

ORIGINAL

FILED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

2005 SEP 27 P 4: 16

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sept. 18, 2005

To: FERC
From: Patrick Penick
Re: Thermal Curtain, Lake Almanor, Project 2105

Dear Sir or Madam:

I started visiting Lake Almanor over 30 years ago, and have lived here continuously for the last 26 years. During the summer months I swim in the lake several times a week. The last few years I have been able to start my swimming in early June because the water is warm enough by that time to be comfortable. That was not the case in 1968 when I first came up, nor in the early 70's, when the lake water was so cold in June that it was not until very late June or early July that people would go in the water. So I am absolutely sure that the lake is at least a little warmer than it used to be, and with global warming that trend is likely to continue.

The thermal curtain would very clearly exacerbate the warming trend. With the removal of a significant portion of the cold water from a shallow lake that is (by mountain standards) already a warm water lake (think Tahoe and great depth), Lake Almanor would lose its reputation as a great fishing lake for trout and salmon, and the grasses that already grow in profusion in late summer would almost certainly proliferate. Are algae blooms next? Probably.

There has to be another way, or perhaps a number of ways, to work on the problem of downstream temperature. It makes NO SENSE to ruin the environment of Almanor and Butt lakes when so many people depend on that environment and benefit from it recreationally and economically. *Would as many people be affected by lowering the temperature downstream as would be affected by raising the temperature in Almanor and Butt?* The answer is pretty obvious, I think. When I mention the thermal curtain to people who ask about it, the common response is, "Who thought up that nutty idea?" There has to be another way.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick L. Penick

