



Independence River Watershed (041501010714)

Water Index Number

Ont 19- 57
 Ont 19- 57
 Ont 19- 57- 4-P597
 Ont 19- 57- 4-P600,P602,P605
 Ont 19- 57- 5-P608,P610,P615
 Ont 19- 57- 5-P617
 Ont 19- 57- 7..P628,P630
 Ont 19- 57- 9/10..P632,P635,P638
 Ont 19- 57- P619,P622,P625
 Ont 19- 57-10- 6-P639
 Ont 19- 57-15/17/18..P641 to P643
 Ont 19- 57-25-P647
 Ont 19- 57-P650
 Ont 19- 57-P651

Waterbody Segment

[Independence River, Lower, and tribs \(0801-0220\)](#)
[Independence River, Upper, and tribs \(0801-0221\)](#)
 Chase Lake (0801-0321)
 Parsons Pd, Upper Chase Lk, Hinchings Pd (0801-0322)
[Evies Pond, Long Lake, Fish Pond \(0801-0323\)](#)
 Stony Lake (0801-0324)
[Trout Pond, Bills Pond \(0801-0127\)](#)
[Panther Pond, Fifth Cr Pond, Lennon Pond \(0801-0075\)](#)
[Cleveland,Payne,Huckleberry,Halfmoon Lks \(0801-0193\)](#)
 Hitchcock Lake (0801-0325)
 Hitchcock Pond, Grass Pond, Moose Pond (0801-0326)
[Independence Lake \(0801-0327\)](#)
 Little Independence Pond (0801-0328)
[Little Diamond Pond \(0801-0153\)](#)

Category

MinorImpacts
 NoKnownImpct
 UnAssessed
 UnAssessed
 Impaired Seg
 UnAssessed
 Impaired Seg
 Impaired Seg
 Impaired Seg
 UnAssessed
 UnAssessed
 Impaired Seg
 UnAssessed
 Impaired Seg

Toxicity testing using water from this location resulted in a substantial reduction in reproductive rate and significant mortality to the test organisms in one of two tests. These effects are likely due to a combination of low water hardness, low pH and/or metals toxicity (specifically aluminum, indicated as a parameter of concern in the water column). Fish community assessment showed that although the metrics reflected good water quality, the numbers of fish collected were low. In spite of non-impacted biological communities, the combination of periodic low pH measurements, other parameters of concern and water toxicity suggests some impacts to aquatic life support in the stream.

A biological (macroinvertebrate) screening of the Independence River near Otter Creek (at Pine Grove Road) was conducted in 2002 and 1996. The habitat was favorable, and a diverse invertebrate community was present, with many mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies. Indices placed water quality just within the range of slight impact, but the site was determined to be fully supporting of aquatic life. Biological sampling at the upstream end of this reach in Sperryville (at McPhilly Road) was conducted in 1996. Sampling results indicated non-impacted water quality conditions. Habitat consisted of large and interlocking boulders and cobble with sand and gravel. Field screening criteria for non-impacted water quality were met. (DEC/DOW, BWAM/SBU, 2005)

This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs from the mouth to McPhilly Road in Sperryville. The waters of this portion of the stream are primarily Class C(T), except for a 0.5 mile reach below the Donnetburg Road Bridge that is Class B(T). Tribs to this reach/segment are Class C,C(T),C(TS). Upper Independence River is listed separately.

Independence River, Upper, and tribs (0801-0221)

NoKnownImpct

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 01/10/2007

Water Index No: Ont 19- 57
Hydro Unit Code: 04150101/110 **Str Class:** C(T)*
Waterbody Type: River
Waterbody Size: 171.1 Miles
Seg Description: stream and tribs, above Sperryville

Drain Basin: Black River
Reg/County: 6/Lewis Co. (25)
Quad Map: NUMBER FOUR (F-20-0)

Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
NO USE IMPAIRMNT		

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: ---
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ---
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Resolution/Management Information

Issue Resolvability: 8 (No Known Use Impairment)
Verification Status: (Not Applicable for Selected RESOLVABILITY)
Lead Agency/Office: n/a **Resolution Potential:** n/a
TMDL/303d Status: n/a

Further Details

A biological (macroinvertebrate) assessment of the Independence River in Sperryville (at McPhilmly Road) was conducted in 1996. Sampling results indicated non-impacted water quality conditions. Habitat consisted of large and interlocking boulders and cobble with sand and gravel. Field screening criteria for non-impacted water quality were met. (DEC/DOW, BWAM, SBU, 1996)

Although there are over 170 miles of stream miles above the site, land use is largely forested and undeveloped and access is quite limited. Consequently, the assessment of non-impacted water quality for all stream miles is considered to be a mixed (monitored/evaluated) assessment.

