

CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE

18 Tremont Street Suite 530 Boston, MA 02108

617-624-0234

617-624-0230/fax

www.catf.us

February 23, 2005

J.A.Brilling, Secretary
NYS Public Service Commission
3 Empire Plaza
Albany NY 12223-1350

ORIG-FILES
05-M-0090
15 COPIES DIST
PER 1/28/2005 LIST

Dear Secretary Brilling:

I am writing in response to the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) requests for public comment regarding extension of the System Benefits Charge (SBC) Program: Reference case 05-M-0090.

I am specifically responding to the following questions:

- 2. Should the SBC program continue beyond its current expiration date of June 30, 2006?
- 7. What specific program(s) should be eliminated, expanded or created?

The research and monitoring that the SBC has supported have been critical in getting a better understanding of the environmental and health impacts from the power sector. The Clean Air Task Force has been impressed with the breath and quality of the work supported by these funds.

One of the most difficult areas to find funding for is long-term monitoring, yet the obtaining reliable data, on a regular basis is so important to understanding the effects of changes in emissions and deposition. Right now, the US Congress is debating President Bush's Clear Skies Initiative. One of the major areas of national discussion is how will the Adirondacks respond to changes in acid rain emissions. Thanks to SBC-funded research, scientists are able to respond to such questions. Questions about how ecosystems recover will continue to be raised for many decades, which means there will be value in the research and monitoring for years to come.

I want to highlight one project for which SBC has been particularly valuable. The Adirondack Long Term Monitoring (LTM) Project, which samples lakes throughout the Park every month, is the longest, uninterrupted record of lake chemistry in the Adirondacks. Maintaining this uninterrupted monitoring will yield data that will be both used and useful.

Accordingly, I urge you to extend the SBC to assure the continuation of baseline Adirondack surface water monitoring as well as NYSERDA's other valuable environmental research.

Sincerely,



Ellen Baum
Senior Scientist

2005 FEB 25 PM 2:16

RECEIVED
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
OSFC-FILES-ALBANY