

ORIGINALFILED
SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION

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Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Rm 1A
Washington, DC 20428FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

RE: FERC Project 2105, Upper North Fork Feather River Project

Dear Commissioners,


As you are aware, the re-licensing for Project 2105 has gone on for a long time. While most issues have been agreed to by all parties, there are a couple of outstanding issues--the biggest being the last-minute requirement by the State Water Resources Control Board to divert cold water from Lake Almanor to lower the downstream water temperature for the fish through the use of a thermal curtain.

My wife and I live at 175 Lake Almanor West Drive, Chester. Our lot is on the Lake Almanor waterfront. The proposed diversion of cold water from the lake would have significant impact on us directly, the environment, and the community around Lake Almanor. I understand the desire to lower the downstream water temperatures, but we need to keep in mind the ethical principle of "first, do no harm". The benefits of the cold-water diversion are outweighed by the damage done to the lake Almanor ecosystem. Given Lake Almanor's large surface area and shallow depth, the lake water is already relatively warm in the summer. According to lakemonster.com, the average August water temperature at Lake Almanor has already risen 4.5 degrees over the last 2 years. Further diversion will make the problem worse.

The algae bloom which has appeared over the last several years, is a direct result of the warm water. It is not only unhealthy for recreational activities in the lake for humans, but can be deadly for dogs that encounter the lake during these blooms. It is an obvious indication of declining health of the lake which so many of us in the community enjoy and which is the major contributor to the local economy.

The thermal curtain might benefit downstream fisheries, but would significantly harm Lake Almanor's fish populations, the recreational use of the lake, and the local economy. It would be absolutely devastating in so many economic ways. No one seems to be considering the consequences to us of such a proposal. We ask that you reject the proposed thermal curtain for Lake Almanor.

Kind regards,


William J. Thormahlen

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