

To: Secretary, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Re: Docket No. M-2026-3059601 - PATER Study, Cromby Generating Station

Date: October 12, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential redevelopment of the former Cromby Generating Station along the Schuylkill River in Chester County.

I have been a member of Black Rock Boat Club since 2005 and served as its president for five years. I have also been responsible for maintaining the club's waterski slalom course since 2006. Through these activities, I have spent countless hours on the Schuylkill River and have developed a strong appreciation for its recreational value and natural environment.

My primary concerns regarding any future development at Cromby are its potential effects on river water levels, water temperature, and wildlife.

Water Levels and River Flow

During the summer months, the Schuylkill River can experience periods of low water levels. Even relatively small changes in water depth can affect boating safety and recreational activities, including waterskiing.

I am concerned that any development requiring significant withdrawals of river water, particularly for cooling purposes, could make these conditions worse.

I ask that any proposed redevelopment include a thorough evaluation of water consumption and its potential impact on river levels during periods of low flow and drought. This evaluation should also consider the combined effects of other facilities withdrawing water upstream.

Water Temperature and Water Quality

I am equally concerned about changes in river temperature resulting from industrial cooling operations.

Higher water temperatures can reduce dissolved oxygen levels and negatively affect fish and other aquatic life. I believe any future development should demonstrate that its cooling systems will not adversely affect the river's temperature or water quality, particularly during the warm summer months.

Wildlife and the River Ecosystem

The Schuylkill River supports a variety of fish, birds, and other wildlife. Over the years, I have enjoyed observing the wildlife that depends on this river.

Any changes to water levels, temperature, or water quality could affect the river's ecosystem and the species that depend on it.

I ask that the environmental review specifically evaluate potential impacts on aquatic life, fish populations, and birds that rely on the river for food and habitat.

Conclusion

I am not opposed to responsible redevelopment of the Cromby property. However, I strongly believe that protecting the Schuylkill River must be a priority in evaluating any future use of this site.

I respectfully request that the PATER Study's next phase include a detailed, site-specific assessment of water withdrawals, river flow, temperature, and wildlife impacts before any redevelopment recommendations are finalized.

The Schuylkill River is an important recreational and environmental resource for our community. I hope the Commission will ensure that its long-term health is protected.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Michael D Neff

Member and Former President

Black Rock Boat Club

Phoenixville, Pennsylvania