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Date: Thu, May 22, 2014 at 7:05 AM
Subject: Raquette Project Comments
To: dhall@lowimpacthydro.org
Cc: Richard McDonald <rpmcdona@gw.dec.state.ny.us>

to Low Impact Hydropower Institute:

I wish to comment on the performance of Brookfield Renewable (Erie Hydropower) in these Raquette licenses. I participated in the settlement agreement in the late 1990s and have been a regular member of the Raquette River Advisory Council (RRAC) since then. I designed, built and manage a hiking trail on Brookfield land in the Middle Raquette area. So I am familiar with the licensee's performance on "recreation and cultural preservation."

I give the licensee good marks for the recreational opportunities it maintains in the new license, for paddlers, walkers, and soon (we expect) cyclists. Fishing platforms have been built, and, when damaged by storms, rebuilt. Enhancement of whitewater events at Stone Valley with improved safety, information, and viewing has also nearly at the construction phase. The licensee sets aside money each year in the RRAC for applicants who wish to enhance or introduce recreational or preservation features.

Historic preservation, particularly along the Stone Valley recreation area in the Middle Raquette, has been addressed as illustrated by its support for the plans to interpret with signage the old mills like the tannery in the Stone Valley area.

The licensee has fallen behind on repairs on features built when the new license began (c. 2003) and before, such as picnic facilities and signage at boat launches on the upper and lower Raquette, but I remain optimistic it will perform those eventually.

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