This segment includes the portion of the stream and all tribs above McPhilmly Road in Sperryville. The waters of this portion of the stream are Class C(T). Tribs to this reach/segment, including Beaver Meadow Creek (-5), Burnt Creek (-7), Second Creek (-8), Third Creek (-9), and Fourth Creek (-10), are primarily Class C,C(T),C(TS), with a small trib to Independence Lake (P647) designate Class AA(T). Lower Independence River is listed separately.

Evies Pond, Long Lake, Fish Pond (0801-0323)

Impaired Seg

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 12/24/2004

Water Index No: Ont 19- 57- 5-P608,P610,P615 **Drain Basin:** Black River
Hydro Unit Code: 04150101/110 **Str Class:** C Black River
Waterbody Type: Lake **Reg/County:** 6/Lewis Co. (25)
Waterbody Size: 50.9 Acres **Quad Map:** CRYSTAL DALE (F-19-3)
Seg Description: total area of all three lakes

Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
AQUATIC LIFE	Impaired	Suspected

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: ACID/BASE (PH)
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ---
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Resolution/Management Information

Issue Resolvability: 1 (Needs Verification/Study (see STATUS))
Verification Status: 4 (Source Identified, Strategy Needed)
Lead Agency/Office: ext/EPA
TMDL/303d Status: 2a*

Resolution Potential: Low

Further Details

Aquatic life support in the waters of this segment are thought to be impaired by low pH, a result of atmospheric deposition (acid rain).

Historical surveys of some of these waters indicate that low pH due to acid deposition is limiting the fishery. Monitoring by ALSC (1984-85) revealed a pH <5.0 and no presence of fish. Aquatic life in this segment is considered to be impaired. The waters of this segment are included on the NYS 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Cork Pond, Spectacle Pond East, Spectacle Pond West, and Mahan Pond were included on Part 2a of the List as an Atmospheric Deposition (Acid Rain) Waters; they were included in Appendix A as a Smaller Lake Impaired by Acid Rain. Because there is no data indicating impact on the larger ponds of this segment, impairment to this segment is listed as suspected. (DEC/DOW, BWAM, 2006)

Efforts are underway on a national level to address problems caused by acid rain by reducing pollutant emissions, as required by the Clean Air Act. New York State (and other northeastern states) have taken legal action against USEPA to accelerate implementation of controls. Monitoring of these waters will continue, in order to assess changes in water quality resulting from implementation of the Clean Air Act. However, these changes are expected to occur only slowly over time.

This segment includes Cork Pond (P607), Spectacle Pond West (P611), Spectacle Pond East (P612), Mahan Pond (P613).

Trout Pond, Bills Pond (0801-0127)

Impaired Seg

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: / /

Water Index No: Ont 19- 57- 7..P628,P630
Hydro Unit Code: 04150101/110 **Str Class:** C
Waterbody Type: Lake
Waterbody Size: 51.4 Acres
Seg Description: total area of both lakes

Drain Basin: Black River
Reg/County: 6/Lewis Co. (25)
Quad Map: NUMBER FOUR (F-20-0)

Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
AQUATIC LIFE	Impaired	Known

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: ACID/BASE (PH)
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ATMOSPH. DEPOSITION
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Resolution/Management Information

Issue Resolvability: 1 (Needs Verification/Study (see STATUS))
Verification Status: 4 (Source Identified, Strategy Needed)
Lead Agency/Office: ext/EPA
TMDL/303d Status: 2a (Multiple Segment/Categorical Water, Atmosph Dep)

Resolution Potential: Low

Further Details

Aquatic life support in Trout and Bill's Ponds and other waters of this segment are known to be impaired by low pH, a result of atmospheric deposition (acid rain).

Historical surveys of these waters indicate that low pH due to acid deposition is limiting the fishery. Monitoring by ALSC (1984-85) revealed a pH <5.0 and no presence of fish. Aquatic life in this segment is considered to be impaired. The waters of this segment are included on the NYS 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Bill's Pond lake is included on Part 2a of the List as an Atmospheric Deposition (Acid Rain) Water. Trout Pond and Stewart Pond are also included on the 2006 Section 303(d) List in Appendix A as a Smaller Lake Impaired by Acid Rain. (DEC/DOW, BWAM, 2006)

Efforts are underway on a national level to address problems caused by acid rain by reducing pollutant emissions, as required by the Clean Air Act. New York State (and other northeastern states) have taken legal action against USEPA to accelerate implementation of controls. Monitoring of these waters will continue, in order to assess changes in water quality resulting from implementation of the Clean Air Act. However, these changes are expected to occur only slowly over time.

