



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

RE: CASE 05-M-0090

Dear Mrs. Brillling:

I am writing on behalf of the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to express our strong support for the NYS Public Service Commission to extend the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC) Program at the fullest level for at least another five years. The Systems Benefit Charge, collected through the State's investor-owned utilities, has established New York State as a leader in providing funding that supports energy efficiency, economic growth and environmental protection.

The Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy is very concerned that the SBC Program be extended to assure that environmental monitoring funds support New York State research on baseline Adirondack surface water monitoring, mercury, fine particles, ozone and other environmental issues related to electricity generation. The public benefits from these research and monitoring efforts under the administration of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) through the Environmental Monitoring, Evaluations and Protection (EMEP) Program.

The SBC has been a major source of support for the Adirondack Long Term Monitoring (LTM) Project, which samples 52 lakes throughout the Park every month. As you may be aware, this is the longest, uninterrupted record (22 years) of lake chemistry in the Adirondacks. The SBC has also supported more recent research into the biological impacts of mercury through the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program. Many users of this information, including The Nature Conservancy and the Adirondack Park, benefit from these research and monitoring efforts. We view it as vitally important that these critical programs continue uninterrupted and that biological monitoring be extended to detect impacts and ecosystem recovery from changes in pollutant levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on these programs and to express our strong support to extend the Systems Benefit Charge Program.

Regards,

Michael Carr
Executive Director
Adirondack Nature Conservancy

cc:

Vincent A. Delorio, Chairman, NYSERDA
Corporate Plaza West, 286 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany NY 12203