

# **New York Power Authority**

Incident Report to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project

FERC L.P. No 2685-NY

Emergency Action Plan Activation – Type B

08/28/2011 – 08/29/2011

Report Issued 09/06/2011

September 6, 2011

FERC Section 12.10 Report for the Emergency Action Plan Type B Emergency at the  
Blenheim Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project FERC LP 2685-NY

(i) **The causes of the condition;**

An EAP Type B Emergency was declared at the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project (BG) at 13:20 on Sunday August 28, 2011 in response to New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) declaring an EAP Type B Emergency at the NYCDEP Gilboa Dam. The NYCDEP Gilboa Dam is located immediately upstream of the BG Project – Lower Reservoir. The watershed area at the NYCDEP Gilboa Dam is 314 sq-mi and the drainage area at the NYPA BG Project is 356 sq-mi (see attached Figure 1 for the location plan of the dams and the tributary areas). The NYCDEP declaration of a Type B Emergency was the result of NYCDEP receiving an instrumentation reading that indicated that the NYCDEP Gilboa Dam had shifted with subsequent loss of data transmission. Engineers from NYCDEP later determined that the NYCDEP Gilboa Dam had not moved and that the reading was due to movement of an extensometer on the Gilboa Dam construction bulkhead in the new east notch of the spillway. The NYCDEP kept the EAP Type B Emergency at the Gilboa Dam due to the inflows from Hurricane Irene. During the time of this event, torrential rains associated with Hurricane Irene were progressing through the area and the Schoharie Creek was experiencing the flood of record. There are preliminary reports of 12 to 13 inches of rainfall in the upper watershed (see attached preliminary precipitation data). A preliminary verbal USGS assessment was that the event was at least a 1:500 year flood event. The NYCDEP Gilboa Dam max pool elevations reached elevation 1137.73 ft, which exceeded the previous record stage of 1136.6 ft that was set in 1996. See attached outflow hydrograph for the NYCDEP Gilboa Dam, and outflow hydrograph for the BG Lower Reservoir. Note that due to loss of stream gages upstream, the BG Lower Reservoir outflow hydrograph was determined based upon the BG Lower Reservoir elevation and position of the Tainter gates. The attached inflow hydrograph was calculated using the outflow hydrograph using the reservoir capacity curve. Associated plots of water surface elevations for the event are also attached for the Gilboa Dam and the BG Lower Reservoir Dam.

(ii) **A description of any unusual occurrences or operating circumstances preceding the condition;**

Prior to NYPA declaring the EAP Type B Emergency at the Blenheim-Gilboa Lower Reservoir Dam, NYPA was in the process of opening the three Tainter gates at the Lower Reservoir to the full open position (42 ft) to route a flood. On Sunday August 28, 2011 at 09:30, it was reported that the National Weather Service had projected a flood of 77,500 cfs at 21:00 hour on August 28, 2011 with an elevation at the NYCDEP Gilboa Dam of 1136.3 ft. This was an increase from the previous reported National Weather Service forecast at 06:30 hours on August 28, 2011 for a flow of 11,000 cfs.

As a result of the storm, the National Grid feed to the Tainter gates was lost at 08:23 on August 28, 2011 at which point the BG emergency generator #3 was brought online. The BG emergency generator #3 continued to run from 08:23 to 11:11, on August 28, 2011, at which emergency generator #3 failed. All three Tainter gates were open approximately 4.5 ft at the BG emergency generator #3 failed. At 11:12 on August 28, 2011 a portable emergency generator and power drill was used to raise each of the three gates individually. Tainter gate #1 was out of the water at approximately 12:49 on August 28, 2011 and had a gate opening of about 29 ft; Tainter gate # 2 was out of the water at approximately 12:59 on August 28, 2011 and had a gate opening of 29 ft; and Tainter gate #3 was out of the water at approximately 13:18 on August 28, 2011 and had a gate opening of approximately 30 ft. The Tainter gates were at full open position of 42 ft at 15:00 and the water level was still rising. Due to the high water event in the Schoharie Creek, the Tainter gates were in the process of being opened in accordance to flood routing sheets. At the time of the EAP Type B

Emergency being declared the Blenheim-Gilboa Lower Reservoir pool elevation was at 894.44 at 13:20 and rising, and the gates were approximately 30ft open. Readings for all upstream USGS gages were lost to the BG Control Room during the event. This includes the Platterkill and Minekill tributaries located between the NYCDEP Gilboa Dam and BG Lower Reservoir Dam. (See attached plots). Routing of the flows through the BG Lower Reservoir utilized the Lower Reservoir elevation and Tainter gate settings. Also, during the event, all external land line telephone service to the BG Project was lost. Emergency Action Plan (EAP) notifications were successfully conducted using land lines initially and subsequent calls were made using cell phones as back-up communications.

- (iii) **An account of any measures taken to prevent worsening of the condition:**  
 Prior to the BG Type B Emergency being declared at the BG Project, the Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department were notified that Prattsville flows were beginning to exceed 10,000 cfs. The Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department were also notified several times on August 28, 2011 prior to the BG Type B Emergency of outflows from the BG Lower Reservoir; at 10:25 when outflows were 5,800 cfs; at 10:44 when outflows were 6,000 cfs; at 10:55 when outflows were 7,000 cfs; 11:28 when outflows were above 9,000 cfs; and again at 11:43 when outflows were above 10,000 cfs. When the EAP Type B Emergency was declared, NYPA Operators started making timely calls in accordance with the notification flowchart to inform downstream agencies and FERC of the condition at the Blenheim-Gilboa Lower Reservoir. Schoharie County initiated the emergency evacuation sirens in the valley when the NYCDEP had declared a Type B EAP Emergency for the Gilboa Dam. The National Weather Service issued a flood warning in accordance with the information received through the Type B EAP notification at the BG Project. The Tainter gates were brought to the full-open position during the EAP Type B Emergency event to prevent the Lower Reservoir maximum pool elevation rising to a level that would overtop or threaten the integrity of the Lower Reservoir embankment. The Lower Reservoir elevation peaked at elevation 898.30 at 15:20 on August 28, 2011. The EAP Type B Emergency event was cancelled at 10:44 on August 29, 2011. The preliminary peak flow discharge is estimated to be 118,500 cfs from the BG Lower Reservoir spillway. The reservoir has a total storage capacity of 16,350 acre-ft and operates between a maximum pool elevation of 900 ft and a minimum pool elevation of 860 ft. The BG Lower Reservoir elevation remained within the normal operating range throughout the event. All three Tainter gates were full open at 42 ft during the passing of the peak BG Lower Reservoir elevation.
- (iv) **A detailed description of any damage to project works and the status of any repair:**  
 NYPA contacted the Part 12D Independent Consultant immediately during the event and an inspection of the BG Lower Reservoir Dam was conducted by Gomez and Sullivan Engineers, Inc. and completed at approximately 19:00 hours on August 29, 2011. The inspection revealed no dam safety issues with the Lower Reservoir Dam or spillway. Significant erosion was noted along the spillway channel and river bank downstream, as well as deposition of debris.
- (v) **A detailed description of any personal injuries:**  
 No personal injury were reported at the project
- (vi) **A detailed description of the nature and extent of any private property damages:**  
 Schoharie County declared a state of emergency (see attached pertinent news articles). There is significant damage upstream of the BG Project, particularly in Prattsville and Windham, NY caused by Hurricane Irene. There is also extensive damage along downstream of the BG Project along the Schoharie Creek to the Mohawk River.
- (vii) **Any other relevant information requested by the Regional Engineer**  
 (See above sections).

Preliminary Chronology of Key Events  
Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project – FERC LP 2685-NY

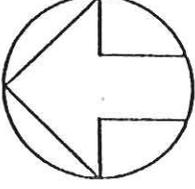
**Sunday 8/28/11**

- 05:54 - National Grid supply failed at spillway. Emergency Generator #3 running
- 05:55 - National Grid supply restored at spillway
- 06:05 - Spillway Emergency Generator Gen #3 shut down
- 06:47 - Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department notified Prattsville flow exceeding 10,000 cfs
- 08:23 - National Grid supply failed at spillway. Emergency Generator #3 running
- 10:25 - Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department notified outflow 5,800 cfs
- 10:44 - Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department notified outflow 6,000 cfs
- 10:55 - Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department notified outflow above 7,000 cfs
- 11:11 - Spillway Emergency Generator #3 failed
- 11:12 – Personnel dispatched to spillway with portable diesel generator
- 11:15 - All 5 regulating gates open at Vischer Ferry
- 11:25 (*Approximately*) - Operators commence raising Tainter Gate #1 w/ portable drill and generator
- 11:28 - Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department notified outflow above 9,000 cfs (*increase mainly due to rising reservoir elev.*)
- 11:29:01 - Spillway Emergency Generator #3 manually restarted
- 11:29:41 - Spillway Emergency Generator #3 failed
- 11:43 - Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department notified outflow above 10,000 cfs (*increase mainly due to rising reservoir elev.*)
- 11:44 - BG flood routing sheets initiated. Advised Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department that calculated inflows spiked above 50,000 cfs already, so expect next two moves to be to 20,000 and then 40,000 cfs
- 11:54 - Crescent sluice gate and tainter gate opened
- 12:10 - Spillway power restored through portable diesel generator.  
Control room Operator commences raising Tainter Gate #1 via normal hoist motor  
(*Only 1 gate can be operated at a time by the portable diesel generator*)
- 12:11 - Operators commence raising Tainter Gate #3 w/ portable drill and generator
- 12:12 (*Approximately*) - Notified Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department that discharges will go to 60,000 cfs
- 12:18 (*Approximately*) - NYCDEP reports Type B EAP Emergency at the Gilboa Dam was declared based on the reservoir levels exceeding all prior record levels and a possible spike in extensometer, and because all video and transmission were lost. It was reported that the temporary bulkhead at the NYCDEP Gilboa Dam failed at 10:40 on August 28, 2011.
- 12:21 (*Approximately*) - Control room Operator stops raising Tainter Gate #1 at 16.04' and commences raising Tainter Gate #2 via normal hoist motor
- 12:28 - BG1 spin-pump start initiated
- 12:30 (*Approximately*) - Notified Schoharie County EMO and Sherriff's Department that calculated inflows spiked above 95,000 cfs so discharges will rapidly increase above 60,000 cfs
- 12:31 - BG1 start fail, due to clogged upper and lower seal water strainers
- 12:32 - BG3 spin-pump start initiated
- 12:34 - BG2 spin-pump start initiated
- 12:36 - BG3 start fail, due to clogged upper and lower seal water strainers
- 12:37 (*Approximately*) - Control room Operator stops raising Tainter Gate #2 at 21.67' and commences raising Tainter Gate #1 via normal hoist motor
- 12:37 - BG4 spin-pump start initiated
- 12:38 - Upper/Lower seal water flow trip defeated on all 4 units
- 12:40 - BG2 Auto-sync PCB 124 closed

