

9 April 2021

Online submission – Comment letter of the Adirondack Mountain Club re Ashokan Pumped Storage Docket # P-15056

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street NE
Washington DC 20426

RE: Docket # P-15056 – Ashokan Pumped Storage Project

Dear Secretary Bose:

Adirondack Mountain Club, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has a vital interest in the Preliminary Permit application submitted to the Commission by Premium Energy Holdings for the Ashokan Pumped Storage Project (P-15056).

ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club) with 30,000 members, many of whom recreate in the Catskill Park, protects New York's wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates. ADK is a member and volunteer-supported organization which reaches across New York through its 27 chapters, including in the Catskills Region and in New York City, to inspire people to enjoy the outdoors ethically. With a focus on the Forest Preserve of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, ADK has worked since 1922 to increase access to the backcountry by building trails, conserving natural areas, and developing a stewardship community that supports ethical and safe use of New York's outdoor spaces. The Ashokan Pumped Storage Project (P-15056) is located within the Catskill Park, so it is of special interest to ADK and our members, and would be surrounded on three sides and directly adjacent to the Slide Mountain Wilderness and Slide Mountain and other popular peaks for hikers and outdoor recreators. To the south of the proposed project is the Sundown Wild Forest and the Ashokan High Point. The Ashokan Reservoir and its New York City Department of Environmental Protection Watershed Recreation lands are also popular recreation areas. All of these public land areas surrounding and directly adjacent to the Ashokan Pumped Storage Project (P-15056) are used by ADK members and the recreation community that ADK represents.

Adirondack Mountain Club members and others who recreate in the Catskill Park and in the Slide Mountain Wilderness, the Sundown Wild Forest, and around the Ashokan Reservoir stand at risk of serious harms from the construction and operation of the project, as well as from additional infrastructure necessary to service it, such as the Ashokan Switchyard, powerhouse, and transmission lines. Accordingly, Adirondack Mountain Club has a substantial interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



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