



Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
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December 19, 2025

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

RE: Cayuga Power Plant – SPDES & Water Withdrawal Permits – Request for Public Hearing
SPDES PERMIT: NY0001333
Water Withdrawal Permit: WSA # 11,753

Mr. Stercho,

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments. 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 extending the public comment period for the permits and recognizing the need for the community to be able to have some more time to discuss this issue.

CLWN respectfully requests that the DEC hold public hearings on these permits.

As the Department is well-aware, the Cayuga Power Plant shuttered five years ago and during that time the current state of the site, as well as its impact on the surrounding environment has left the community with many questions. These include, but are not limited to:

- Why the site still needs 1M GPD of water from the lake
- Why the proposed monitoring levels were implemented
- When will those monitoring levels be revised?

- How will the public know how the site is impacting the lake through its stormwater runoff and other contaminated discharge?

And finally, while CLWN is fully aware that these permits are not associated with the proposed datacenter, the community would appreciate clarification from the DEC on how these permits do or do not fit into that process.

Again, we are very grateful for the DEC's work to reduce the pollutant loads into Cayuga Lake and for extending the time CLWN and other organizations have to submit comments.

We thank you for your time and considering our request to include a public hearing in the response and process associated with these permits.

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