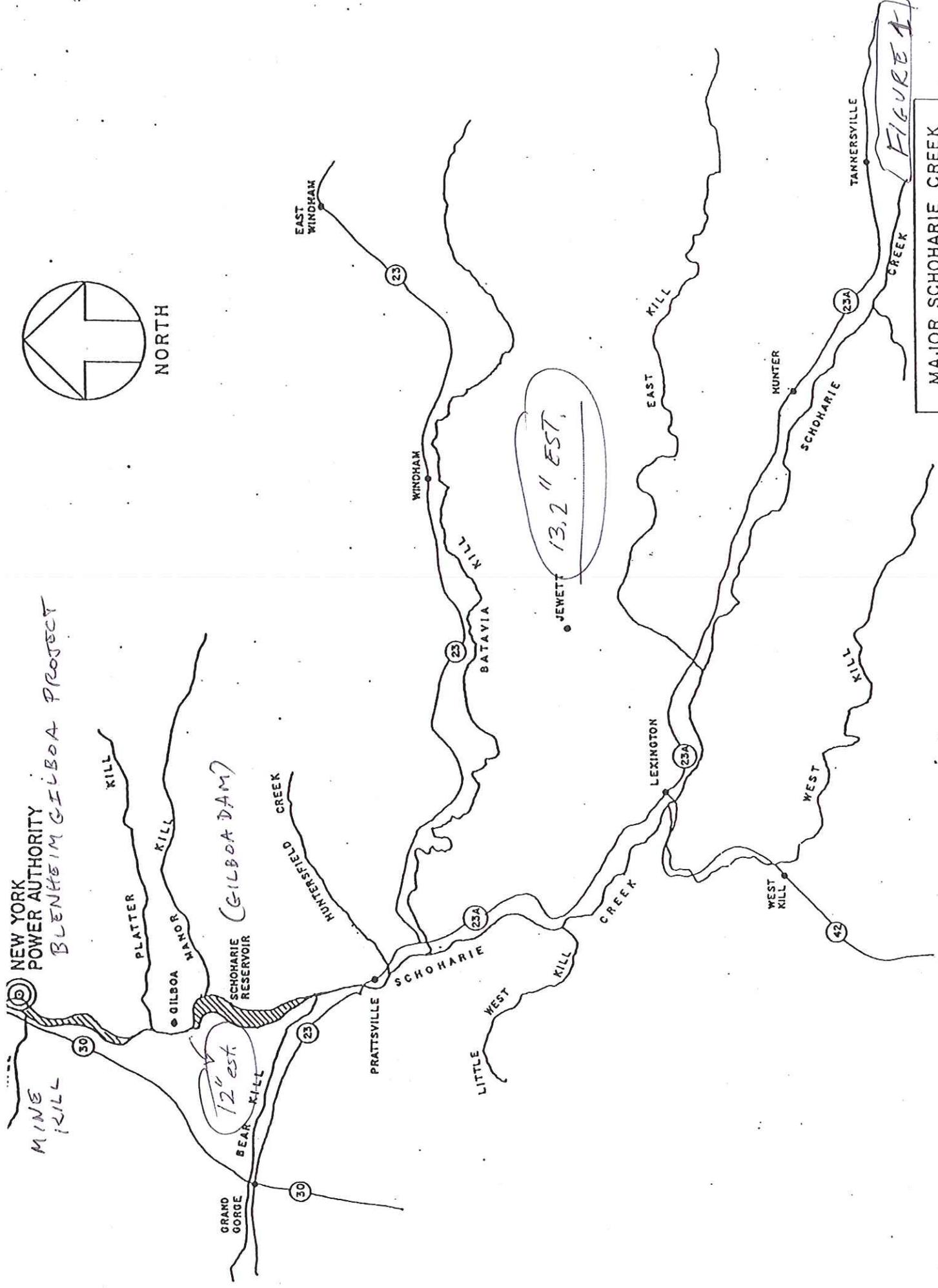
Preliminary Chronology of Key Events  
Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project – FERC LP 2685-NY

12:44 - BG4 Auto-sync PCB 144 closed  
12:45 - BG2 Pump transfer initiated  
12:46 - BG2 Primed and Pumping  
12:48 - BG4 Pump transfer initiated  
12:49 (Approximately) - Tainter Gate #1 breaks out of water  
12:50 - BG4 Primed and Pumping  
12:51 - BG1 spin-pump start initiated  
12:51 - BG3 spin-pump start initiated  
12:58 - BG1 Auto-sync PCB 114 closed  
12:58 - BG3 Auto-sync PCB 134 closed  
12:59 (Approximately) - Tainter Gate #2 breaks out of water  
12:59 - Operators cease raising Tainter Gate #3 w/ portable drill and generator  
13:00 - Control room Operator commences raising Tainter Gate #3 via normal hoist motor  
13:10 - BG3 Pump transfer initiated  
13:11 - BG3 Primed and Pumping  
13:18 (Approximately) - Tainter Gate #3 breaks out of water  
13:19 - BG1 Pump transfer initiated  
13:20 - BG1 Primed and Pumping  
13:20 - BG EAP Type 'B' declared from control room phones  
13:25 - BG2 Shut Down  
13:29 - BG4 Shut Down  
13:38 - BG3 Shut Down  
13:43 - BG1 Shut Down  
14:20 - BG1-4 declared unavailable for generation

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY  
 BLENHEIM GILBOA PROJECT



NORTH



MAJOR SCHOHARIE CREEK  
 TRIBUTARIES

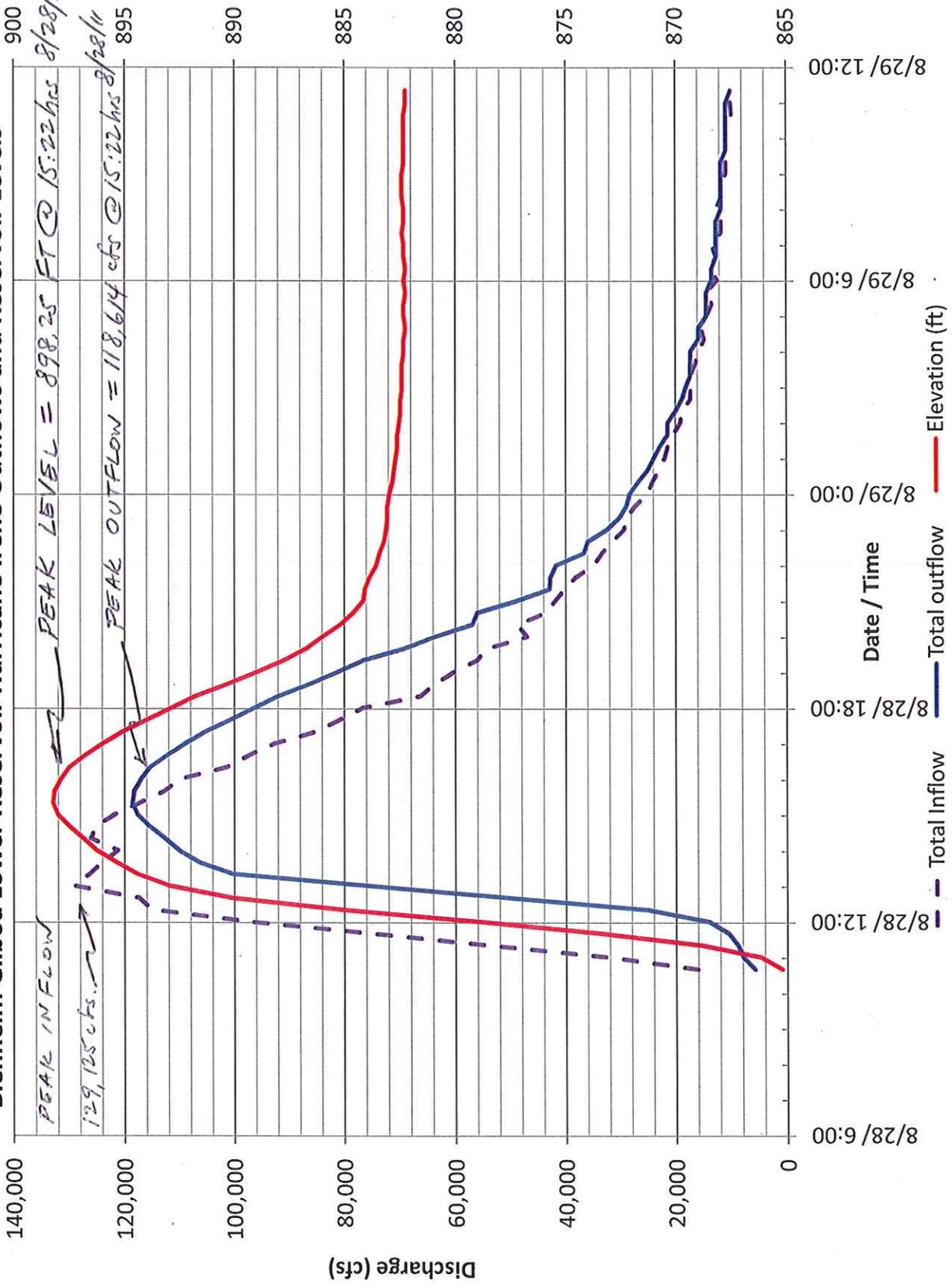
& RAINFALL ESTIMATES

FIGURE 1

BLENHEIM GILBOA. PUMPED STORAGE  
 POWER PROJECT - FERC LP 2685-NY

5/39  
 9/1/11

# Blenheim Gilboa Lower Reservoir Hurricane Irene Outflows and Reservoir Levels



PRELIMINARY 9/6/11

6/3/9

**BLenheim GILBOA LOWER RESERVOIR HURRICANE IRENE RESERVOIR ROUTING**

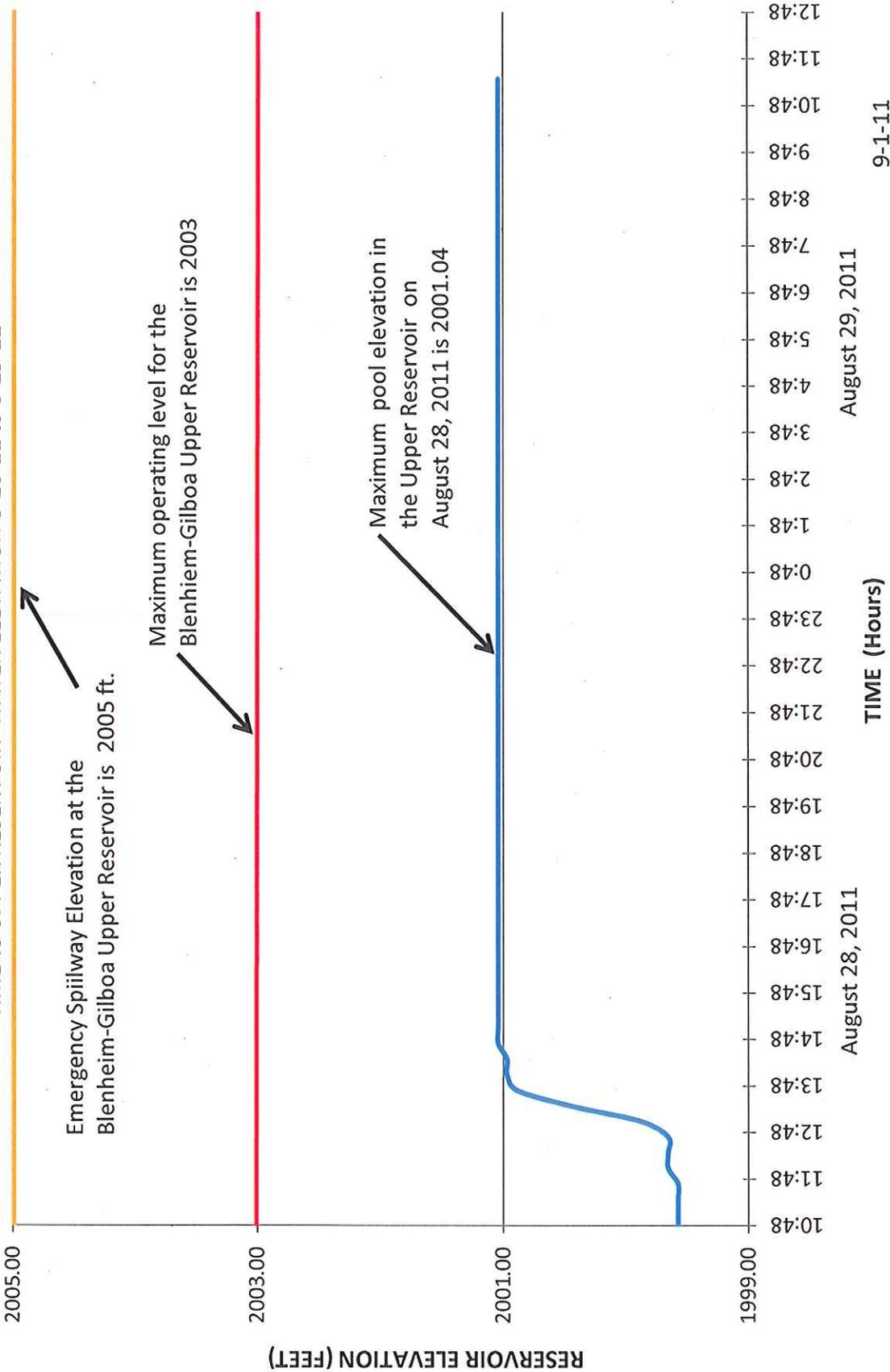
Shaded discharges are free discharge (i.e. no gate control)

