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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

9-28-04

To: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
From: Lake Almanor Property, Patrick Penick
Re: THERMAL CURTAINS, FERC Project 2105

I am deeply concerned about the proposed "thermal curtains" for Lake Almanor and Butt Lake below Almanor, known as FERC Project 2105. While discussions have been ongoing with the Federal Regulatory Commission and P.G.&E. for over 3 years, local people have only now heard about it because "protocols" adopted prohibited participants from going public. It's pretty clear why proceedings were conducted secretly.

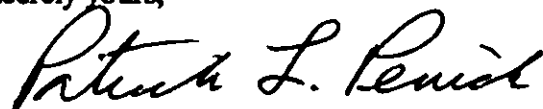
What we are hearing now is alarming. It is likely that removing cold water from Lake Almanor and Butt Lake Valley Reservoir will result in devastating harm to both lakes as fisheries. There is no question that the aquatic habitats will be harmed, and the extent of the damage is largely an unknown. And Lake Almanor, which is already a warm water mountain lake, could be in for catastrophic change. Almanor is a relatively shallow lake, and late in the summer, grasses (millweed?) cover the shallower and warmer waters. If this lake becomes warmer than it already is, this effect will increase, and algae blooms that deoxygenate the water become a likely prospect. What is now a beautiful lake haven for fishing, swimming, and water sports of all kinds for thousands of Californians could well become another Clear Lake, where one can look at the water but would not venture to swim in it.

Another concern, of course, is cost. Installation of the two "thermal curtains" is estimated at 54 million dollars, and annual maintenance costs are presently unknown. P.G.&E. ratepayers would foot the bill -- and for a project that most of us find abominable.

And the purpose of the "curtains"? To lower water temperature in a 5 mile reach of the North Fork of the Feather River by one degree celsius for a couple of months each year. What a tradeoff!

We who live and work and recreate in the Lake Almanor Basin appeal to you for help in resisting FERC Project 2105 and the "thermal curtains". We believe that if you look into the matter you will agree that it is a bad idea -- a very bad idea.

Sincerely yours,



Patrick L. Penick