

Certification Comments <comments@lowimpacthydro.org>

Beaver River Project Comments

1 message

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To: comments@lowimpacthydro.org

Hello. I am writing concerning the Low Impact Hydropower Institute's recertification of Brookfield Power, Inc. Beaver River Project, FERC No. 2645. My family and I have owned an island on Beaver Lake for over 40 years. My mother passed away in September, and my sister and I are carrying on the legacy of her favorite place in the world.

Brookfield Power holds water at levels in the lake that are too high. They have refused to remove flashboards or open the spillway at Eagle Falls to release excess water, despite the LIHI Certification Handbook Questionnaire stating that the flashboards are to be removed "in the fall..."

Since our entire property is ringed by shoreline, we are especially susceptible to the effects of erosion due to excessively high water levels. We have seen our property shrink over the years, and this is very disturbing. A comparison of aerial photographs taken in the 1940s and in the past few years shows a significant reduction in shoreline.

Indeed, the effects of shoreline erosion can be seen all around the lake as one travels by boat. There are sandbars downriver which increase drastically in size each year as the result of accelerated sedimentation processes upstream. Loons' nests have also been flooded on several occasions, resulting the loss of eggs. (Note that common loons are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.) Water quality is also affected by the large amounts of silt and sludge that are being deposited into our lake. During one recent high water discharge event, water that is normally clear and fast moving was notably murky with silt, and this is not the first time that this has been observed near the Moshier Station.

I request that LIHI deny recertification of the Beaver River Project until Brookfield Power develops a plan that meets the various standards of LIHI, including preserving water quality, maintaining shoreline, and providing safe habitat for loons and other species. This plan must include input from, and be satisfactory to, all Beaver Lake property owners.

Sincerely,
Joshua C. Garbarino