Panther Pond, Fifth Cr Pond, Lennon Pond (0801-0075) Impaired Seg

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: / /

Water Index No: Ont 19- 57- 9/10..P632,P635,P638 **Drain Basin:** Black River
Hydro Unit Code: 04150101/110 **Str Class:** C Black River
Waterbody Type: Lake **Reg/County:** 6/Lewis Co. (25)
Waterbody Size: 51.1 Acres **Quad Map:** NUMBER FOUR (F-20-0)
Seg Description: total area of all three lakes

Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
AQUATIC LIFE	Impaired	Known

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: ACID/BASE (PH)
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ATMOSPH. DEPOSITION
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Resolution/Management Information

Issue Resolvability: 1 (Needs Verification/Study (see STATUS))
Verification Status: 4 (Source Identified, Strategy Needed)
Lead Agency/Office: ext/EPA **Resolution Potential:** Low
TMDL/303d Status: 2a (Multiple Segment/Categorical Water, Atmosph Dep)

Further Details

Aquatic life support in Panther, Fifth Creek and Lennon Ponds and other waters of this segment are known to be impaired by low pH, a result of atmospheric deposition (acid rain).

Historical surveys of these waters indicate that low pH due to acid deposition is limiting the fishery. Monitoring by DFW (1979) and ALSC (1984-96) revealed a pH <5.0 and no presence of fish. Aquatic life in this segment is considered to be impaired. The waters of this segment are included on the NYS 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Panther Pond, Fifth Creek Pond and Lennon Pond are included on Part 2a of the List as an Atmospheric Deposition (Acid Rain) Water. Mikes Pond, Blue Pond and unnamed pond P636 are also included on the 2006 Section 303(d) List in Appendix A as a Smaller Lake Impaired by Acid Rain. (DEC/DOW, BWAM, 2006)

Efforts are underway on a national level to address problems caused by acid rain by reducing pollutant emissions, as required by the Clean Air Act. New York State (and other northeastern states) have taken legal action against USEPA to accelerate implementation of controls. Monitoring of these waters will continue, in order to assess changes in water quality resulting from implementation of the Clean Air Act. However, these changes are expected to occur only slowly over time.

In 2006, NYSDEC established and USEPA approved a TMDL to address acid rain impairment to 143 Adirondack

lakes that are located in NYS Forest Preserve lands, including Fifth Creek Pond. Recognizing that the available pH data for many of these lakes is 20-30 years old, the TMDL outlines a phased/adaptive management approach, that initially relies heavily on monitoring and assessment to determine current conditions, modeling refinements to estimate future conditions, and the implementation of statewide, regional and national efforts to reduce atmospheric loadings causing the impairment. (Impaired Water Restoration Plan/TMDL for Acid Rain Lakes (NYS Forest Preserve, DEC/DOW, BWAM, August 2006)

This segment includes Mikes Pond (P636), unnamed small (P636) and Blue Pond (P640).

Cleveland,Payne,Huckleberry,Halfmoon Lks (0801-0193) Impaired Seg

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 08/02/1994

Water Index No: Ont 19- 57- P619,P622,P625 **Drain Basin:** Black River
Hydro Unit Code: 04150101/110 **Str Class:** C Black River
Waterbody Type: Lake **Reg/County:** 6/Lewis Co. (25)
Waterbody Size: 61.9 Acres **Quad Map:** CRYSTAL DALE (F-19-3)
Seg Description: total area of all four lakes

Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
FISH CONSUMPTION	Impaired	Known

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: METALS (mercury)
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ---
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Resolution/Management Information

Issue Resolvability: 1 (Needs Verification/Study (see STATUS))
Verification Status: 4 (Source Identified, Strategy Needed)
Lead Agency/Office: ext/EPA **Resolution Potential:** Low
TMDL/303d Status: 2b (Multiple Segment/Categorical Water, Fish Consumption)

Further Details

Fish consumption in Halfmoon Lake is known to be impaired by mercury contamination, a result of atmospheric deposition.

