



*M. D. May*

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05-M-0090  
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February 22, 2005

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

Dear Ms. Brillling:

Re: Case 05-M-0090

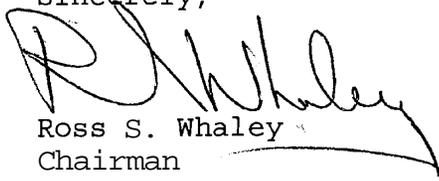
It has come to my attention that the Public Service Commission is seeking public comment on a proposed extension of the System Benefits Charge and the suite of Public Benefit Programs it funds under NYSERDA administration.

As in the past, we applaud the efforts of the Public Service Commission in enabling reliable funding for long-term monitoring of Adirondack lakes through the programs funded by the System Benefits Charge. Fifty-two Adirondack lakes are sampled monthly in the Adirondack Lakes Long-term Monitoring Program carried out by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation. These data continue to be critically important in providing information to address the complex problems of acid precipitation and the pollution it causes to not only lakes, but to Adirondack forests and streams. Without Adirondack lake water quality monitoring, for example, the actual effect of changes in emissions from upwind "smoke stacks" could not be sufficiently tracked to provide the essential dynamic link to policy decisions affecting our irreplaceable Adirondack Park resources.

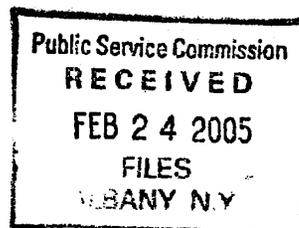
Furthermore, it is important that this funding source has provided a consistent long-term data set and that scientists and policy makers can reasonably expect that it will be continued into the future to resolve management issues associated with acid deposition.

As an essential component of sound environmental policy for the Adirondack Park, we hope that the support for long-term monitoring will be continued.

Sincerely,

  
Ross S. Whaley  
Chairman

RSW:dal



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