

# The McKownville Improvement Association

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MCKOWNVILLE  
ALBANY 3, NEW YORK

June 5, 1975

Mr. Fiero F. DeMasi, Hearing Officer  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, New York 12233

RE: RE-CLASSIFICATION HEARING--LOWER HUDSON DRAINAGE BASIN

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith a letter I recently received from Dr. Margaret Stewart, Professor of Biology, State University of New York at Albany, and ask that this letter be placed in the record of the above hearing, as I so requested in the continuation of the Hearing on May 28, 1975. I ask that this letter be used as additional relevant material in the request of the McKownville Improvement Association for the re-classification of:

Item 638 H-221-4 Normanskill (portion) Johnson Road to Trib. 8

Dr. Stewart is disturbed by the rapid deterioration of the Normanskill in the State Farm Road area, a stream that within the past ten to fifteen years did support trout. We are hopeful that an upgrading of the classification will prevent further degradation of this stream. We realize that simply giving a higher classification will not automatically change the stream overnight. However, the stream did support trout in recent memory and we are hopeful that an upgrading of the classification will allow some measure of recovery for the Normanskill, if the classification standards are rigidly enforced.

Apart from the possibilities of a return to aquatic diversity, we urge you to consider the reclassification of an area which has been cited as a possible future source of drinking water for the Town of Guilderland, a Town which has been predicted to outgrow its present water supply within this century.

In support of the "A" classification for certain reaches of the Normanskill (ref. previous statement), we believe that the past and present use of this water by the Albany Country Club and the New York State Health Department Facility (Griffin Laboratory), along with the affirmative action on the part of the Town of Guilderland to protect this watershed as a source of drinking water, afford sufficient evidence to establish the current usage and intended future usage as a public water supply.

In support of the "A" classification for the Hunger Kill and its tributaries, please refer to the above comments as well as to the existing water supply

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studies prepared for both the Town of Guilderland and the State of New York. Your attention is also directed to the recent (May 13, 1975) award of a slope stabilization contract by the Town of Guilderland, to protect the future reservoir from siltration, as firm evidence of the Town's proposed future use of this area as a public water supply.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret McKinley  
Chairperson, Environmental Quality Committee  
MCKOWNVILLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

[10 Knowles Terrace  
Albany, New York 12203]

MM:at  
Enclosure