



Cayuga Lake Watershed Network  
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November 24, 2025

Jonathan Stercho  
NYSDEC Region 7 Headquarters  
5786 Widewaters Pkwy  
Syracuse, NY 13214  
dep.r7@dec.ny.gov

RE:  
SPDES PERMIT: NY0001333  
Water Withdrawal Permit: WSA # 11,753

Dear Mr. Stercho,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the aforementioned permits. The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) is an independent nonprofit organization supported by over 400 members. Our mission is to advocate for the health of Cayuga Lake and its 870 square mile watershed, and our programs promote science-backed community education and engagement. We advocate for robust environmental policies, collaborating with government agencies and engaging with the wide range of stakeholders in our community to develop science-based solutions to environmental challenges in the watershed.

CLWN would like to **thank the Department for its work to reduce limits on the SPDES and Water Withdrawal permits that reflect the shuttered state of the Cayuga Power Plant and efforts to reduce its impact on Cayuga Lake.**

While we appreciate the effort the Department has dedicated to this, we respectfully request that it **extends the public comment period by 90 days and holds a public hearing.** CLWN remains concerned about the continued impact of the coal ash leachate and stormwater runoff at this site and needs additional time to review and consult with the Department regarding these issues.

As you are aware, there is significant public concern around the power plant and the impacts of its previous use on the lake and surrounding communities. Additionally, as noted in the draft SPDES permit, there has not been a technical review of the site since 2010, and its use has shifted dramatically. A public hearing would give the Department the opportunity to

inform the public about the continued work to reduce the site's impact on the lake and our communities.

Additionally, we request that the Department **extend the public comment period for the water withdrawal permit specifically to allow time for the public to review the documents, since they were not made available online.** This also gives the public the opportunity to more fully understand the impact of the power plant's water usage. As stated in the draft SPDES permit, the boilers have been removed from the power plant, leaving many in the community wondering why there is a continued need for more than 1 million gallons of water to be withdrawn from Cayuga Lake every day. The SPDES permit states that the water from the lake is being used to wash equipment, and is not used for cooling. This raises concern about the use of this water and what contaminants it is potentially discharging into Cayuga Lake. **CLWN requests that the Department hold hearings around these permits in order to clarify these very reasonable community concerns.**

The watershed communities around Cayuga Lake continue to be concerned about the legacy of toxic pollution into the lake from the Cayuga Power Plant. CLWN appreciates the opportunity to highlight these concerns and strongly encourages the Department to increase the public comment period to give more time for transparent and public review of the permits associated with this legacy polluter.

Sincerely,



Liz Kreitinger  
Steward/Executive Director  
Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

cc:

Dereth Glance, Regional Administrator, NYSDEC Region 7  
Kevin Balduzzi, Regional Permit Administrator, NYSDEC - Region 7  
Lorraine Holdridge, Section Chief, Bureau of Water Permits, Division of Water, NYSDEC  
Anna Kelles, Assemblyperson, District 125, NYS Assembly  
Lea Webb, State Senator, 58th Senate District, NYS Senate