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AZISCOHOS LAKE
PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE
PO Box 448
Walpole, NH 03608

Aziscohos Lake Preservation Committee

Progress Report

Thank you for your continued support through the end of another year of stewardship for Lake Aziscohos and the watershed that it belongs to. As we begin a new year, we would like to bring your attention to timely events and ask that you consider whether action on your part will bring benefit to the environment around you. We would like to stress that cohesiveness, above all throughout our membership, keeps the potential outcome of our efforts in the most favorable portent.

Non for profit incorporation continues to be a priority, in the new year. Our name will be Aziscohos Lake Preservation Council. Articles and by-laws are done. Our attorney is Stephen Jordan.



Photo by D. Rosenberg

FPLE Meeting 3-24

Don Green

Yesterday, I drove to the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust offices in Oquossoc to listen to comments of Jerry Dowdy, who is responsible for water levels in the Androscoggin Watershed. In attendance were representatives from Mooselookmeguntic and Richardson Lake, myself, and personnel from the RLHT. It dealt first with two matters: water issues and Settlement Agreements issues, such as disability access, toilet placement, plans for repairing (including the potential reconstruction) of Upper and Middle Dams, and some sort of accommodation with the land owners to achieve a conservation easement along the Rapid River corridor.

Watershed & Lake Level
Mr. Dowdy described current snow-pack, lake levels and flow rates. About 30 minutes was devoted to these issues. In brief, this year almost all of Maine is in the lowest 25% of historic snowpack. The bright spot is the upper Androscoggin Watershed which has 6-11 inches of equivalent water content, in the middle 50% of historic levels. The description of water release seems largely unchanged from previous practice except that

greater concern is being given to water level issues at Mooselookmeguntic and especially Richardson, possibly a reflection of the recent Settlement Agreement.

The Watershed was :
40% full
17% above the long term avg

River flow was:
at Berlin 2101cfs
At Gulf Island Pond (Lewiston?) 3692cfs
LakeLevel below full Outflow
Mooselookmeguntic - 8.75, 600 cfs
Richardson -10.2 ft, 600 cfs
Azischohos -15.6 ft (avg is- 23.3) 500 cfs
Errol -5.9 ft, 2090 cfs
Rangeley -3.2ft, 85 cfs

Today the lake level is at normal fill:
1520.3 feet. Androscoggin flow downstream of Azischohos dam 160 cfs.

The pattern of earlier withdrawal from eastern (Androscoggin) waters and not so much from western (Magalloway) waters is the traditional pattern. There is hope with much water (7.7 ft more than the long term average) in Azischohos that it will fill, eventually.

Squeaky Wheel
Don Green

I mentioned that the best way to reduce methyl mercury re-introduction was to fill it while it is ice-covered. The lack of concern of this issue was all too typical of FPLE/ARCO. I do not expect that FPLE will respond in a positive manner. The plan to raise Azischohos while ice

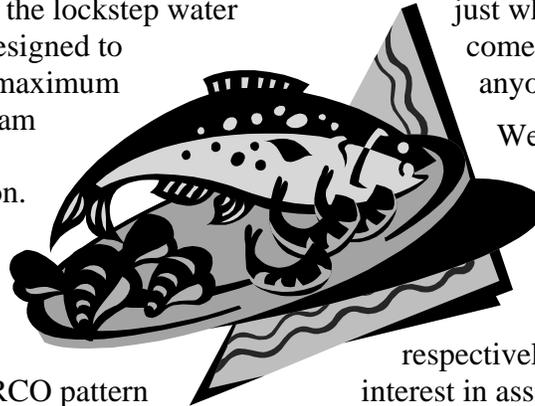
covered to near maximum was described to Al Wiley last year to reduce lake shore churning and methyl mercury reintroduction. Mr. Wiley was mentioned only on an extensive service list. Unfortunately, no discussion referred to any effort other than to pursue the lockstep water release designed to produce maximum downstream power production.

Overall, the FPLE/ARCO pattern seems to be completely insensitive to issues of biology, mercury reduction and wetlands protection, or recreational values.

Mr. Dowdy plans to re-initiate the production of hydropower from Azischohos and redesign the impeller to improve the efficiency. The facility is now being run by FPLE..

In our on-going complaints, Alan and I heard 5-6 weeks ago that our complaints to FERC were "approaching the top of the file" (after about four months for one complaint and three for the other!). After a month of no action, we wrote to Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe asking them to accelerate FERC's action on our complaints. We also wrote to Governor Baldacci requesting that he enforce the license conditions. We subsequently learned the name of the FERC official handling our complaints. The complaint is now officially

in the hands of FPL-Energy (actually we copied the FPLE executives with our original complaint to the FERC) so they've had six months to get their act together. They have until June 1, 2004 to respond to our charges. On the other hand just when the FERC will come to a decision is anyone's guess.



