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March 2, 2005

Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary
NYS Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

RE: CASE 05-M-0090

Dear Ms. Brillling:

The Adirondack Landowners Association represents the private owners of approximately one quarter of a million acres of land located within the Adirondack Park. These private lands include hundreds of lakes, ponds, streams and wetlands that have been heavily impacted by acid deposition and other forms of chemical pollution. The ALA is a strong supporter of efforts to control acid deposition and protect New York's water resources.

The ALA supports extension of the System Benefits Charge (SBC) Program at the fullest level for at least another 5 years. The SBC has been a major source of support for the Adirondack Long Term Monitoring (LTM) project. For the last 21 years, LTM has collected and analyzed monthly water samples from 52 lakes throughout the Park. This is the longest, uninterrupted record of water chemistry in the Adirondacks. It has helped to establish New York State as an international leader in lake acidification monitoring; and it has provided policymakers with reliable data upon which to determine long term trends and make sound environmental policy decisions.

It is critical that LTM continue its research work. Proposed changes to federal air quality standards and rules threaten the progress New York has made in reversing the damage caused by decades of unregulated chemical pollution. Without an ongoing record of baseline data upon which to assess the impact of these changes, New York will not be in a position to evaluate these impacts or develop strategies for dealing with them.

LTM is the most effective and reliable source for long term, scientific data on water chemistry in the Adirondacks. The need it serves is not adequately addressed by competitive markets. For these reasons, the ALA respectfully urges the Public Service

Commission to extend SBC beyond its current expiration date and to continue funding LTM at the highest possible level.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FAC', written in a cursive style.

Frank A. Clark
Counsel

FAC/fc
cc: ALA Board of Directors