Date-Time	Upper Reservoir			Lower Reservoir			Total Outflow (cfs)	Total Inflow (cfs)
	Elevation (ft)	Storage (ft <sup>3</sup> )	Storage Change (ft <sup>3</sup> )	Elevation (ft)	Storage (ft <sup>3</sup> )	Storage Change (ft <sup>3</sup> )		
8/28/11 10:42	1999.57	759,703,992	-	865.24	225,136,448	-	5,835	
8/28/11 11:02	1999.57	759,703,992	-	866.20	234,951,678	9,815,230	7,928	16,107
8/28/11 11:22	1999.57	759,703,992	-	868.84	263,062,003	28,110,325	8,862	32,287
8/28/11 11:42	1999.57	759,703,992	-	873.39	315,278,488	52,216,485	10,491	54,005
8/28/11 12:02	1999.65	761,059,339	1,355,347	878.96	386,820,992	71,542,504	14,055	74,803
8/28/11 12:22	1999.65	761,059,339	-	885.05	473,277,168	86,456,176	25,087	97,133
8/28/11 12:42	1999.65	761,059,339	-	890.11	551,259,820	77,982,652	50,006	114,992
8/28/11 13:02	1999.87	764,790,956	3,731,617	892.97	598,097,696	46,837,876	75,260	117,401
8/28/11 13:22	2000.45	774,661,766	9,870,800	894.44	622,987,353	24,889,657	100,158	129,125
8/28/11 13:42	2000.89	782,175,760	7,514,003	895.39	639,292,765	16,305,412	106,486	126,336
8/28/11 14:02	2000.97	783,544,064	1,368,304	896.27	654,537,865	15,245,100	110,165	124,010
8/28/11 14:22	2000.97	783,544,064	-	896.86	664,829,606	10,291,741	112,658	121,234
8/28/11 14:42	2001.04	784,741,817	1,197,754	897.52	676,411,653	11,582,047	115,472	126,122
8/28/11 15:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	898.03	685,422,947	9,011,294	117,664	125,173
8/28/11 15:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	898.25	689,324,850	3,901,903	118,614	121,866
8/28/11 15:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	898.18	688,082,226	(1,242,624)	118,311	117,275
8/28/11 16:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	897.89	682,944,567	(5,137,659)	117,060	112,779
8/28/11 16:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	897.52	676,411,653	(6,532,914)	115,472	110,028
8/28/11 16:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	896.78	663,430,803	(12,980,850)	112,319	101,502
8/28/11 17:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	895.98	649,499,694	(13,931,109)	108,947	97,338
8/28/11 17:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	895.10	634,297,805	(15,201,889)	105,284	92,616
8/28/11 17:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	894.00	615,491,689	(18,806,116)	100,771	85,099
8/28/11 18:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	892.90	596,923,292	(18,568,397)	96,332	80,858
8/28/11 18:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	891.80	578,623,668	(18,299,624)	91,970	76,720
8/28/11 18:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	890.33	554,780,864	(23,842,804)	86,259	66,390
8/28/11 19:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	889.01	533,808,163	(20,972,701)	81,277	63,800
8/28/11 19:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	887.76	514,281,839	(19,526,324)	76,628	60,356
8/28/11 19:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	886.74	498,646,798	(15,635,041)	69,212	56,183
8/28/11 20:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	886.00	487,460,810	(11,185,988)	63,718	54,396
8/28/11 20:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	885.20	475,504,094	(11,956,716)	57,010	47,046
8/28/11 20:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	884.61	466,766,226	(8,737,868)	56,113	48,831
8/28/11 21:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	884.17	460,291,781	(6,474,445)	48,939	43,544
8/28/11 21:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	884.09	459,118,320	(1,173,461)	42,967	41,989
8/28/11 21:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	883.88	456,043,842	(3,074,478)	42,762	40,200
8/28/11 22:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	883.58	451,667,713	(4,376,129)	41,791	38,145
8/28/11 22:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	883.43	449,488,859	(2,178,854)	36,703	34,887
8/28/11 22:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	883.22	446,453,682	(3,035,177)	35,958	33,429
8/28/11 23:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	883.14	445,301,403	(1,152,279)	32,472	31,512
8/28/11 23:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	883.07	444,294,034	(1,007,369)	30,197	29,358
8/28/11 23:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	883.07	444,294,034	-	28,915	28,915
8/29/11 0:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.99	443,143,763	(1,150,271)	28,323	27,364
8/29/11 0:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.85	441,133,934	(2,009,829)	26,798	25,123
8/29/11 0:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.78	440,130,233	(1,003,701)	25,035	24,199
8/29/11 1:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.70	438,984,227	(1,146,006)	23,948	22,993
8/29/11 1:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.63	437,982,702	(1,001,525)	22,837	22,002
8/29/11 1:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.63	437,982,702	-	21,422	21,422
8/29/11 2:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.55	436,839,003	(1,143,699)	21,387	20,434
8/29/11 2:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.48	435,839,103	(999,900)	19,966	19,133
8/29/11 2:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.48	435,839,103	-	18,785	18,785
8/29/11 3:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.41	434,840,113	(998,990)	18,119	17,287
8/29/11 3:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.41	434,840,113	-	17,275	17,275
8/29/11 3:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.41	434,840,113	-	17,275	17,275
8/29/11 4:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	(997,995)	17,251	16,419
8/29/11 4:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	-	15,800	15,800
8/29/11 4:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.26	432,702,392	(1,139,726)	15,775	14,826
8/29/11 5:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	1,139,726	14,410	15,360
8/29/11 5:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	-	14,410	14,410
8/29/11 5:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.26	432,702,392	(1,139,726)	14,388	13,438
8/29/11 6:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	1,139,726	13,449	14,399
8/29/11 6:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.26	432,702,392	(1,139,726)	13,428	12,478
8/29/11 6:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	1,139,726	12,600	13,550
8/29/11 7:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	-	12,600	12,600
8/29/11 7:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.41	434,840,113	997,995	12,617	13,449
8/29/11 7:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	(997,995)	12,600	11,768
8/29/11 8:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	-	11,721	11,721
8/29/11 8:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.41	434,840,113	997,995	11,736	12,568
8/29/11 8:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.41	434,840,113	-	11,736	11,736
8/29/11 9:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.41	434,840,113	-	11,736	11,736
8/29/11 9:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	(997,995)	11,721	10,889
8/29/11 9:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	-	10,840	10,840
8/29/11 10:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	-	10,840	10,840
8/29/11 10:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	-	10,840	10,840
8/29/11 10:42	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.34	433,842,118	-	10,840	10,840
8/29/11 11:02	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.26	432,702,392	(1,139,726)	10,823	9,873
8/29/11 11:22	2001.04	784,741,817	-	882.26	432,702,392	-	10,027	10,027

7/39

# BLENHIEIM-GILBOA PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT FERC LP 2685-NY

TIME vs UPPER RESERVOIR WATER ELEVATION 8-28-11 to 8-29-11



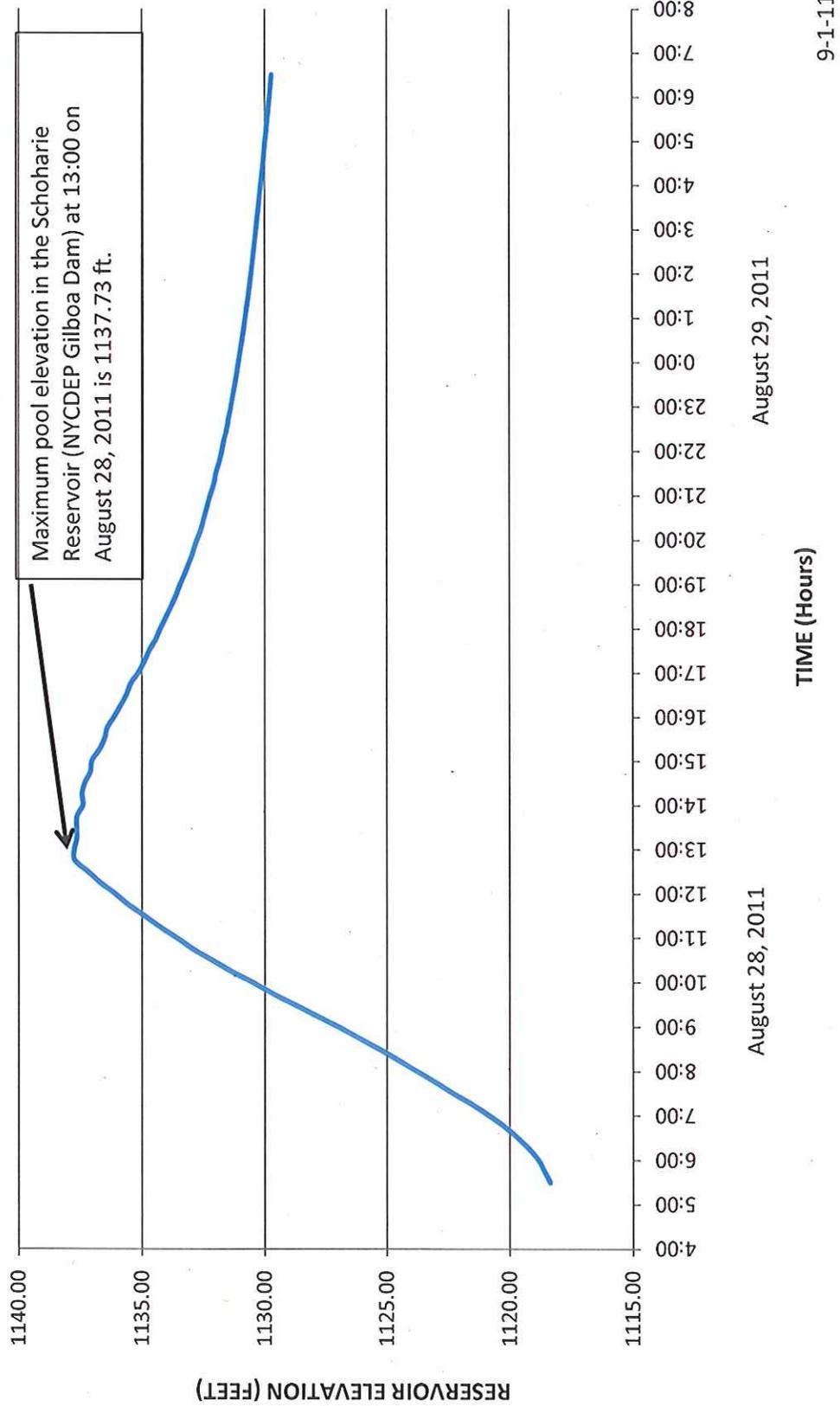
Emergency Spillway Elevation at the Blenheim-Gilboa Upper Reservoir is 2005 ft.

Maximum operating level for the Blenheim-Gilboa Upper Reservoir is 2003

Maximum pool elevation in the Upper Reservoir on August 28, 2011 is 2001.04

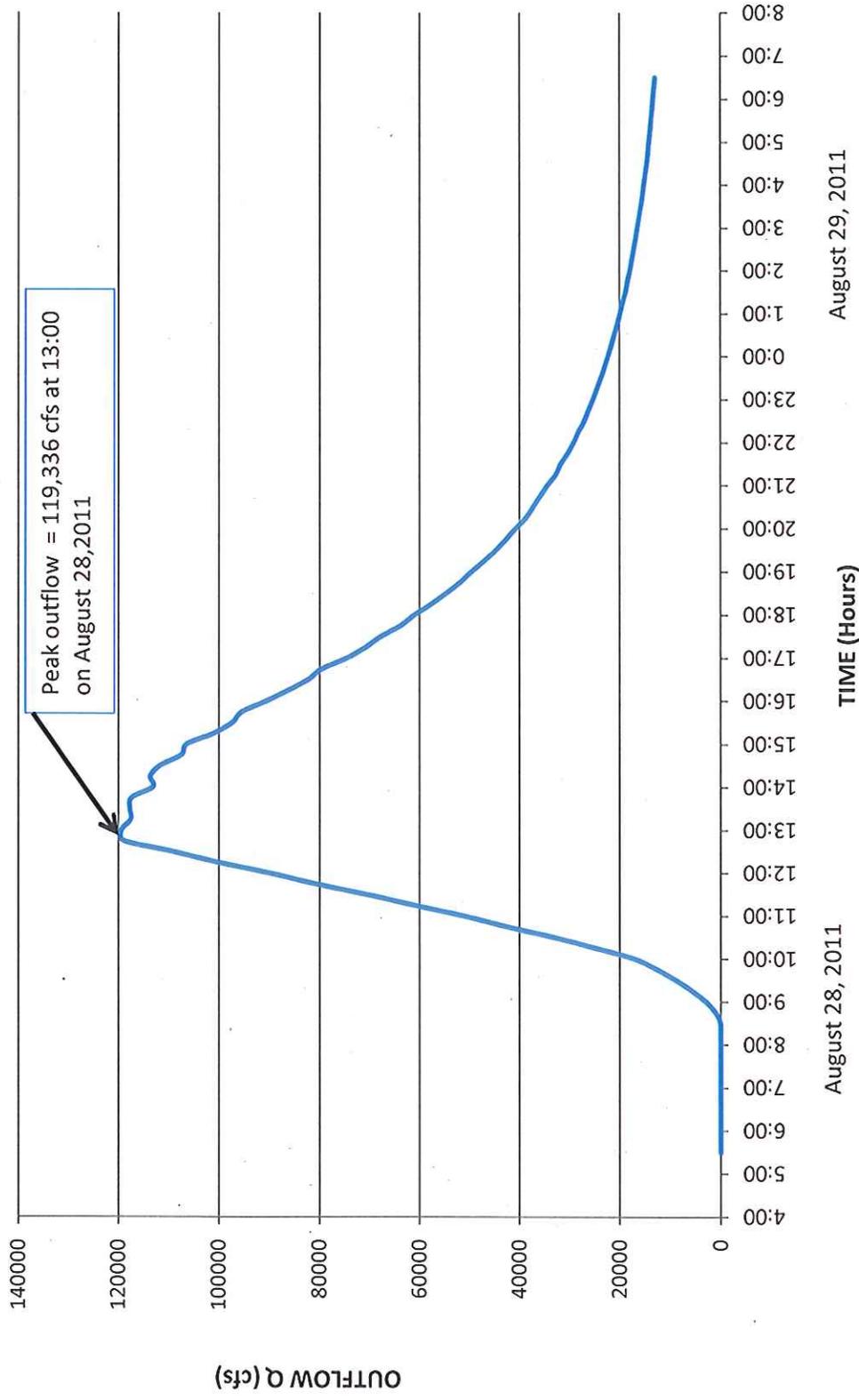
# Schoharie Reservoir (NYCDEP Gilboa Dam)

