



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

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Office of the Assistant Commissioner
PO Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
609-292-3541/Fax: 609-984-0836

CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

BOB MARTIN
COMMISSIONER

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

July 14, 2010

Mrs. Ella Filippone, NJ Chair
Mr. Steve DeFeo, NY Chair
Greenwood Lake Commission
P.O. Box 1110
Greenwood Lake, NY 11025

Dear Commissioner Filippone and Defeo:

I am responding to your request for a drawdown of Greenwood Lake beginning September 2010 to conduct dock and bulkhead repairs on properties around Greenwood Lake.

The DEP approves the request for a drawdown. However, there are several concerns and conditions that must be addressed in your plan before proceeding.

Most importantly, the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will not be financially responsible for the drawdown of Greenwood Lake. Any costs associated with the drawdown are the responsibility of the Greenwood Lake Commission.

Also, while the Commission is requesting the DEP waive the requirement for a walkway between Storm Island in West Milford Township and the mainland, the DEP does not require a temporary walkway be constructed in order to approve the draw down plan. Storm Island lies within the jurisdictional boundaries of West Milford Township and questions on access during the drawdown should be directed to the township.

As for the Commission's request for the five (5) foot draw down to begin September 1 and continue to February 1, we recommend that the drawdown begin after the summer season following Labor Day. We further suggest that a later date after February 1 be chosen as a refill date as we believe icy conditions will still exist on the lake.

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Our specific comments and suggestions are provided below and should be incorporated into the final plan:

I. Introduction (page 4 – paragraph 5) – Please replace “Because Greenwood Lake is an important recreational resource that is dependent upon a stable water level and because the lake also supplies water flow to the Wanaque River, Monksville Reservoir and the Wanaque Reservoir, this plan addresses potable water distribution, and public recreation as well as the issue of the trout stocked waters below the dam.” **with** “Because Greenwood Lake is an important recreational resource that is dependent upon a stable water level and because the lake also supplies water flow to the Wanaque River, Monksville Reservoir and the Wanaque Reservoir, this plan addresses protection of aquatic biota, potable water distribution, and public recreation including the trout stocked waters located downstream.”

II. Goal (page 4) – The current goal as written indicates the plan is to improve lake habitat through aquatic weed control and provide an opportunity for dock repairs while maintaining downstream flows. It does not address manipulation of the water level. We suggest the following:

“To maximize recreational opportunities at Greenwood Lake, and provide opportunity for improvements and repairs to shoreline structures through a scheduled water level management plan while providing for the protection of the aquatic resources located with and downstream of the lake, while maintaining minimum passing flow requirements and potable water uses.”

II. Goal (page 4) – Move specific reference and criteria of three MGD passing flow requirements from goal and place under “Considerations.”

III. Considerations, Procedures, and Facts (page 5) – Please rename this section “Facts” and include all information currently listed under the three sections. As indicated under Goals above, information on minimum passing flow requirements should also be incorporated into this section.

The wording in the last sentence is unclear (Section III. Item A. Considerations #5) – “Instability in reservoir intake may adversely impact waters delivery operations at the Wanaque Reservoir.” Is the wording correct as the meaning is unclear – a water level condition related to the intake or a water quality issue related to the inflowing waters. Since the water must first make its way through the Monksville Reservoir and into the Wanaque Reservoir is it even relevant?

On Pages 5 & 6 Section III. Item B. Procedures #s 1 & 2 – are these really facts? Shouldn't sections B and C be combined?

IV. Drawdown Schedule (page 6) – Item 1 of the drawdown schedule indicates the lowering will occur beginning with this winter and then occur every four years thereafter, but not to conflict with the drawdown of Lake Hopatcong. This concern needs to be