Fish consumption in Halfmoon Lake is impaired due to a NYS DOH health advisory that recommends eating no more than one meal per month of yellow perch because of elevated mercury levels. The source of mercury is considered to be atmospheric deposition, as there are not other apparent sources in the lake watershed. The advisory for this lake was issued prior to 1998-99. (2006-07 NYS DOH Health Advisories and DEC/DFWMR, Habitat, December 2006).

Halfmoon Lake is included on the NYS 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. The lake is included on Part 2b of the List as a Fish Consumption Water.

Independence Lake (0801-0327)

Impaired Seg

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: 12/24/2004

Water Index No: Ont 19- 57-25-P647 **Drain Basin:** Black River
Hydro Unit Code: 04150101/110 **Str Class:** AA(T) Black River
Waterbody Type: Lake **Reg/County:** 6/Oneida Co. (33)
Waterbody Size: 51.1 Acres **Quad Map:** BIG MOOSE (F-21-0)
Seg Description: entire lake

Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
AQUATIC LIFE	Impaired	Suspected

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: ACID/BASE (PH)
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ---
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Resolution/Management Information

Issue Resolvability: 1 (Needs Verification/Study (see STATUS))
Verification Status: 4 (Source Identified, Strategy Needed)
Lead Agency/Office: ext/EPA
TMDL/303d Status: 2a*

Resolution Potential: Low

Further Details

Aquatic life support in the waters of this segment are thought to be impaired by low pH, a result of atmospheric deposition (acid rain).

Historical surveys of some of these waters indicate that low pH due to acid deposition is limiting the fishery. Monitoring by ALSC (1985-86) revealed a pH <5.0 and no presence of fish. Aquatic life in this segment is considered to be impaired. The waters of this segment are included on the NYS 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Unnamed pond P646 is included on Part 2a of the List as an Atmospheric Deposition (Acid Rain) Water. Unnamed pond (P645) is also included on the 2006 Section 303(d) List in Appendix A as a Smaller Lake Impaired by Acid Rain. Because there is no data indicating impact on the Independence Lake, impairment to this segment is listed as suspected. (DEC/DOW, BWAM, 2006)

Efforts are underway on a national level to address problems caused by acid rain by reducing pollutant emissions, as required by the Clean Air Act. New York State (and other northeastern states) have taken legal action against USEPA to accelerate implementation of controls. Monitoring of these waters will continue, in order to assess changes in water quality resulting from implementation of the Clean Air Act. However, these changes are expected to occur only slowly over time.

Little Diamond Pond (0801-0153)

Impaired Seg

Waterbody Location Information

Revised: / /

Water Index No: Ont 19- 57-P651
Hydro Unit Code: 04150101/110 **Str Class:** C(T)
Waterbody Type: Lake
Waterbody Size: 12.8 Acres
Seg Description: entire lake

Drain Basin: Black River
Reg/County: 6/Oneida Co. (33)
Quad Map: BIG MOOSE (F-21-0)

Water Quality Problem/Issue Information

(CAPS indicate MAJOR Use Impacts/Pollutants/Sources)

Use(s) Impacted	Severity	Problem Documentation
AQUATIC LIFE	Impaired	Known

Type of Pollutant(s)

Known: ACID/BASE (PH)
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Source(s) of Pollutant(s)

Known: ATMOSPH. DEPOSITION
Suspected: ---
Possible: ---

Resolution/Management Information

Issue Resolvability: 1 (Needs Verification/Study (see STATUS))
Verification Status: 4 (Source Identified, Strategy Needed)
Lead Agency/Office: ext/EPA
TMDL/303d Status: 2a (Multiple Segment/Categorical Water, Atmosph Dep)

Resolution Potential: Low

Further Details

Aquatic life support in Little Diamond Pond is known to be impaired by low pH, a result of atmospheric deposition (acid rain).

Historical surveys of these waters indicate that low pH due to acid deposition is limiting the fishery. Monitoring by ALSC (1986) revealed a pH <5.0 and no presence of fish. Aquatic life in this segment is considered to be impaired. The waters of this segment are included on the NYS 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Little Diamond Pond is included on Part 2a of the List as an Atmospheric Deposition (Acid Rain) Water. (DEC/DOW, BWAM, 2006)

Efforts are underway on a national level to address problems caused by acid rain by reducing pollutant emissions, as required by the Clean Air Act. New York State (and other northeastern states) have taken legal action against USEPA to accelerate implementation of controls. Monitoring of these waters will continue, in order to assess changes in water quality resulting from implementation of the Clean Air Act. However, these changes are expected to occur only slowly over time.