We were informed this week by Commissioners Gallagher and McGowen (DEP and Conservation,

respectively) of their lack of interest in assisting us in our goal of defending their state's authority in the license permitting process. We have responded noting that their failure to even investigate or comment on our charges is a serious failure of these two agencies.

If you feel that Governor Baldacci needs to hear your views on Maine's unwillingness to protect your interests, his address is:

Governor John Baldacci
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME
04333-001



Utility Emissions
Legislation
Aleksandra Lutovsky

A regulatory clause of the Clean Air Act has resulted in a requirement for the Bush Administration (via the U.S. EPA) to implement air rules for reducing SO2, NOx and mercury. Why is this significant? Power plants are the only major mercury polluter that are yet to be regulated by the Federal Clean Air Act and they are the largest industrial source of mercury in the global and regional environments.

The US EPA has proposed a Utility Mercury Reductions Rule for controlling mercury emissions from power plants, which would delay action

and weaken standards. “The EPA’s own scientists agree that existing technologies allow for a 90% reduction from power plants from 48 tons annually to 5 tons annually by 2008.” (Ohio EC)

What the US EPA has proposed amounts to a weakening of standards so that emissions from power plants would not be regulated under this act (section 112). “Existing power plants would be able to emit six to seven times more mercury between 2010 and 2018 and three times more after 2018.” (Ohio EC.)

Further, pollution credits that allow polluting plants to buy the right to dump mercury into the environment would create “hot spots” of mercury activity in waterways, land, and eventually

wildlife & humans. Sensitive habitats could be the innocent bystanders to the affects of the highest industrial bidder.

Can we afford to play roulette with such a clause?

Out of town news
Concurrently, in Ohio, Senator Bob Hagen has introduced legislation specifically targeting mercury emissions that would affect 21 large and a myriad of smaller power plants in Ohio. Sadly, the bill is not expected to pass the State legislature this year. While it is unlikely that mercury emissions contribute directly to pollution in Maine, sulfur and nitrate emissions likely do travel eastward.



photo The Hodsdons

Ante Up!

Thanks to David Rosenberg for volunteering cost and services of the Aziscohos.org website 2nd year in a row. Hope you're all usin' it!

Thanks to the Ohio Environmental Council (Kurt and Mica) for resources and assistance.

Neighbor Loons

Current literature shows that loons inhabiting Great Lakes water have lower mercury tissue content than the same species in New England and the Eastern Canada.

Events

Sunday, May 30th, at 4:00pm

The Johnson Family invites you to join them for a non-denominational Prayer For Aziscohos Lake- on Sunday, May 30th, at 4:00pm, at the Johnson Camp (far end of ALCA Heights Road), to give thanks to God for His gift of this beautiful lake and to ask for His help in protecting it from all harm.

Sunday, May 30th, at 5:00pm

We look forward to seeing you at the ALCA meeting at the Sandra Starbird Camp!

WEBSITE

Have you checked out our donated website?
<http://www.aziscohos.org/>

Action Alert

The proposed Mercury rule falls far short of current Clean Air Act requirements. We encourage you to submit written comments. The deadline has been extended through the end of June 2004.

<http://www.epa.gov/interstateairquality/> or <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/>.

By Mail:

Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)
Air & Radiation Docket & Information Center, 6102T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0053

By Facsimile:

Fax your comments to the EPA Docket Center at (202) 566-1741, Attention Docket ID. No. OAR-2003-0053.

NOTE: The New England Senatorial Delegation is in favor of strong mercury regulation and opposed to weakening mercury controls with pollution credits. FPL is 13th of the 20 top nitrogen oxide polluting power plants, although they are better with sulfur dioxide 19th of 20.

DATA

Lake levels can be obtained by calling 1-800-557-3569. Option 1 gives lake levels, option 2 gives flow rate-

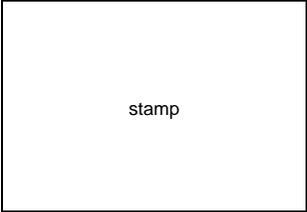
Contact us: E-mail:

dongreen@prexar.com
alan@rnjohnsoninc.com
luto@sbcglobal.net

Volunteer Opportunity

Shelby Rousseau, Natural Resource Director for the Rangeley Heritage Trust invites **you** to participate in the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. There is to be a volunteer training session on Monday June 7th. If you are interested in joining their effort details can be had by communicating with Shelby [\[srousseau@rlht.org\]](mailto:srousseau@rlht.org) or by phone **207-864-7311 x 4**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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