

# The McKownville Improvement Association

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McKOWNVILLE  
ALBANY 3, NEW YORK

March 11, 1975

New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
Albany, New York 12233

Dear Sirs:

This is a statement by the McKownville Improvement Association, a non-profit organization formed in 1924 for the purpose of promoting the interests of the residents of the hamlet of McKownville in the Town of Guilderland. It concerns the surface waters known as the Krum Kill, the Hunger Kill, Blockhouse Creek, the Kaikout Kill, and the Normans Kill, as well as the ponds and reservoirs formed by these waters. It is made with the hope that your Department, with the help of the citizens of this state and County, can continue to upgrade and improve the quality of our waters, and pass them on, intact, to the future generations.

The first stream for which we seek a re-classification is the Krumkill (Item No. 643, Index No. H-221-4-3) from Mouth to outlet of P-256 (McKownville Reservoir). Presently classified C (T), its waters above the reservoir spillway are classified "A" and are the approved source of drinking water for the McKownville Water District. The Krumkill, below the spillway was formerly polluted by septic tank overflows into the community storm drainage system. However, today, thanks to your efforts and the efforts of our Town and the Albany County Health Department, the septic tanks have been abandoned in favor of a new sanitary sewer system that discharges to the new Albany County sewer system. It's waters were formerly used for fishing and swimming, especially at McKown's Grove, and we believe that its reclassification to B (T) would properly reflect the recent improvements in quality and provide the proper protection for its best usage.

The second item for which we seek a reclassification is the Krumkill branch (Item No. 645, Index No. H-221-4-3-1) presently classified "D", and its source, a pond at the State University of New York at Albany campus (P. 253). This stream also is the beneficiary of improved water quality due to the recent sewer construction. P-253 was actually recommended to be a "C"- fishing classification in the original publication of the Recommended classifications, and was identified as a pond at the old Albany Country Club. We believe that it's classification was inadvertently transferred to P-254, which does not now exist.

The third item for which we seek a reclassification is the portion of the Normans Kill (Item No. 638, Index No. H-221-4) from Johnson Road to tributary 8. The streamflow at tributary 8 is estimated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to be 7.66 cfs (MA 7 CD/10) and reflects the gage readings from the Hunger Kill gage at Nott Road. Its present classification is B. This reach of the Normans Kill has been proposed as a possible impoundment for a future water supply in the Albany County Comprehensive Public Water Supply Study, CPWS-43 (May 1968) by Malcolm Pirnie Engineers and has been used as the source of

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irrigation and drinking water by the Albany Country Club since about 1965. In consideration of this future use, the Town of Guilderland has avoided the placement of one of its sewer forcemains in this stream, utilizing instead a more expensive, circuitous route around the area. This possible reservoir site has also been a consideration in each Wastewater Facilities Report made by the Town's consulting engineer, even as recently as January 1975 (ref. project C-36-638 for the Normans Kill Sewer Improvement Area) in the Facilities Plan for this project. We believe that this alternative site for a future reservoir deserves the protection of an "A (T)" classification with a best usage including fishing. Its present classification is "B".

The fourth item for which we seek reclassification is the next reach of the Normans Kill (Item No. 638, Index No. H-221-4) from tributary 8 to the outlet of P-270 (Watervliet Reservoir), including all tributaries. Although this portion is subject to low flows in dry summers, it is a feeder for the reservoir proposal mentioned previously, and requires the protection of an "A" classification in keeping with its best use as a source of drinking water.

The next item for which we seek reclassification is the Hunger Kill (Items No. 660, 661, 662, Index No. H-221-4-8) including all tributaries, and P-266, P-266a, P-266b, and P-265b, which includes Glass Pond. Its present classifications are C (T) and D. It, too, has been identified as an extremely viable alternative for a reservoir site in the previously mentioned Comprehensive Water Study, as well as in a special study of water supply alternatives for the Town of Guilderland in 1972 by J. Kenneth Fraser, Consulting Engineers. In this latter report, it is the most practical alternate of all those studied for reservoir sites. Again, the Town is on record as offering protection for this stream by avoiding location of any sewer lines in its vicinity (C-36-638, Facilities Plan). It is also a matter of common local knowledge that the Glass Pond is used for recreational fishing. We believe that these waters require the protection of a reclassification to "A (T)" for the Pond, and "A" for all of its tributaries.

Finally, we seek the reclassification of the East Branch of the Hunger Kill (Item No. 660, Index No. H-221-4-8-2) from "C (T)" to "N". This branch, as you may be aware, has its source in that area known as the "Pine Bush", which has been chosen by the Town, the City of Albany, the Nature Conservancy, and your Department, for preservation and protection as a unique area that is famous for its flora and fauna. A major safeguard for this stream would be the "N" classification, which would preserve its integrity and protect its waters from any possible degradation. Again, all of the above-mentioned have agreed to expend considerable sums of money to acquire this land for a nature preserve. We believe that this stream, in order to remain as a viable sanctuary for the wildlife of the Pine Bush, must be reclassified as "N"--natural.

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In closing, we wish to thank you for your efforts in seeking public participation in this matter, and we earnestly hope that you will continue your extraordinary efforts to protect and preserve our waters to the fullest limits of your power. We have all learned much since the previous classification was effected, and we can assure you that we, as concerned residents of our community, will join you to accomplish the goals sought by these reclassifications.

Respectfully submitted,

THE MC KOWNVILLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Margaret McKinley, Chairperson  
Environmental Quality Committee

John K. Esler, President

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