TIME vs POOL ELEVATION 8-28-11 to 8-29-11



Q OUTFLOW FROM THE SCHOHARIE RESERVOIR (NYC DEP GILBOA DAM)

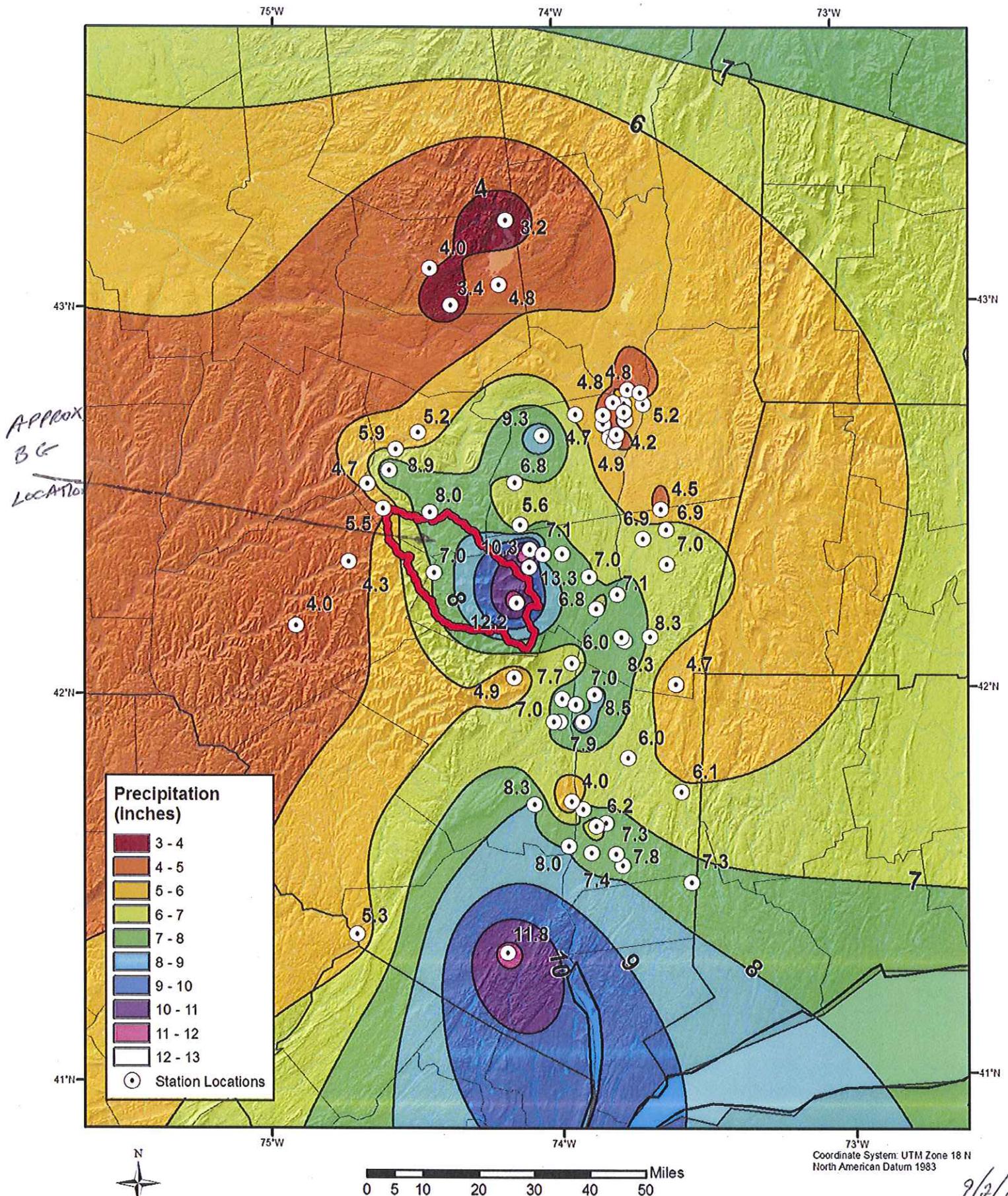
TIME vs FLOW 8-28-11 to 8-29-11



*PRELIMINARY*

10/3/11

# Unofficial Storm Totals - Southeastern New York August 27-30, 2011



*9/2/11*

**NOTE: RED OUTLINE IS BLENHEIM GILBOA WATERSHED**

*11/39*

The following are unofficial rainfall totals across southeastern New York for the period August 27-30, 2011 associated with Hurricane Irene

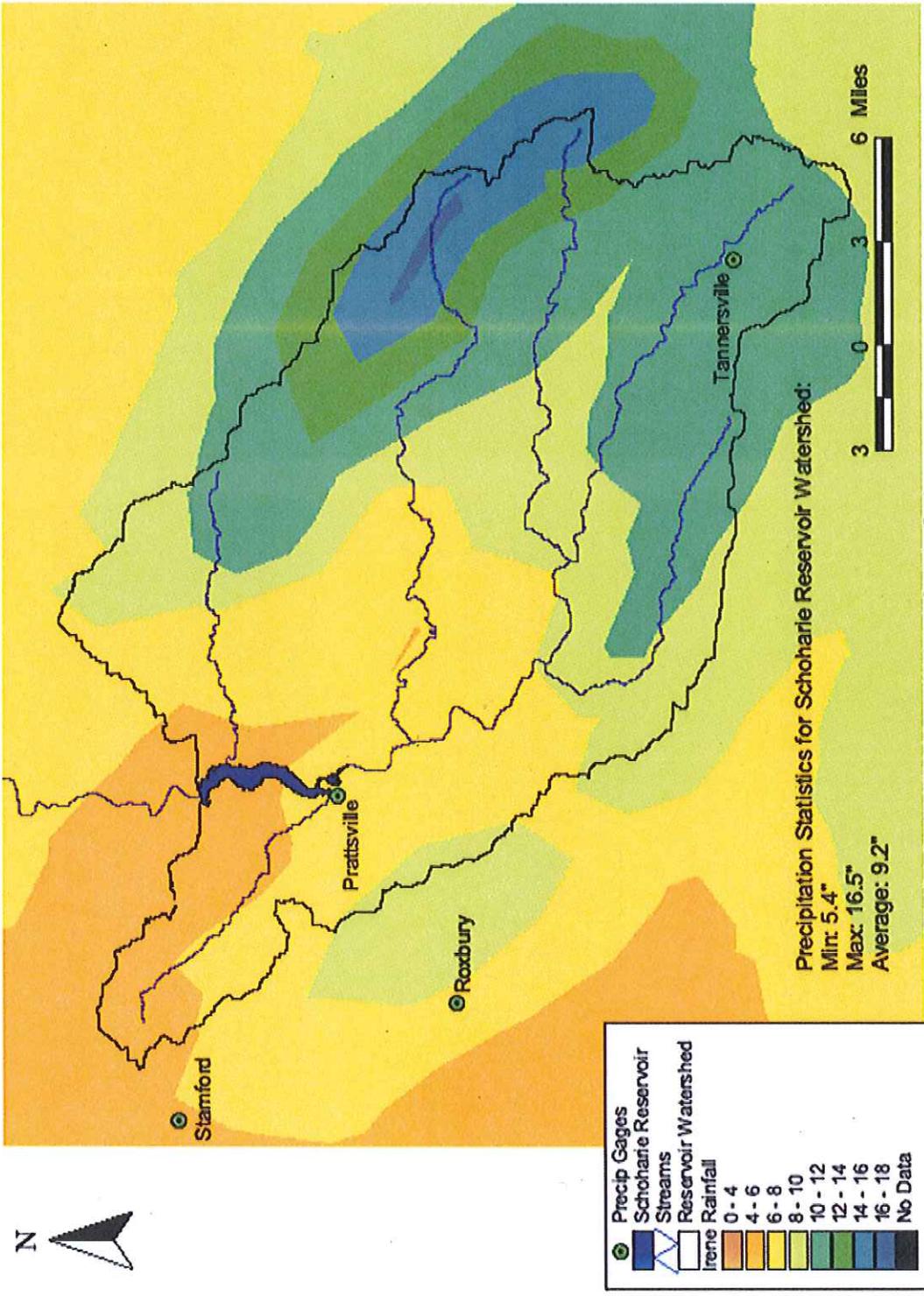
Station Name	Latitude	Longitude	Source	Total Rainfall (inches)	Station Name	Latitude	Longitude	Source	Total Rainfall (inches)
East Durham	42.3726	74.0957	PUBLIC	13.30	Loudonville	42.7048	73.7549	TRAINED SPOTTER	5.85
East Jewett	42.2351	74.1454	TRAINED SPOTTER	12.22	Richmondville	42.6342	74.5640	WEATHERNET6	5.85
Monroe	41.3310	74.1868	EVERYTHINGWX	11.79	Schenectady 5.6 SSW	42.7198	73.9304	COCORAHNS	5.76
Slide Mountain	44.2767	73.8663	COOP	11.53	Medusa	42.4368	74.1301	WEATHERNET6	5.61
South Durham	42.3270	74.0985	PUBLIC	10.30	Latham	42.7470	73.7590	N/A	5.50
Altamont 2.7 SSW	42.6670	74.0509	COCORAHNS	9.32	Charlottesville	42.5454	74.6646	WEATHERNET6	5.50
Summit	42.5795	74.5882	WEATHERNET6	8.88	Fulton	43.3228	76.4172	WEATHERNET6	5.40
Rhinebeck	41.9268	73.9164	TRAINED SPOTTER	8.80	Latham 1.5 SSW	42.7243	73.7570	COCORAHNS	5.33
Red Hook	41.9951	73.8754	COOP	8.53	Germanatown	41.3810	74.7050	WEATHERNET6	5.25
Hudson 8.2 S	42.1335	73.7679	COCORAHNS	8.27	Green Island	42.7444	73.6912	WEATHERNET6	5.20
Rhinebeck	n/a	n/a	COOP	8.27	Cobleskill	42.6779	74.4854	COOP	5.15
New Paltz 2.4 S	41.7135	74.0882	COCORAHNS	8.27	Nws Albany	42.6918	73.8311	COCORAHNS	5.11
Livingston	42.1420	73.7779	WEATHERNET6	8.26	1 ENE Mckownville	42.6940	73.8340	NWS OFFICE	5.11
North Blenheim	42.4709	74.4454	TRAINED SPOTTER	8.00	Albany 0.7 SW	42.6602	73.8103	COCORAHNS	5.09
Marlboro	41.6056	73.9715	TRAINED SPOTTER	7.96	Boght Corners	42.7831	73.7443	TRAINED SPOTTER	4.95
Kingston	41.9270	73.9974	TRAINED SPOTTER	7.85	Bearsville	42.0406	74.1551	TRAINED SPOTTER	4.91
Hopewell Junction 2.4 SSE	41.5535	73.7863	COCORAHNS	7.84	2 W Albany	42.6490	73.7936	NWS EMPLOYEE	4.86
Livingston	n/a	n/a	COOP	7.75	1 NE Shakers	42.7497	73.7972	ALBASOS	4.83
Poughkeepsie	41.7004	73.9210	TRAINED SPOTTER	7.74	Cohoes	42.7742	73.7001	WEATHERNET6	4.83
Lake Katrine	41.9856	73.9882	N/A	7.65	Broadalbin	43.0587	74.1965	WEATHERNET6	4.76
Poughkeepsie 4.7 ESE	41.6635	73.8419	COCORAHNS	7.60	Anramdale	42.0181	73.5912	WEATHERNET6	4.72
Wappingers Falls 1.6 ESE	41.5880	73.8922	COCORAHNS	7.35	Newtonville	42.7245	73.7585	PUBLIC	4.71
Hopewell Junction	41.5840	73.8088	TRAINED SPOTTER	7.29	Charlottesville	42.5454	74.6646	COOP	4.71
Stormville	41.5074	73.5474	N/A	7.29	Colonie	42.7179	73.8335	WEATHERNET6	4.67
Freehold 3.4 E	42.3605	73.9835	COCORAHNS	7.14	Jefferson	42.4812	74.6104	WEATHERNET6	4.60
Poughkeepsie	n/a	n/a	ASOS	7.14	North Chatham	42.4720	73.6318	WEATHERNET6	4.54
Freehold	42.3593	74.0499	PUBLIC	7.12	South Kortright 0.8 W	42.3442	74.7317	COCORAHNS	4.33
Hudson	42.2529	73.7910	WEATHERNET6	7.05	Albany 0.7 E	42.6678	73.7856	COCORAHNS	4.18
Ghent	42.3293	73.6157	WEATHERNET6	7.00	Peck Lake	43.1013	74.4423	COOP	4.04
Prattsville	42.3148	74.4329	WEATHERNET6	7.00	Andes 6.8 W	42.1792	74.9167	COCORAHNS	3.97
Cairo	42.2999	73.8895	WEATHERNET6	7.00	Highland	41.7210	73.9600	PUBLIC	3.97
Mills Norrie St Pk	41.9703	73.9407	COOP	6.98	Fishhouse	n/a	n/a	WEATHERNET6	3.51
Kingston 1.1 W	41.9279	74.0200	COCORAHNS	6.97	Johnstown	43.0067	74.3677	COOP	3.35
Kinderhook	42.3954	73.6979	TRAINED SPOTTER	6.92	Northville	43.2260	74.1721	WEATHERNET6	3.15
Chatham Center	42.4181	73.6140	WEATHERNET6	6.90					
Taghkanic	42.1423	73.6774	WEATHERNET6	6.81					
Rensselaerville 2.1 NNW	42.5455	74.1475	COCORAHNS	6.78					
Catskill	42.2173	73.8646	TRAINED SPOTTER	6.78					
Red Oaks Mill	41.6556	73.8749	TRAINED SPOTTER	6.15					
Dover Plains	41.7412	73.5765	TRAINED SPOTTER	6.06					
Saugerties	42.0776	73.9529	WEATHERNET6	6.02					
Clinton Corners	41.8310	73.7624	COOP	6.00					

