

October 1, 2018

Shannon Ames, Executive Director  
Low Impact Hydropower Institute  
329 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 2  
Lexington, MA02420

Re: Flooding and Ecological Damage of Beaver Lake

Dear Ms Ames,

My grandfather built a summer camp on Beaver River just below the outlet of Beaver Lake in 1935, and I have been coming here for most of those summers since 1936. Beaver Lake is a natural lake formed by a glacier, and is not a reservoir caused by a dam. For many of the years that I came to camp, Beaver Lake remained as a natural lake with natural and fairly minor fluctuations in water level. In the last 36 years I have had the blessing of living on Beaver River from May to October. During those 36 years we have had major problems with our property as Beaver Lake is now used as a reservoir. On many occasions the residents have tried calling the people in charge of the dams at both Stillwater and Eagle Falls to request that they coordinate the release of water at these dams, but have had no positive results.

The shoreline of my camp is undercut by at least 40 inches; trees have fallen in the water as the root systems of those trees were no longer supported, and the whole river bank will collapse one day. This widens the river and diminishes the size of the property over time.

The water level of Beaver Lake and Beaver River at the inlet and outlet can vary as much as several feet. Sometimes there is so little water in my boathouse that I can hardly get my boat all the way in the slip, and yet often there is so much water the catwalks are not usable and I can't get to the boat at all. In 2011 the water level was halfway up the wall of the boathouse, a rise of several feet. This amount of water was not caused only by rainfall, but by not coordinating the release of water at the dams, and the result is damage to our boathouse supports and structure, which need repair much too often. I am enclosing photographs to illustrate the fluctuations of the water.

Across the river from my camp there was a shallow area and wetland where blue heron traditionally fished, as well as loons. The high water and the melting of the spring ice have taken all that area away and we no longer have the birds feeding there.

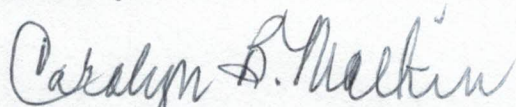
We always have had at least one loon pair nesting on Beaver Lake every year, and sometimes two pairs. Now the nests seem to be flooded out every year due to the fluctuating water level, and there are no chicks for this protected species.

We come here to enjoy the environment and the wonderful wildlife, and do not understand why it is not valued. Our property deteriorates and the wildlife thrives less. Please help us protect the environment in our special place.



We at Beaver Lake hope that the Institute will help the property owners and taxpayers resolve these problems before the recertification goes through. It would seem that up until the present time, no one has listened to the residents, and we hope that a plan can be developed to give us some relief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn B. Malkin".

Carolyn B. Malkin  
202 Springview Court  
Louisville, KY 40243  
and  
9710 Fairview Lane  
Lowville, NY 13367



Photographs #1 and 2 This boathouse was built in the 1950s. The catwalks and supports have had to be rebuilt because of the flooding.

There are 4 distinct levels showing on boathouse wall in these photos:

- #1 The lower gray line shows a usual fluctuation from the "normal" level of the water and the level often reaches this level, making the catwalks and access to the boathouse unusable.
- #2 A lighter tan line is a level than sometimes reaches this level.
- #3 A slightly darker line shows the level the water reached in 2011, which put half the boathouse half under water, - a rise of about 5 feet or more?

### Photograph #3

This is a photograph of the beautiful wetland across the river. At one time it was wider and more shallow and supported fishing for the blue heron and the loons. The water levels are often high when the ice forms and it tears the water plants from the edge of the wetland when the ice goes out in the spring, ruining this as a feeding area for the wild life.





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Shannon, Essex  
Low Impact Hydro  
329 Massachusetts A  
Lexington, MA 02422  
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