

May 7, 2009



Don't drop hydro plan **COMMENTING ON STORIES:**

Upstate New York has been roiled by energy debates this decade. Most of the time, it is because there are opinionated proponents and opponents and real questions about possible benefits. Think of wind, natural gas and even NYRI.

But that's not the case, it seems, with hydroelectric power at four of the reservoirs supplying New York City's water. That makes the recent pullout by Delaware County Electric Cooperative that much sadder.

The 5,100-member co-op says obstacles presented by New York City were insurmountable. Those obstacles did not include a philosophical opposition to hydro power, however.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation supports the plan, and the city Department of Environmental Protection is not against hydro power – just DCEC's plan.

Fighting to control water is among the oldest forms of human conflict. And upstate and New York City continue to butt heads on myriad issues.

We hope DEP will reconsider its stance, and if not, that elected officials and other agencies will use their influence to help make DCEC's or a similar plan into a reality.

Tell Paterson to sign bill

Welcome to our story comments feature. We welcome your thoughts and your opinions, including the unpopular ones. We only ask that you keep your conversations clean, civil and on the topic of the story you are commenting on.

Coinciding with our websites redesign, we launched our new story comments feature through Disqus.

Disqus gives users the ability to log into our story comments feature so that they may be able to track their conversations, receive emails when their comments get a reply or to even have your comments update onto your Facebook or Twitter accounts.

For the time being, our story comments feature will continue to have the ability to post comments anonymously. We reserve the right to require registration in the future using your name and verified email address.

Not all comments are deemed printable. Some are disqualified at the newspaper's discretion for a number of different reasons. Please follow our Online Rules of Conduct at all times.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

We reserve the right to remove comments that are unacceptable, to wit:

1. False and inaccurate statements.
2. Personal attacks. Explicit name-calling.
3. Harassing, harmful, vulgar, obscene and defamatory language.
4. Threatening statements or statements that suggest violence.
5. Hate speech of any kind.
6. Intolerant comments on religion, race, age, gender, sexual preference or disabilities.

It is unusual, to say the least, when New York's normally dysfunctional state Legislature does something we can praise without reservation.

One of those rare occurrences happened recently when both the Assembly and Senate passed a bill to strengthen the state's Open Meetings Law.

The trouble is, members of Gov. David Paterson's senior staff have told New York Newspaper Publishers Association President Diane Kennedy that the governor is reluctant to sign the bill into law.

It's that kind of decision-making that has led to the stunning results of the latest poll from the Marist Institute for Public Opinion. It showed that a majority of New Yorkers would prefer the disgraced Eliot Spitzer as governor to Paterson.

The current law is inadequate in requiring only that action be taken in open session even if salient discussion about it was done in secret.

The new legislation would give judges the option of not throwing out the whole legislation, but remand parts of it to open meetings.

The bill also allows judges to impose a civil fine of up to \$500 for violations of the law.

People have a right to see their local and state government in operation. We urge you to contact the governor's office and tell him to sign this much-needed Open Meetings Law bill.

- 7. Accusations of criminal activity.
- 8. Content that is harmful to children and minors in any way.
- 9. References to any type of sexual activity and other private matters.
- 10. Random and inflammatory statements that are off topic.
- 11. Advertising of any kind.
- 12. Typing in all caps.

WE ENCOURAGE REASONABLE AND COURTEOUS COMMENTS THAT:

- 1. Create conversation on issues of interest and concern to fellow readers and local community members.
- 2. Express opinions and contrarian views.
- 3. Stimulate debate with respectful language.
- 4. Stay within the boundaries of these rules.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE ACCESS FOR:

- 1. Violating any of these Online Rules of Conduct.
- 2. Deliberately disrupting discussions with repetitive messages, meaningless messages or spam.
- 3. Misrepresentation of identity or impersonating another user.

WE WELCOME:

- 1. Flagging violations of these rules that you observe to our attention.

MONITORING:

We monitor comments regularly Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Approval of comments outside of this time will be sporadic.



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