Sources:  
 COCORAHNS - Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network - <http://www.cocorahns.org/>  
 COOP - National Weather Service Observer  
 WEATHERNET6 - <http://weathermet6.wrigo.com/>  
 ASOS - Automated Surface Observing Systems operated by the National Weather Service

9/2/11

12/39

Schoharie Reservoir Watershed  
 NEXRAD Data  
 Period 08/25/2011 to 08/31/2011



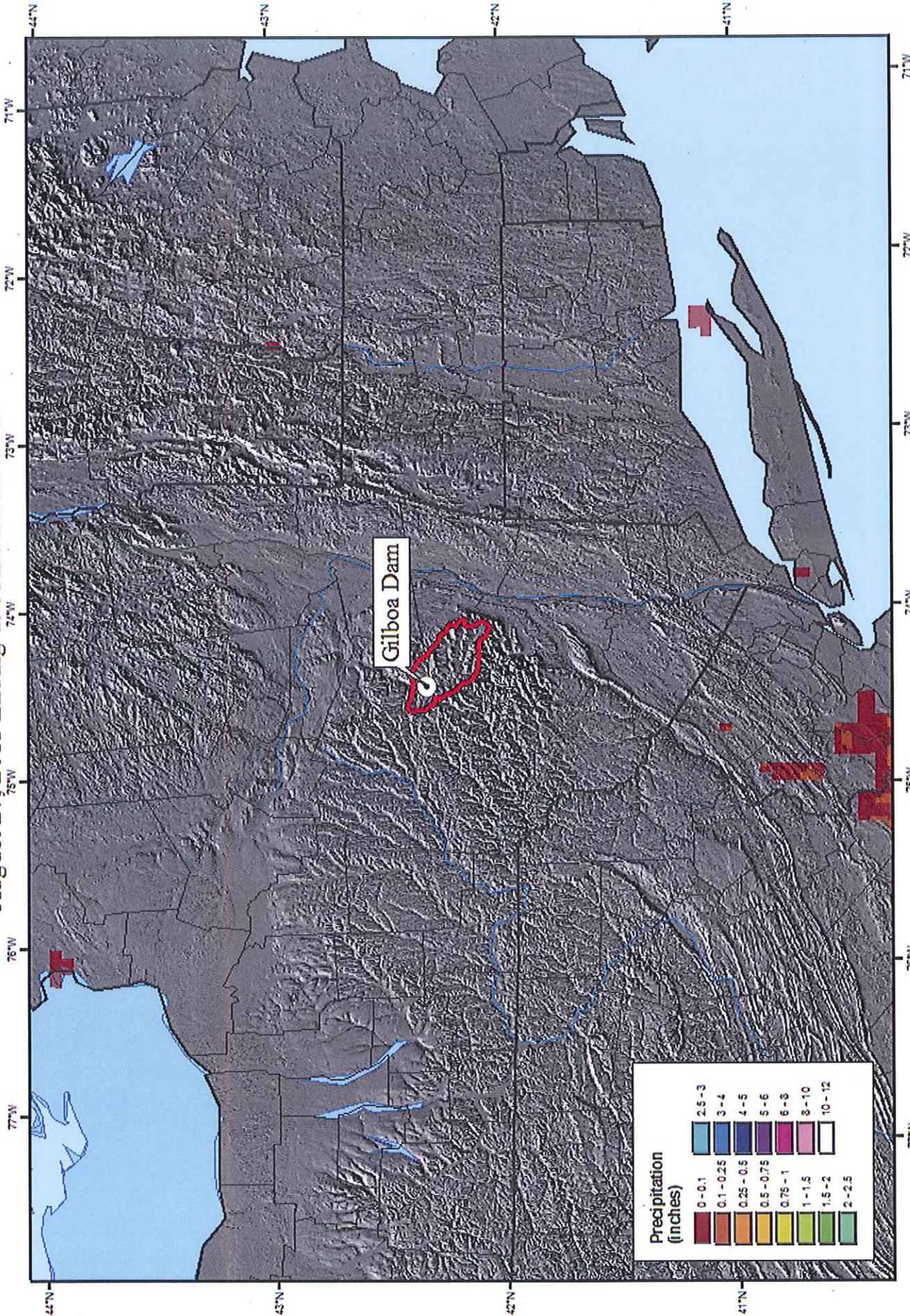
	Precip Gages
	Schoharie Reservoir
	Streams
	Reservoir Watershed
	Irene Rainfall
	0 - 4
	4 - 6
	6 - 8
	8 - 10
	10 - 12
	12 - 14
	14 - 16
	16 - 18
	No Data

Precipitation Statistics for Schoharie Reservoir Watershed:  
 Min: 5.4"  
 Max: 16.5"  
 Average: 9.2"

Precipitation Data Source: NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service.

9/6/11

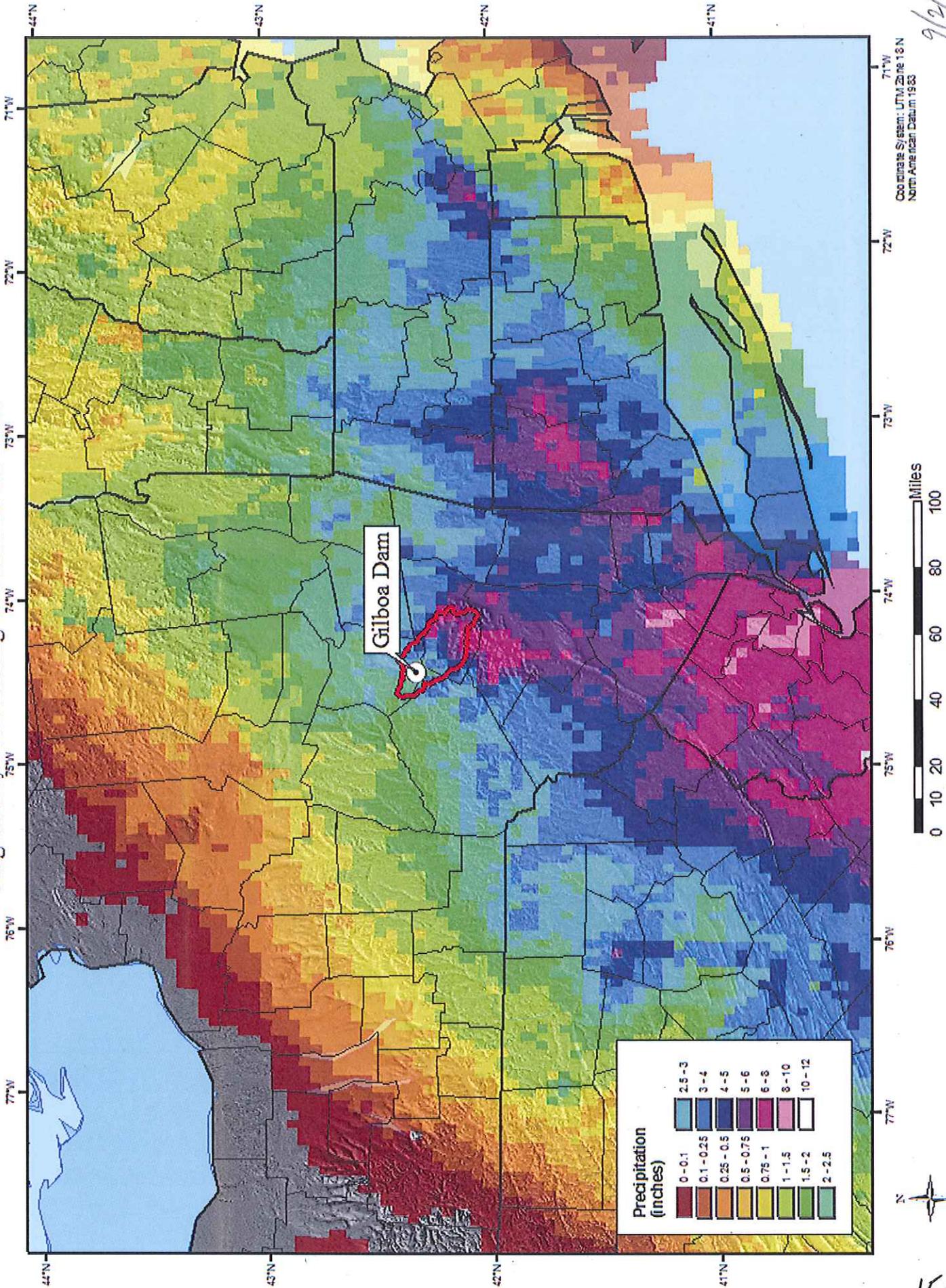
# NWS 1-day Observed Precipitation August 27, 2011 Ending at 8 AM Local Time



