



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
COUNTY OF ALBANY
SOUTH FERRY AND GREEN STS.
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12201

JOHN J. A. LYONS, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

August 9, 1979

Mr. Donald J. Reeb, President
McKownville Improvement Association
5 Norwood Street
Albany, New York 12203

RE: McKownville Reservoir
Town of Guilderland

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to your recent letter regarding the status of the McKownville Reservoir as a drinking water source.

As you know, in November, 1973, the use of the two McKownville Reservoirs was abandoned and the McKownville Water District began purchasing water from the Westmere Water District. Prior to purchasing, this Department had recommended that the water treatment plant and sources be abandoned or that immediate major plant renovation be performed. Past water testing indicated that the raw water from the reservoirs contained excessive color, iron, and manganese levels. Also, chloride levels were much higher than could be expected for natural surface water in this part of the country. (The chloride levels are probably attributed to salting of the adjacent transportation corridors.) Existing Water Shed Rules & Regulations are still applicable for protection of these waters, but are "moot" since the sources are not being used for drinking water.

It is this Department's position that these water sources should not be considered for future use for potable water purposes because of the poor existing quality, and their proximity to transportation corridors which create non-point discharges (salts, oils, etc.) and spill potentials. Their use would also require a large capital expenditure to renovate the existing water treatment plant to properly

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treat the existing water quality. This Department has not sampled the reservoirs' waters since abandonment as potable water sources, but we find no reason not to believe that the water quality is no better than results from past samplings.

This Department supports the abandonment of the two reservoirs and the antiquated treatment facilities. We encourage the McKownville Water District to consolidate and/or purchase water for all future uses.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Svenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Richard W. Svenson, P.E., Director
Division of Environmental Health Services

RWS/ghm

cc: Mr. Carl J. Walters, Supervisor (T) Guilderland

Mr. Dennis Tyson, Supt. Department of Water and Wastewater Mgmt.,
Town of Guilderland