

Resolution
Of the Herkimer and Oneida Counties
Hinckley Reservoir Local Stakeholders Group
Affirming the Practice of a Deviation Policy
In Ongoing Hinckley Reservoir Water Level Management

Whereas, Hinckley Reservoir is the sole source water supply for a metropolitan area of approximately 130,000 people, and in 2007 the release of water that significantly exceeded the operating diagram led to the significant depletion of Hinckley Reservoir, and caused a substantial and imminent threat to the water supply for other users, local residents, and the ecosystem and fisheries of the West Canada Creek, and any repeat of that circumstance must be avoided; and

Whereas, since 1921, an agreement was entered into between the State of New York and Utica Gas and Electric Company regarding releases of water from Hinckley Reservoir made in accordance with the operating diagram, as described in the New York Power Authority manual, during periods of flood and drought; and

Whereas, the State of New York and Utica Gas and Electric Company and their successors have agreed on deviations which have protected the interests of all stakeholders in the West Canada Valley, including those of clean drinking water, environmental conservation, fisheries, wildlife habitat protection, power generation, economic development, tourism and recreational activities, and preserving quality of life for Hinckley Reservoir residents and property owners; and

Whereas, beginning in September of 2009, the leadership of Herkimer and Oneida Counties convened varied local stakeholders with interests in Hinckley Reservoir operations, and comprised of representatives from Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Mohawk Valley EDGE, Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency, Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA), Hinckley Landowners Association, Trout Unlimited, West Canada Creek Association, officials from the Herkimer and Oneida County towns and villages that are part of the West Canada Creek watershed, and those municipalities that may be served by the resource in the future; and

Whereas, the Herkimer and Oneida Counties Hinckley Reservoir Local Stakeholders Group is committed to seeking a balance of interests that will protect and preserve this resource for the current and future residents of our region; and

Whereas, the representatives from Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Mohawk Valley EDGE, Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency, Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA), Hinckley Landowners Association, Trout Unlimited, West Canada Creek Association, and officials from various Herkimer and Oneida County towns and villages that are part of the West Canada Creek watershed, and those municipalities that may be served by the resource in the future, have interests in promoting economic development and providing water for domestic and industrial use of their constituents; and

Whereas, Hinckley Landowners Association, Trout Unlimited, the West Canada Creek Association seek to protect the watershed of the West Canada Creek for boating, fishing, environmental conservation, and other forms of outdoor recreation; and

Whereas, the above groups and municipal governments want to retain their status as primary stakeholders to continue input and involvement in the management of Hinckley Reservoir;

Now therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the past practice of governing releases of water from Hinckley Reservoir allowed under the 1921 agreement permitting deviations from the operating diagram during times of flood and drought is a very effective and responsible water management tool presently available to preserve the water resources of Hinckley Reservoir and the West Canada Creek, as well as to preserve and promote the varied interests of the primary stakeholders; and therefore it is

RESOLVED, that this deviation policy and practice of reducing releases from Hinckley Reservoir during dry periods should thus be strictly adhered to as it is a part of formal operations of Hinckley Reservoir's management.

By resolution of the Mohawk Valley Water Authority

On this date: October 18, 2010

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES 10 NAYS 0

ABSENT 2 (Mr. Arcuri and Mr. Wallace)

Dated: October 18, 2010