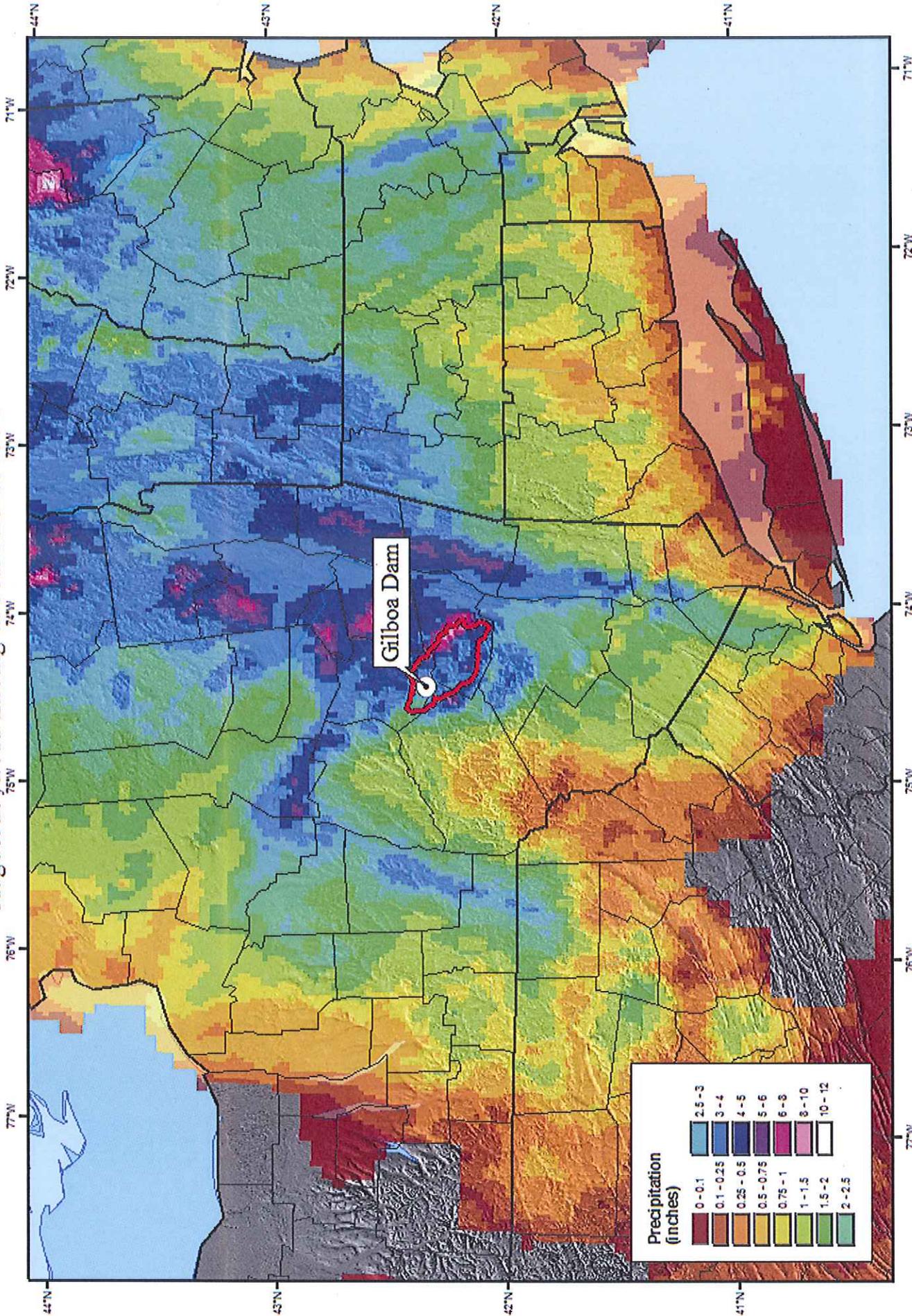
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# NWS 1-day Observed Precipitation August 28, 2011 Ending at 8 AM Local Time



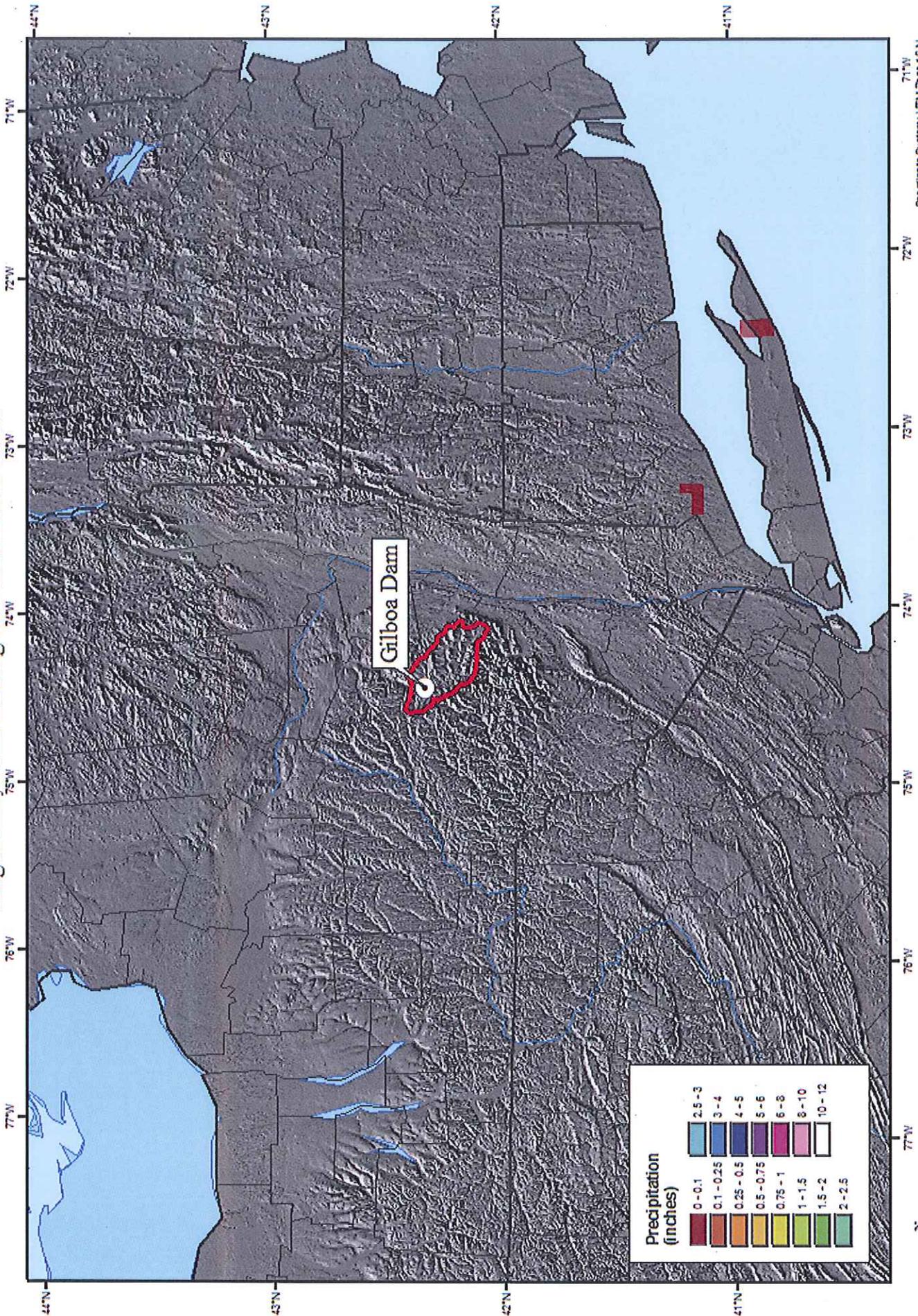
# NWS 1-day Observed Precipitation August 29, 2011 Ending at 8 AM Local Time



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16/39

# NWS 1-day Observed Precipitation August 30, 2011 Ending at 8 AM Local Time

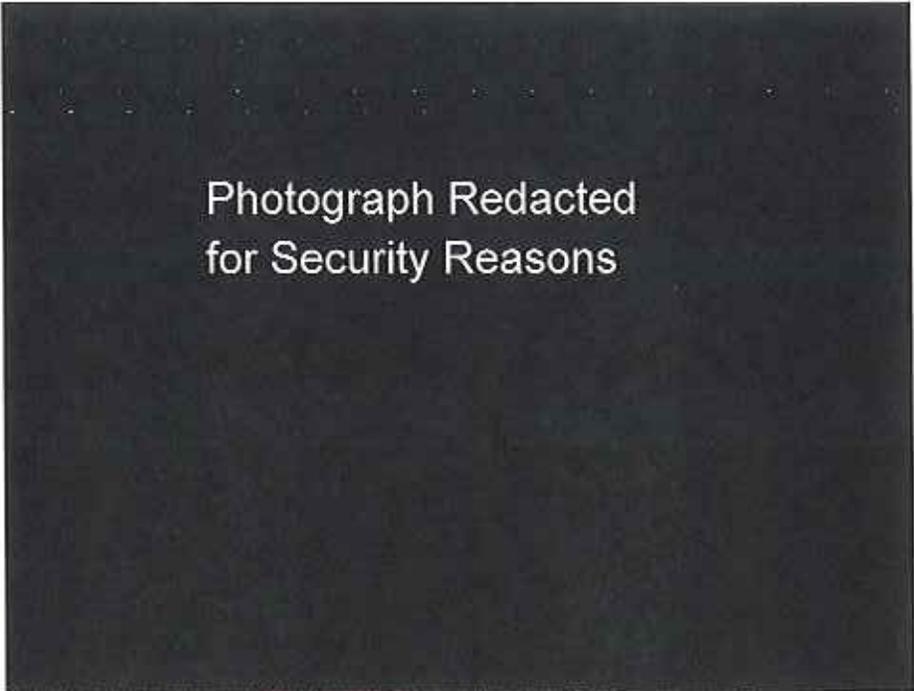


Coordinate System: UTM Zone 18N  
North American Datum 1983

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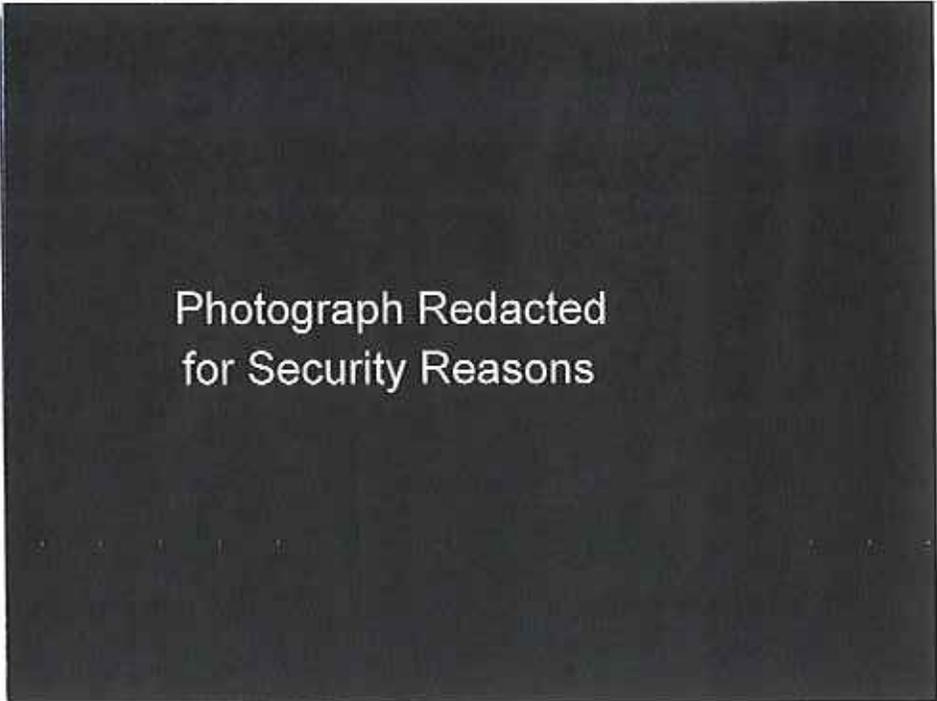


17/39

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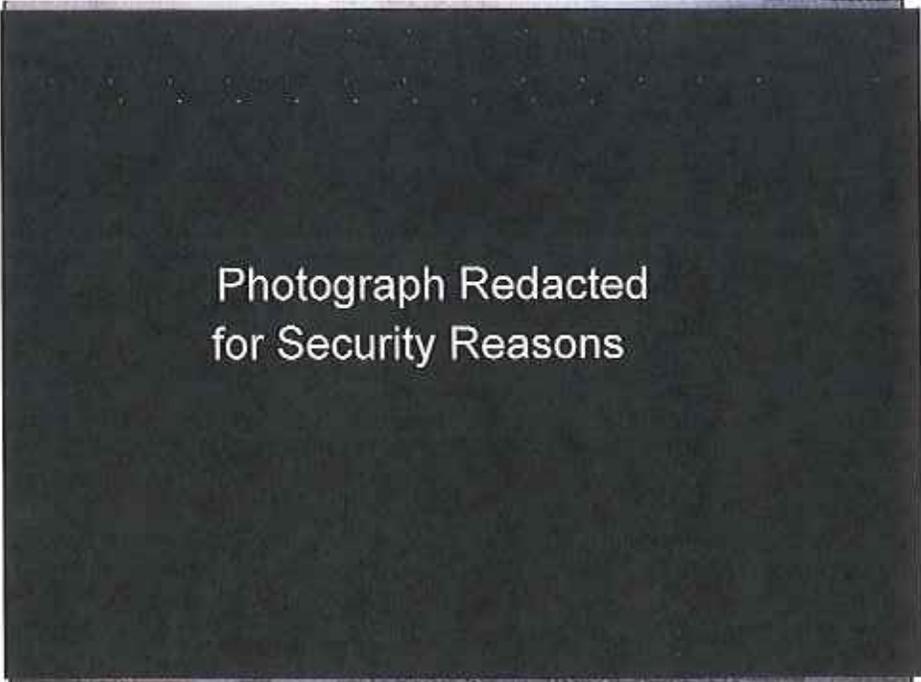
Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG Tainter Gates looking downstream from upstream side.

