

RECEIVED
10/19/18

October 2, 2018

Shannon Ames, Executive Director
Low Impact Hydropower Institute
329 Massachusetts Ave. Suite 2
Lexington, MA 02420

Re: Flooding and Ecological Damage of Beaver Lake

Dear Ms. Ames,

Verplanc Colvin surveyed the Adirondacks about 1874 using a method of triangulation to locate mountains and lakes and their elevations. He laid out a baseline on the ice of Lake Champlain and finished with a baseline on Beaver Lake. In the 1930's power plants were built on the Beaver River; one of which was on the lake's inlet (Moshier) and one on the lake's outlet (Eagle Falls). Since the construction of these plants, the elevation of Beaver Lake has risen from 1425' in 1912 to 1426.8' in 1989. This increase of lake elevation has caused serious shoreline erosion and the undermining of root systems of old growth trees around the entire lake. The eroded soil is settling on the bottom of the lake and covering the natural sand and gravel, giving aquatic vegetation a fertile bed to grow on.

Every Labor Day weekend the power company entertains kayakers with a four hour 400 cfs release of water from the bottom of Moshier Reservoir. This release sends tons of sediment into Beaver Lake where the power company

impounds the water and the sediment settles onto the bottom of the lake.

The erratic lake levels caused by the power company have caused considerable damage to the ecology of the lake and personal property. The power company owns gauges at Moshier and Eagle Falls power plants that show them the water level changes on Beaver Lake to be more than some of their reservoirs.

Water comes into Beaver Lake through a 10' diameter pipe from Moshier Dam. Water leaves Beaver Lake through a 9' diameter pipe. There are six named streams that enter the lake. Moshier Plant discharges 660 cfs at maximum operation and Eagle Falls Plant discharges a maximum of 650 cfs. In a rain event... it is impossible for the power company NOT to cause flooding on Beaver Lake!

I have been on Beaver Lake for more than 67 years and have witnessed that most of the environmental damage has happened since about 1996. Before 1996 the one foot high flash boards were removed before winter and replaced after loon nesting in late July. Removal of these flash boards or the installation of high capacity release gate would ease the pressure now put on the Beaver Lake environment.

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With more water coming into the lake than the power company can physically let out; because of man-made restrictions, I suggest they not be re-licensed until the problem they caused be corrected.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Miller

Peter J. Miller
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