



TOMPKINS COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION NO. 02-2008 – SUPPORTING THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL-CORNELL UNIVERSITY LAKE MONITORING PARTNERSHIP’S STRATEGIC MONITORING PLAN and SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF DEC’S LAKE-SOURCE COOLING PERMIT-REQUIRED IN-LAKE MONITORING

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council (EMC) promotes the protection of the community’s natural resources, including water resources, and

WHEREAS, in 1997 the EMC reviewed and commented on the EIS for Cornell’s proposed Lake Source Cooling, and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Cornell University received a permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to construct and operate the Lake Source Cooling (LSC) plant on Cayuga Lake, and that permit required Cornell University to undertake a program to monitor the impacts of LSC on the southern end of Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Cornell University requested the DEC to reduce the permit-required LSC monitoring sites in the southern end of Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS The EMC opposed the reduction of monitoring sites during the duration of the permit, and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Water Resources Council (WRC) and Cornell University (CU) entered into a partnership to collaborate on issues related to Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS the WRC-CU partnership has now proposed a strategic monitoring plan (SMP) for the impaired southern basin of Cayuga Lake that includes physical, chemical, and biological monitoring components to help ascertain trends and variations in these indicators of the health of the lake, and

WHEREAS, unlike the SMP, Cornell’s permit-required in-lake LSC monitoring was never designed to monitor Cayuga Lake but to detect the impact (if any) of LSC on the lake, and that program, which has been in place fewer than 10 years, likely does not yet comprise a data set of sufficient duration to allow a statistically robust analysis of the apparent correlation between the information collected at the various monitoring sites, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the EMC commends the WRC-CU partnership on their productive collaboration and supports the overall approach described in the new strategic monitoring plan (SMP) for the southern end of Cayuga Lake;

RESOLVED, further, that the EMC believes the monitoring plan and LSC are two separate topics that should be addressed separately;

RESOLVED, further, that the EMC believes DEC should require continuation of the LSC in-lake monitoring sites in any permit renewal;

RESOLVED, further, that this resolution be sent to the Water Resources Council, Cornell University, the Tompkins County Legislature, the City of Ithaca Common Council, the Town of Ithaca Town Board, and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Date: July 9, 2008

Voting In Favor: 12

Voting Against: 0

Abstentions: 1