



Thermal Discharge to the Keuka Outlet

"The daily temperature is consistently above that allowed for a trout stream. The daily temperature change probably violates even the generous DEC limits.

There is NO WAY that this discharge would comply with the current trout stream limits and it helps explain the lack of fish in the Lake.

The data center expansion which would require additional energy production should be delayed until the thermal study is completed and the temperature is in compliance to protect the fish."

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Bureau of Ecosystem Health's Steam-Electric Unit (SEU) is responsible for enforcing thermal pollution standards to protect fish:

Adverse impacts to aquatic life can also occur through the discharge of cooling water (the temperature often raised by 10 to 20 degrees F) back to the lake or river, a process known as thermal pollution. Thermal pollution can kill fish outright, block fish migrations, cause the growth of nuisance species, and create other problems as well.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/32847.html>

The Greenidge Power Plant discharges "Cooling Water" used to cool the boilers used to generate electricity into the Keuka Outlet, which is classified by DEC as a Class C (TS) – meaning its best use is for Fishing and fish propagation (Class C) and supports trout propagation (TS).

New discharge permits include temperature limits for discharge temperature and discharge temperature differences. These limits for, for Trout Streams are:

No discharge at a temperature over 70 degrees Fahrenheit

No temperature increase of more than two Fahrenheit degrees during the summer.

No temperature change of five Fahrenheit degrees or to a maximum of 50 degrees Fahrenheit whichever is less, in winter.

[\(https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctpfl/permalink/4478100695565799/\)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctpfl/permalink/4478100695565799/)

The DEC has permitted the Greenidge Power Plant to discharge at temperatures much higher than that. Greenidge is allowed to discharge at 108 degrees F during the summer and 86 degrees F during the winter, instead of 70 degrees F year round. The Intake Discharge allowed temperature limits are 26 degrees F during the summer and 31 degrees F during the winter, instead of 5 degrees F year round.

DEC has allowed Greenidge to delay the completion of the Thermal Study that was required in the permit. Under the original 2017 schedule, the Thermal Study would have been completed during the summer and fall of 2018 and the report would have been filed in 2019. Greenidge is now proposing that data collection, to determine the impact on fish in the Keuka Outlet and Seneca Lake, be conducted in 2021.

The Committee to preserve the Finger Lakes has conducted its own temperature monitoring of the discharge to the Keuka Outlet. The dark yellow line is the DEC summer maximum. The blue line is the temperature above discharge outfall. The red line is in the outlet downstream of the outfall. The bright yellow line is near the mouth of the outlet.

The lower chart is the daily temperature difference. The purple line is the DEC summer temperature limit. The green line charts the daily differences.