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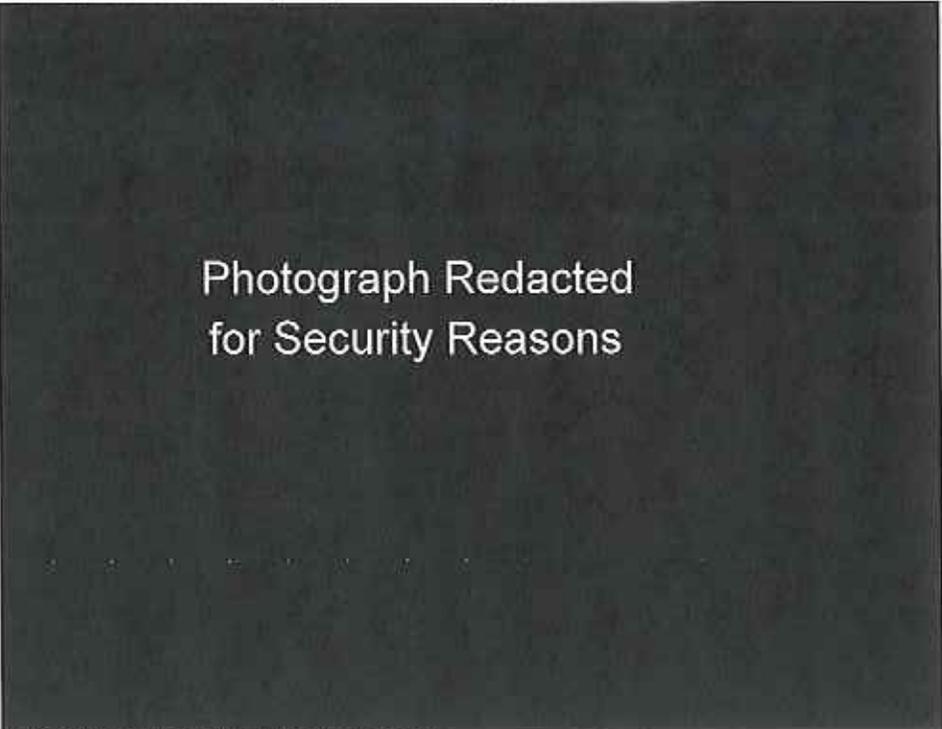
Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

All 3 BG Tainter gates in full 42 ft open position.

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the top half of the page. Centered within the box is the text "Photograph Redacted for Security Reasons".

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG Low level outlet and spillway channel looking downstream

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the middle section of the page. Centered within the box is the text "Photograph Redacted for Security Reasons".

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG spillway channel looking downstream

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG Spillway channel from left bank looking to east

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG Lower Reservoir Dam looking west towards tainter gates and spillway channel

20/39

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG Powerhouse looking south

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG upstream of tainter gates approach flow looking to west

21/39

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG lower reservoir looking south, including elliptical training wall approach to tainter gates (taken from video).

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG right elliptical training wall approach flow to spillway and tainter gates looking east, upstream side of lower reservoir dam in background.

22/39

Photograph Redacted  
for Security Reasons

BG Spillway channel looking north from tainter gates

23/39

By Steven Cook

## Schoharie and Montgomery county update: Fonda Fair postponed, Gilboa Dam still structurally sound

**SCHOHARIE** – Sunday's torrential rains did no structural damage to the Gilboa Dam, officials said this afternoon as residents in Schoharie and Montgomery counties deal with historic flooding along the Schoharie Creek and the Mohawk River.

Engineers from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which operates the dam, performed a full engineering inspection this morning and determined the dam is structurally sound, according to city officials. The water level in the Schoharie Reservoir continues to decline as streams in the area recede, leading the city agency to deactivate the dam's Emergency Action Plan.

Due to very heavy rain associated with Hurricane Irene, the reservoir, which provides drinking water for New York City, received extraordinary water flows that raised the water level to an unprecedented 1,137.95 feet above sea level at 2:30 p.m. Sunday - nearly 1 1/2 feet higher than the previous record, set during a storm in January 1996.

### Photo Gallery Local flooding: Monday



[Enlarge photos](#)  
[View thumbnails](#)

Rainfall at some points in Schoharie County exceeded 8 inches Sunday. Upstream in Greene County, some points got over 13 inches.

At Burtonsville, creek levels rose to a record 15.31 feet late Sunday and early today, with the water now recorded as receding. The old record was 12.9 feet.

Upstream at Breakabeen, water hit 22.37 feet Sunday. The record was 20.5. The creek there had fallen back below flood stage this morning.

Flooding along the Schoharie Creek ran all the way into Montgomery County, where the creek spills in the Mohawk River in Fort Hunter. Montgomery County emergency management officials ordered the closing of all bridges over the creek, including those on state routes 161 and 5S, while the New York State Thruway bridge over the creek was also closed. That bridge replaced one that washed away during severe flooding on April 5, 1987, killing 10 people.

The river itself was also experiencing extensive flooding, with waters submerging the Fonda Fairgrounds, where the Fonda Fair was scheduled to open Tuesday. Officials ordered the complete evacuation of the fairgrounds Sunday night, and fair officials announced today that they will wait to being the event on Thursday.

The Fonda Fair Board surveyed the fairgrounds this morning, and officials had hoped the fair could still go on as expected.

"The fair will go on!" said Montgomery County Agricultural Society President Richard Kennedy, in a release issued today on the fair website.

Fair officials are asking any individuals willing to stop by when it is safe to help clean up the grounds.

The fairgrounds are located on Route 30A in Fonda, about a half-mile off exit 28 of the Thruway.

Rescues from areas near the Schoharie Creek continued this morning, as county emergency officials worked to assess the damage from Sunday's torrential rains, a spokeswoman said.

The villages of Middleburgh, Schoharie and Esperance all sustained a "great deal" of water damage, county spokeswoman Karen Miller said.

But this morning, the focus of many was in rescues. The National Guard was assisting state emergency management officials and local fire departments to get residents who didn't get out Sunday, out today.

"We do have some people that are trapped in their homes and we are trying to get to them as quickly as possible," Miller said.

24/39

Rescuers are using helicopters, trucks and other equipment to get to them, Miller said.

Despite the rescues, Miller said they had no reports this morning of injuries.

As for the residents that did get out, Miller asked that they not yet try to return

“We still have a lot of water, road closures and damage to bridges,” Miller said. “For safety’s sake, we ask people to please wait until everything has had a chance to be inspected.”

Miller also noted that the county remains under a state of emergency.

25/39

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## Shoharie County official declares state of emergency

### The Daily Star

By Denise Richardson

Published: Aug 29, 2011

Irene put Schoharie County into a state of emergency after flooding prompted road closures and evacuations Sunday. Harold Vroman, chairman of the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors, declared the state of emergency at 1 p.m. Sunday because of extensive flooding, road closures and bridges out. All county offices will be closed today, Vroman said in a media release, and only employees performing essential services are required to work. The declaration is in effect through 6 p.m. today, at which time the conditions will be reassessed. Vroman asked residents not to travel on any state or local roads except for evacuation purposes until the water has receded and the roads and structures have been deemed safe for travel. The flood warning continues for the Schoharie Creek at Gilboa Dam until Tuesday afternoon, the National Weather Service said on its website. At 6:45 p.m. Sunday, the NWS reported the heaviest rainfall had ended for Schoharie and other area counties but runoff continues with rivers and streams continuing to rise. Schoharie County has been declared eligible for government aid. New York state was posting a bridge watch on all state and county structures over the Schoharie Creek below the Gilboa Dam with consideration to close those structures at dark Sunday night, Vroman said in a media release. Residents downstream of the Gilboa Dam were advised Sunday to move to higher ground because of the potential for flooding along the Schoharie Creek, the Associated Press reported. Shelters have been opened at high schools and other locations in Schoharie County. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which owns the dam as part of its upstate water supply, said warning sirens were triggered Sunday afternoon by rising water because of higher-than-predicted rainfall and the loss of electronic monitoring devices at the dam. Agency officials said a preliminary inspection showed no structural damage to the dam, which they said wasn't in danger of imminent failure. The water level rose to a foot-and-a-half higher than the previous record set during a January 1996 storm before it began to recede Sunday night, officials told the AP. An emergency plan set in 2005 requires an areawide evacuation in extraordinary conditions such as those produced by Irene's rainfall. On Saturday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered a precautionary inspection of the Power Authority's

26/39

Blenheim-Gilboa Dam in Schoharie County in the wake of a 2.9 magnitude earthquake Saturday in Altamont, a suburb of Albany. At 3:30 p.m. Sunday, a NWS spotter reported that the Old Blenheim Bridge spanning the Schoharie Creek had been washed away. The 210-foot 1855 bridge was the longest wooden single-span bridge in the world. Bassett's Middleburgh Health Center will be closed today because flooding has made the site inaccessible, Bassett Healthcare Network spokeswoman Karen Huxtable said. Patients may go to the network's Cobleskill Health Center, she said, and may call that provider at (518) 234-2555 with questions. According to the New York State Electric and Gas Corp. website, of 2,126 customers in Schoharie County, 1,388 were without power Sunday night.

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27/39

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## Evacuations, flood warnings continue in Schoharie County

### The Daily Star

Denise Richardson

Published: Aug 29, 2011

Schoharie County officials with help from the National Guard and state emergency officials are working to evacuate some stranded residents, mostly in Middleburgh, Karen Miller, county public information officer, said at 1:45 p.m. Monday.

A tentative number of stranded people was 28, Miller said, adding that she didn't know if that was countywide or just for Middleburgh. No injuries or deaths have been reported, she said.

Crews are working to re-open roads closed Sunday, officials said early Monday afternoon.

However, a section of Interstate 88 remained closed, and officials were issuing a boil water notice for users in towns and villages along the Schoharie Creek.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection reported that conditions were reviewed at Gilboa Dam, and the alert situation of Sunday has been downgraded to "normal."

However, the New York Power Authority said the situation at the Blenheim-Gilboa dam remains a "Type B" situation because of rapid inflow, the alert said.

Miller said a Type B designation, which indicates a potential for dam failure, hasn't been lifted but an engineering team is present and "everything is safe." The Gilboa Dam also is safe, though water still is flowing over the dam at receding levels, she said.

The National Weather Service said Schoharie County is under a flash flood watch in effect through Tuesday morning. A flash flood watch means that conditions may develop that lead to flash flooding, a very dangerous situation, weather officials said in an alert at 12:15 p.m. Monday.

28/39

Early this morning, the NWS in Albany issued a small stream advisory for Schoharie County, including Cobleskill, until 3 p.m. today. Many streams and creeks continue to be out of their banks in Schoharie County and western Albany County because of heavy rainfall Sunday.

Motorists are warned not to drive into water-covered roadways because floodwaters usually are deeper than they appear, NWS said.

The state Department of Transportation has closed Interstate 88 between exits 22 and 24 \_ the exits for Cobleskill and Middleburgh, Central Bridge and Schoharie, and for Duanesburg in Schoharie County because of flooding concerns. The 8:30 p.m. Sunday closure of eastbound and westbound lanes will be in effect until 6 p.m. Tuesday and motorists are advised to use state Route 17 and Interstate 87 because there are no local detours.

