

Neighborhood Guardians
PO Box 104, West Nottingham, NH 03291

June 18, 2011

Mr. C. Wayne Ives
NH Department of Environmental Services
PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095

RE: Comments Pertaining to the Draft Lamprey Designated River Water Management Plan Report

Dear Wayne:

I am submitting these comments as the volunteer chair of the Neighborhood Guardians (NG) for the past 5 years. For background purposes the NG are a Nottingham-based local citizen action group which is **dedicated to protecting and guarding groundwater, property values**, the health and safety of the residents of Nottingham and the surrounding communities in this special region of New Hampshire.

I first want to thank you for your presentation at the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association's (PLIA) annual meeting. As you know you have received many substantive comments and concerns from various stakeholders, including PLIA members. The most recent comments that I have read were from the Nottingham Board of Selectmen which details apparent deficiencies in the above-referenced 'Plan'.

Rather than to repeat the concerns outlined in the Selectmen's comments and on behalf of the NG, **I would like to also recommend that a complete and adequate environmental impact study of the Lamprey River Watershed must be completed before any changes in the management of water levels in Pawtuckaway Lake be approved and that no reallocation of water resources be done.**

As a former selectman who completed the Selectperson's Institute I can certainly empathize with the PLIA and the Nottingham Selectmen on the potential adverse impacts to property values that this 'Plan' may cause to almost 400 taxable waterfront and water access parcels around Pawtuckaway Lake. Under state statute (RSA 41.8) Selectmen 'shall manage the 'prudential affairs' of the town'.

As stated in Chapter 278, HB 1449-A, the final version passed in the 2002 legislative, 'DES shall consider the public comments received in any revisions to the protected instream flow levels and water management plans for the Lamprey River'. The PLIA has a large investment in their lake-side properties for recreational purposes. Although there is an avenue available (RSA 483:9-c,VI) for 'any party who is aggrieved by a determination establishing such protected instream flows to petition the commissioner for a hearing to review such determination', it would be worthwhile if DES found a remedy beforehand.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at jhadley@metrocast.net.

Sincerely,



Jim Hadley, Chair ~ Neighborhood Guardians

Cc: Nottingham Board of Selectmen (via email)
Representative Frank Case (via email)
PLIA (via email to Therese Thompson and Liz Kotowski)
Ted Diers and Steve Couture, DES (via email)