

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Ashokan Pumped Storage Project No. **P-15056**

MOTION TO INTERVENE

Pursuant to Rules 212 and 214 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18C.F.R. § 385.212 and 385.214 (2007), Northern Catskills Audubon Society, Inc. (NCAS), files this motion to intervene in this proceeding.

I. COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICE

All communications, pleadings, and orders with respect to this proceeding should be sent to the following :

Larry Federman, president NCAS
PO Box 68
Palenville, NY 12463
518-678-3248
birderlarry@verizon.net

II. INTEREST OF PETITIONER

Northern Catskills Audubon has important information and perspectives to bring to this process, consideration of which will serve the public interest. We will advocate on behalf of birds, other species, and their habitats as they relate to the Catskill Peaks Important Bird Area as designated by Audubon New York's Important Bird Area program.

The proposed project is located within the Catskill Peaks Important Bird Area (IBA), identified by Audubon New York as one of the largest contiguous forest tracts in the state. The area was given IBA designation due to the presence of high-elevation breeding bird species, such as Bicknell's Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler, as well as home to the suite of lower-elevation forest nesting birds. Many of these are considered species of Special Concern or Threatened in New York State, or Species of Greatest Conservation Need and include American Black Duck, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, American Woodcock, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Cerulean Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Canada Warbler. In addition to state protections, Bald Eagle is afforded federal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The Ashokan Reservoir, as part of the IBA, is an important site for wintering waterfowl and it is unknown how water depth fluctuations from this project would affect those birds.

III. CONCLUSION

Wherefore, I, Larry Federman, on behalf of Northern Catskills Audubon Society, respectfully request that the Commission grant my Motion to Intervene as a party with full rights to participate in all further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted on this date, April 2, 2021
Larry Federman
PO Box 68
Palenville, NY 12463