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## Schoharie remains in state of emergency

### The Daily Star

By Denise Richardson

Published: Aug 30, 2011

Schoharie County will remain in a state of emergency through 6 p.m. today, according to an alert issued Monday night, and motorists are asked to stay off roads. All county offices are closed today, Harold Vroman, chairman of the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors, said in a media release issued at about 6:45 p.m. Monday. Karen Miller, public information officer for the county, said 49 people needed evacuation or assistance Monday, and about 75 percent of the needs were met after some residents refused assistance. Evacuation needs were countywide but mostly in Middleburgh, she said, and no injuries or deaths were reported. Monday's efforts were "search and rescue," Miller said, and today's efforts will address the needs of residents, including providing shelter. Many homes were damaged or destroyed, she said, and residents will need long-term accommodations. Shelters have been opened at fire departments in West Fulton, Jefferson, Carlisle and Cobleskill, and at the Schalmont Middle School in Schenectady and the Golding Middle School in Cobleskill, county and Red Cross officials said. Meanwhile, she said, residents are asked to take safety precautions and to follow guidelines set in the state of emergency. Motorists were asked to stay off roads until conditions have been deemed safe, officials said, and traffic is limited to emergency vehicles and evacuations. "We still have flooding in some areas, and road closures and bridges compromised," Miller said. Crews from the National Guard, state Emergency Services Office and firefighters from other counties arrived in Schoharie County on Monday, which will be key to helping residents, providing services and continuing the cleanup, Miller said. "We're here for them," Miller said. "If there are needs, we're working hard to meet them." A section of Interstate 88 remained closed Monday, and officials were issuing a boil water notice for users in towns and villages along the Schoharie Creek. Vroman and county officials issued a statement Monday to quell rumors that the Gilboa Dam had failed. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection reported that conditions were reviewed at Gilboa Dam, and the alert situation of Sunday has been downgraded from "Type B" to "normal." However, the New York Power Authority said the situation at the Blenheim-Gilboa dam remains a "Type B" situation because of rapid inflow, a National Weather Service notice said. Miller said a "Type B" designation, which indicates a potential for dam failure, hasn't been lifted at the Blenheim-

30/39

Gilboa dam but an engineering team was present, and "everything is safe." The Gilboa Dam also is safe, though water still is flowing over the dam at receding levels, she said early Monday afternoon. The NWS said a flood warning continues for the Schoharie Creek at Burtonsville until this afternoon. Motorists are warned not to drive into water-covered roadways because floodwaters usually are deeper than they appear, the NWS said. The state Department of Transportation has closed Interstate 88 between exits 22 and 24 \_ the exits for Cobleskill and Middleburgh, Central Bridge and Schoharie, and for Duanesburg in Schoharie County because of flooding concerns. The 8:30 p.m. Sunday closure of eastbound and westbound lanes will be in effect until 6 p.m. today, and motorists are advised to use state Route 17 and Interstate 87 because there are no local detours. County officials said the state of emergency will be revisited at 6 p.m. today, and residents with non-emergency questions may call (518) 234-3411.

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31/39

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**AP** Associated Press

## Irene's toll climbs to 35

### The Daily Herald

Staff Writer

Published: Aug 30, 2011

MONTPELIER, Vt. - The full measure of Hurricane Irene's fury came into focus Monday as the death toll jumped to 37, New England towns battled epic floods and millions faced the dispiriting prospect of several days without electricity.

From North Carolina to Maine, communities cleaned up and took stock of the uneven and hard-to-predict costs of a storm that spared the nation's biggest city a nightmare scenario, only to deliver a historic wallop to towns well inland.

In New York City, where people had braced for a disaster-movie scene of water swirling around skyscrapers, the subways and buses were up and running again in time for the Monday morning commute. And to the surprise of many New Yorkers, things went pretty smoothly.

But in New England, landlocked Vermont contended with what its governor called the worst flooding in a century. Streams also raged out of control in upstate New York.

In many cases, the moment of maximum danger arrived well after the storm had passed, as rainwater made its way into rivers and streams and turned them into torrents. Irene dumped up to 11 inches of rain on Vermont and more than 13 in parts of New York.

"We were expecting heavy rains," said Bobbi-Jean Jeun of Clarksville, a hamlet near Albany, N.Y. "We were expecting flooding. We weren't expecting devastation. It looks like somebody set a bomb off."

Meanwhile, the 11-state death toll, which had stood at 21 as of Sunday night, rose sharply as bodies were pulled from floodwaters and people were electrocuted by downed power lines.

The tally of Irene's destruction mounted, too. An apparently vacant home exploded in an evacuated, flooded area in Pompton Lakes, N.J., early Monday, and firefighters had to battle the flames from a boat. In the Albany, N.Y., suburb of Guilderland, police rescued two people Monday after their

32/39

car was swept away. Rescuers found them three hours later, clinging to trees along the swollen creek.

"It's going to take time to recover from a storm of this magnitude," President Barack Obama warned as he promised the government would do everything in its power to help people get back on their feet.

For many people, the aftermath could prove more painful than the storm itself.

In North Carolina, where Irene blew ashore along the Outer Banks on Saturday before heading for New York and New England, 1,000 people were still in emergency shelters, awaiting word on their homes.

At the same time, nearly 5 million homes and businesses in a dozen states were still without electricity, and utilities warned it might be a week or more before some people got their power back.

"Once the refrigerator gets warm, my insulin goes bad. I could go into diabetic shock. It's kind of scary because we don't know how long it's going to be out for," said Patricia Dillon, a partially paralyzed resident of a home for the disabled in Milford, Conn., where the electricity was out and a generator failed. Her voice cracking, she added: "I'm very tired, stressed out, aggravated, scared."

Russ Furlong of Barrington, R.I., ruefully remembered the two weeks he went without power after Hurricane Bob 20 years ago.

"Hopefully, we won't have to wait that long this time," he said. "Last night we had candles. It was romantic. It was fun. But that feeling doesn't last too long."

Up and down the Eastern Seaboard, commuters and vacationers found their travel plans scrambled. Airlines warned it would be days before the thousands of passengers stranded by Irene find their way home. Some Amtrak service in the Northeast was suspended. Commuter trains between New Jersey and New York City were not running. Trains between the city and its northern suburbs were also disrupted.

Kris and Jennifer Sylvester of Brooklyn sat on a bench in the town center in Woodstock, N.Y., with luggage at their feet and their daughters, aged 4 and 9, holding signs reading, "Need a Ride 2 NYC" and "Help Us, No Bus, No Train." They rode Amtrak out for a long weekend in the country, but were unable to get home.

"We're hoping for anything," Jennifer Sylvester said.

33/39

In Vermont, the state's emergency management headquarters stood empty, evacuated because of river flooding from Irene's heavy rains. Rescuers used a boat and bucket loaders to pluck seven people from a swamped mobile home park in Lyndonville.

In upstate New York, authorities were closely watching major dams holding back drinking water reservoirs.

Throughout the region, hundreds of roads were impassable because of flooding or fallen trees, and some bridges had simply given way, including a 156-year-old hand-hewn, wooden, covered bridge across Schoharie Creek in Blenheim, N.Y. In all, more than a dozen towns in Vermont and at least three in New York remained cut off by flooded roads and bridges.

Still, there were glimmers of good news. In Pennsylvania, the Delaware River largely remained in its banks, cresting several feet lower than feared.

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34/  
39

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## NY officials urge drivers to check roads website

**NY State Wire**

Published: Aug 31, 2011

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - With numerous road closures in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene's flooding, the state Department of Transportation is urging drivers to check the status of their route online or by phone and plan ahead to avoid roadblocks.

Motorists can get the latest information on road closures and travel conditions by punching in 511 on their cell phones or visiting [www.511ny.org](http://www.511ny.org).

As of Tuesday evening, eastbound lanes of the Thruway between exits 25A and 34A and westbound lanes between 25A and 30 remained closed because of severe flooding.

Bridges over the Schoharie (skoh-HAIR-ee) Creek were closed in Schoharie County from the Gilboa Dam to the Mohawk River.

There are numerous other closings throughout eastern New York.

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35/39

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## Guard to the rescue after tropical storm

**TIMES UNION**

TERRY BROWN SPECIAL TO THE TIMES UNION

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New York Army and Air National Guard troops helped rescue civilians after Irene.

Two New York Army National Guard officers assisted Greene County emergency personnel and a State Police helicopter crew in the Monday rescue of about two dozen civilians stranded by a bank across a swollen creek in Jewett on Monday.

Lt. Col. Albert Thiem of Ballston Spa, Maj. Robert Giordano of Rexford, and Greene County Sheriff's Deputy J.R. DelVecchio coordinated the effort with the State Police.

The 42nd Infantry Division officers were among the 2,500 New York National Guard soldiers and airmen mobilized by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Thiem and Giordano are part of Task Force Greene that's comprised of 200 42nd Infantry Division and the 1156th Engineer Co. soldiers helping agencies remove debris and rescue civilians due to the washout of roads, bridges and driveways.

The civilians, including a pregnant woman, four children and a man recovering from heart surgery, were at a hunting camp near the creek in Jewett, Lt. Col. Matthew Tully, Task Force Greene commander, said. The civilians had parked their cars on the opposite side of the creek, and planned to cross the creek to their cars at a fording site. "But heavy rains and floods transformed the creek from a trickle into a torrent, trapping them," he said.

Thiem, Giordano and DelVecchio were driving through Greene County assessing storm damage when the county Emergency Operations Center contacted them.

"We immediately linked up with the deputy sheriff to assist in any way we could," Giordano said. Floods had made bridges impassable as well, forcing the trio to continue the search on foot.

36/39

They spotted the civilians while trudging along a path by the creek about an hour later, Giordano said. The swollen creek brought down trees and swept away about a dozen cars, which washed up against the banks.

"It was a mixed blessing," Giordano said of finding the civilians. "We could see them, but we couldn't get to them and we couldn't hear them. We used hand and arm signals to exchange phone numbers, and we were then able to communicate."

The helicopter was able to make four trips within two hours of the initial assessment of the situation," Thiem said. "There were no incidents and everyone made it out safely."

Soldiers from the 204th Engineer Battalion and the 42nd Infantry Division used their Humvees and high-axle light medium tactical trucks to rescue 18 people trapped in their homes by rising floodwaters of Schoharie Creek in North Blenheim.

Soldiers also rescued two citizens from floodwaters in Middleburgh.

In Schoharie, Army Guard soldiers found a woman who was stranded in the upper floors of her home.

"We found one lady, who was around 50 years old, screaming and crying for help, so we moved right away to get her out," said Sgt. Windollyn V. Patino, a driver with the 719th Transportation Company. "She had been trapped in her house for two days."

The woman threw her personal belongings down to Patino and Pfc. Daniel Paul. But the front doors of the house were stuck shut by mud and debris, according to Patino, who managed to kick the doors open and rescue the woman.

In the Greene County ski town of Windham, soldiers from the 1156th Engineer Company rescued six people from houses surrounded by rising floodwaters.

On Monday morning, the New York Air National Guard sent three HH-60 helicopters from the 106th Rescue Wing to Schoharie County to conduct search and rescue missions at the direction of local officials. Other helicopters, including aircraft from the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation, Latham, deployed to conduct damage reconnaissance flights in the Hudson Valley, and carry rations from Fort Drum to troops deployed downstate. Army National Guard aviation personnel and their UH60 Blackhawks and Chinook helicopters have transported 60,000 pounds of food and water, including donations from the Region Food Bank, Colonie, from the Albany International Airport to isolated communities and central distribution centers,

37/39

according to Lt. Col. Eric Durr, a state Division of Military and Naval Affairs spokesman. Troops from 1427th Transportation Company, Queensbury; 206th Military Police Company, Latham; the 109th Airlift Wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia; and the Signal Detachment at Joint Forces Headquarters, Latham, are among the troops commanded by Brig. Gen. Michael Swezey to assist in recovery efforts.

News of your soldiers and units can be sent to Duty Calls, Terry Brown, Times Union, Box 15000, Albany, NY 12212 or by e-mail at [brownt@timesunion.com](mailto:brownt@timesunion.com).

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38/39

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## Gilboa Dam called structurally sound after storm

**TIMES UNION**

DAYELIN ROMAN STAFF WRITER

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**GILBOA --** The Gilboa Dam weathered Tropical Storm Irene's heavy rains and remains safe and structurally sound, a New York City Department of Environmental Protection report revealed.

Dam safety experts conducted inspections and engineering analysis on the dam following Irene's rains. The storm caused the Schoharie Creek's water level to rise to record levels and caused concern that the dam could fail. Residents living near the dam were forced to evacuate and the dam's electronic monitoring devices stopped working.

But according to the city agency's report, experts found the dam has no leakage and incurred no significant erosion or damages. The dam only incurred minor damage to one of the steps of the side channel of the spillway.

The agency said the dam is undergoing a scheduled \$350 million upgrade, and its condition will continue to be assessed.

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39/39