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As President of the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association (LGIA) I am writing to reflect our concern about the possible sale of the Cisco Dam and its removal from the Bond Falls Project License. Our concern is solely based on the loss of one of three sources of supply for the Victoria Reservoir. Recent years have placed undue stress on the Lake Gogebic Reservoir as the primary supply for maintaining adequate flow to Victoria. The site repair and improvements required on the Bond Falls Reservoir coupled with dry season allowances have caused low water conditions on Lake Gogebic. The elevations in the license do not allow reasonable/usable levels, particularly for property owners, on Gogebic. With the uncertainty of return to "normal" weather patterns as contemplated in the license the possibility of poor spring run-off and subsequent drought conditions will exacerbate the issue. The removal of the Cisco source from the picture seems inappropriate. Maintenance and operation of the Cisco Dam will not be an undue burden for Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) to continue. The interest of the property owners group on the Cisco Chain in controlling water levels is no different than those interested in the same thing for Lake Gogebic.

Currently all bodies of water that now feed the supply for power generation on the Ontonagon River System are included in the license provisions. The LGIA sees no logic to favor one group of property owners over the interest's of another.

The LGIA has made sincere effort to establish positive and open communication with UPPCO relative to water level and related issues. Our comments are in no way meant to be a criticism of UPPCO but rather a recognition of the ultimate responsibility of FERC to protect and defend the interests of all affected parties.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective.

Document Content(s)

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