our Town live on the banks of the Schoharie Creek and with the recent increase in rain and hurricanes the majority of our Town suffers from catastrophic flooding. The B-G Plant appears to have the ability to limit flooding within our Town, and through the entire Schoharie valley, however the New York State Power Authority has told our Town on multiple occasions that they are unwilling to protect the Town from flooding because FERC does not allow such action to be taken. The B-G Plant appears to be the perfect flood control facility as its lower reservoir could provide a holding tank for rain during high water events if it was drained down prior to the storm. Similarly, during heavy rain the facility could remove water from the Schoharie Creek by pumping it up to their upper reservoir if that was adequately drained down prior to anticipated storms. The Town of Blenheim respectfully requests that a study be done to determine the B-G Plant's ability to reduce flooding during heavy rain; and if the ability exists the Town requests that any issuance of a new license be contingent upon the facilities willingness to engage in flood mitigation.

Another concern is security. In the 1960's when the Power Authority was first conceived in Blenheim, security was not a major concern. Times have changed since then. After subsequent meetings with Power Authority personnel, there were some upgrades made but not sufficient to discourage or dissuade any thoughts of a criminal act against the facility. We implore FERC to use its influence to urge the Power Authority to seek an independent authority such as "Homeland Security" or others who have knowledge and background to make suggestions.

History has taught us to learn from our mistakes or we are destined to repeat them.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON LETTER Submission

Supervisor: Shawn J. Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> ___No	<input type="checkbox"/> ___Absent
Councilman: Joseph Ward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> ___No	<input type="checkbox"/> ___Absent
Councilman: Chester Keyser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> ___No	<input type="checkbox"/> ___Absent
Councilman: Anne Mattice-Strauch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> ___No	<input type="checkbox"/> ___Absent
Councilman: Renee Grabowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> ___No	<input type="checkbox"/> ___Absent

Date: August 4, 2014

Robin Alley, Town Clerk

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