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October 31, 2019

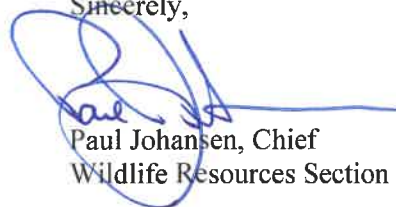
DTE Energy Foundation
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To whom it may concern:

The Friends of Cheat (FOC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit watershed group that has been striving to restore, preserve, and promote the outstanding natural qualities of the Cheat River watershed in West Virginia since 1995. Historically, Cheat River and its many tributaries have been impacted by acid mine drainage and acid precipitation to the point that the fishery in lower Cheat River was severely degraded and recreational fishing was non-existent. Through the coordinated efforts of FOC, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders, Cheat River is now a destination for anglers and other river users. Cheat River would not be in its current state without the hard work of the FOC.

Previous work by FOC has focused on water quality improvements through acid mine drainage treatment; however, it is recognized that opportunities exist for improving physical habitat in the Cheat River watershed. One such opportunity is the removal of the Albright Power Station dam in Preston County. However, critical questions concerning potential impacts to the landowner, local community and river habitat need to be answered prior to dam removal. FOC is proposing to develop a scoping process that will provide needed answers. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources supports the efforts of FOC to investigate the feasibility of removing the Albright Power Station dam to improve the passage of aquatic organisms, anglers, and paddlers.

Sincerely,



Paul Johansen, Chief
Wildlife Resources Section

PJ:ms