



PO Box 333  
Watkins Glen, NY 14891  
senecalakeguardian@gmail.com  
[senecalakeguardian.org](http://senecalakeguardian.org)

November 5, 2020

Town of Torrey Planning Board  
C/o Betty Daggett  
Town of Torrey Town Clerk

Dear Ms. Daggett,

Please share this comment with the members of the Town of Torrey Planning Board, and enter this comment into your next meeting's minutes.

Seneca Lake Guardian's (SLG) mission is to promote sustainable energy, increase investment in water supply/sewer systems, and to challenge destructive power plants, reckless development and decrepit infrastructure around Seneca Lake and throughout the Finger Lakes Region. We represent nearly 500 regional businesses and hundreds of thousands of Finger Lakes residents who strive to protect and preserve the Finger Lakes region's clean air, water, and soil for generations to come. As such, we write to you in our endeavor to protect Seneca Lake and the Keuka Outlet, and urge that any further expansion of generation activities at Greenidge *should not be authorized* by the Planning Board. If this determination cannot be reached, we request that at the very least, the full Town Planning Board as required in the SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act), properly classify the action as "Type 1," rescind the "conditioned negative declaration," issue a positive declaration, require an environmental impact statement and conduct a coordinated review with the DEC. An adequate noise impact study must be completed before approving the project, and no further activity should be commenced by Greenidge until the thermal and dilution studies are complete, new thermal limits are set, and the feasibility of the wedgewire screens can be assessed and implemented.

SLG has the following concerns:

- The project has significantly changed since it was first approved and DEC has not had an opportunity to evaluate the environmental impacts of expanded energy use for the data center project.
- There will be noise emitted by the facility that will negatively impact the residents in Torrey. Furthermore, because water serves as an excellent carrier for noise, the sounds will travel across Seneca Lake and negatively impact many people in surrounding communities.



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- The Planning Board (PB) did not conduct its review consistent with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) or follow the Town of Torrey Zoning Law, assuring preservation of Community Character.
- The discharge of heated water into Seneca Lake both will increase the incidents of an already growing problem of HABS in the Keuka Outlet and in Seneca Lake. 2020 proved to be a uniquely fortunate year for Seneca Lake in terms of HAB blooms, but we anticipate that this was an anomaly and we cannot afford to take a chance in the coming years.
- Greenidge, now that it is basically creating money with their bitcoin/data farm, should be required to install a closed cycle cooling system to protect the fish and the water quality.
- In looking at the project from a cost-benefit analysis approach, the community is not getting sufficient tax income for the risks it is being required to take.

Ultimately, to protect Seneca Lake and the Keuka Outlet, further expansion of generation activities at Greenidge ***should not be authorized*** by the Planning Board. However, if this decision cannot be reached, at the very least, the Planning Board should require an adequate noise impact study before approving the project, and no further activity should be commenced by Greenidge until the thermal and dilution studies are complete, new thermal limits are set, and the feasibility of the wedgewire screens can be assessed and implemented. We further reiterate our request that the Planning Board, as required in the SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act), properly classify the action as "Type 1," rescind the "conditioned negative declaration," issue a positive declaration, require an environmental impact statement and conduct a coordinated review with the DEC.

On behalf of our 5,000 citizen membership and the 500 regional businesses we represent, please accept our comments. Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph Campbell, President Seneca Lake Guardian

Yvonne Taylor, Vice President, Seneca Lake Guardian