

Michael P Galime, Utica, NY.
To whom it may concern:

My comments and requests are regarding the Jarvis re-licensing P3211-009.

As a long time resident of Utica, NY I have grown up using the shores of Hinckley Reservoir, frequenting the state park, and utilized the water as a resource through MVWA. Most recently have become the City of Utica Common Council President.

My main concern is that the Hinckley reservoir, and its available capacity and flow have been re-purposed multiple times - while treating each instance exclusively. This has created a stacked use where the watershed is overused and spread too thin.

The increased complaints from recreational users and land owners have historically been treated as a nuisance. This is wrong. Reports should be a signal that there is much truth behind the overuse of the watershed outflow.

I am requesting the following be studied and considered during the re-licensing.

1. The capacity of the reservoir, dependent on water level needs to be measured. Recently, over the past decade, the basin of the reservoir has been in flux. At 5, 10, and 15 foot water levels below the crest of ogee, there are new sand bar structures and less depth. The new and original flow diagrams are dependent on how much water was in reserve. Water levels are dropping at a rate higher than expected. This could be due to incorrect calculations based on reduced capacity. The increased velocity and volume that has been taken from the reservoir in the spring and summer months has resulted in ever increasing silting. This does cause issues for boating, however, this is concerning because if the capacity is getting less each year, the level of the water at agreed upon rates will become more volatile and eventually unable to meet the demand of the shared outflow uses.

2. All current uses and contracts should be considered. The MVWA and Canal are the main purpose for the reservoir, and its original intent. There are now power dams between Jarvis and the Canal, and along the canal going south. all of which are using the reservoir releases. Some of these releases are contracted regardless of current water capacity conditions. The navigational releases are also suspect.

3. Wildlife should be considered. There is a new bald eagle population that is growing. There is increased Loon activity, as well as other aquatic species. The level of the reservoir is vital to maintaining the northern portions of the West Canada as well.

4. A new method for release should be considered. Between the months of May and October, there should be a range in which the main reservoir is maintained. Within that range rates could be negotiated, but this will

insure that capacity is there if it is ultimately needed. In 2007 the current range was taken to the extreme, almost cutting Utica's water supply.

5. A fund should be considered for the maintenance of the reservoir basin. The fund gain revenues from for-profit sale of water. As each new use is created, it would appear no other reservoirs are created, and in my lifetime, the decision was made to remove one - the Grey Dam removal. It would make sense to contribute to a fund that may allow the basin to be dredged in the upper and lower areas of the reservoir.

In closing, measuring the current capacity at the different water levels between minimum and maximum elevation is a must, and the flow diagrams need to be treated as a method of maintaining the watershed - reducing the silt process - rather than just the maintaining the water level.

Regards,
Michael Galime
City of Utica, Common Council President
Comment regarding: P3211-009

Document Content(s)

68903.TXT.....1-2