

Through lessons learned from the record storm and flooding of 2011 which resulted in millions of dollars of property damage downstream from the NYPA facility – NYPA's position IS that its dam - is designed and operated as a dam that is NOT to be a flood mitigation or control device – whatever flows in, flows out. They have also indicated that this is due to their Operating Plan regulations.

It would be important to have that portion of their Operating Plan studied and changed to consider and offer protection to those persons who live downstream, the condition and impacts to the Schoharie Creek, and those properties that are immediately and directly affected by any release.

While it has been strongly argued that through the Hurricane Irene storm where NYPA could not get their gates to operate and open, when they finally got them operational, thus lowering the water level behind their earthen dam which, if that had been breached, would have been catastrophic,,,,, had their EAP allowed for early releases of water, draw down of their upper and/or lower reservoir, some of the devastation that occurred, like the destruction of the Blenheim Covered Bridge, may have been prevented.

It should be noted that NYPA stated it had to activate their Emergency Action Plan for the first time in its history during the 2011 event and this would also point to the fact that it should be studied and revised.

Another issue, made even more obvious with the storm, is the need for cellular and internet coverage in our area and the NYPA location. NYPA has been asked to assist the county and the area in getting coverage. We understand that NYPA has taken steps to get cellular and internet to their facility but has done very little to bring these services to the area in general. We feel this was done to satisfy their own self-interests and they have little regard for their host towns and neighbors. This is also demonstrated by their lack of notification to the Town of Blenheim, and Schoharie County Emergency Management Office of their standard releases, of construction projects or other work that occurs at the facility.

It is my opinion that this facility does little to nothing directly FOR the Town of Blenheim – I would like to be shown how this is incorrect and request a study

showing how they have aided the Town that has lost a substantial amount of real estate and real property taxes due to this facility would and should be requested.

In addition, a full Environmental Impact Statement should be demanded to verify that this facility is in total compliance with the EPA.

We hope FERC will take this opportunity to review and ask for modifications to the Operating Plan of this facility, require a full Environmental Impact Study and evaluate if a new license should be issued to a facility that gives such little consideration for its host community.

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Document Content(s)

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