Mr. Mark Noyes  
Con Edison Energy Massachusetts, Inc.  
701 Westchester Avenue  
Suite 320 East  
White Plains, NY 10604

Dear Mr. Noyes:

This concerns the Development Plan (Plan) for Consolidated Edison Energy Massachusetts, Inc.'s Chicopee River Projects (Project Nos. 10675, 10676, 10677, and 10678) filed with the Commission on July 30, 1999. The Plan proposes to increase the installed capacity at each of the projects by modifying the existing generating equipment. The Commission is considering the Plan as an application for amendment of the exemptions because the proposed modifications constitute a change in the projects' physical features and operation. The Commission public noticed the application on October 7, 1999, with November 15, 1999, as the last day to file comments. To complete our review and evaluation of the application, please provide us with the additional information shown on Attachment A.

Please submit the requested information, within 45 days from the date of this letter, to the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N. E., Washington, D.C. 20426, Attention: OHL, HL-11.1. All submittals to the Commission must be in one original and eight copies. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Regina Saizan at (202) 219-2673.
Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

Peter J. McGovern
Chief
Management Section

Enclosure: Attachment A

cc: Mr. John Labiak
Consolidated Edison Energy, Inc.
111 Broadway Avenue, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10006
CHICOPEE RIVER PROJECTS
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED FOR
AMENDMENT APPLICATION TO INCREASE
THE PROJECTS' INSTALLED CAPACITY

1. The exemptions for the four Chicopee River Projects currently authorize an increase in the total installed capacity of 14.28 percent (1,705 kW) with minimum flow units added at each project. In our review of the Plan, we found the proposed capacity increase for the four projects is 3.67 percent (438.4 kW) without the addition of minimum flow units, as described in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FERC PROJECT No.</th>
<th>EXISTING CAPACITY (KW)</th>
<th>PROPOSED PERCENT INCREASE</th>
<th>ESTIMATED CAPACITY INCREASE (KW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10675</td>
<td>1,440</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>86.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10676</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>108.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10677</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>96.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10678</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>148.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>11,940</td>
<td>3.67%</td>
<td>438.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed percent increases for each project are based on estimated values. Therefore, we are unable to determine the actual installed capacity from the information provided in the Plan. So that we can verify the actual installed capacity for each of the four projects, please provide generator nameplate capacities, or KVA (after rewinding process), turbines' horsepower ratings, and the power factor for each unit.

2. The exemption for P-10675 (Dwight Project) requires a continuous minimum flow of 258 cubic feet per second (cfs), or inflow, into the bypass reach. The exemption also limits pond drawdown to one foot below the crest. You plan to install automated headgates at the canal gatehouse to better regulate pond levels and to restore the hydraulic capacity of the project. You plan no changes to the existing release flow mechanism and
no additional devices. Please explain the method you intend to use to release the required minimum flow.

3. The exemption for P-10676 (Red Bridge Project) requires a continuous minimum flow of 237 cfs, or inflow at the base of the spillway, into the bypass reach. In the Plan, Appendix B (Meeting Summary), Consolidated Edison Energy, Inc. (CEEI) proposes alternative minimum flow release points, such as releasing 50% of the minimum flow at the dam and the remaining flow through the canal drain gate. You indicate that both CEEI and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are still considering alternatives, and have yet to agree on an acceptable method. Please provide us with the method of release that CEEI and the USFWS have finally agreed on.

4. In Section 4 (Compliance Requirements) of the Plan, you state that CEEI proposes to install an automated slide gate at the Red Bridge Dam masonry spillway to discharge the required minimum flow in the bypass reach. Please provide in detail a description of the automated slide gate and how it will function.

5. The exemption for P-10677 (Putts Bridge Project) requires a minimum flow release of 25 cfs into the bypass reach. You state that CEEI does not plan to modify the present system and amount of minimum flow release, nor does it intend to modify project operation. In Appendix B of the Plan, the USFWS requested evidence that operation of the Putts Bridge Project does not impact the minimum flow releases at Indian Orchard. CEEI should review the effects of the flow releases at the project due to additional capacity and provide us with comments on its findings.

6. The exemption for P-10678 (Indian Orchard Project) requires a continuous minimum flow release of 247 cfs, or inflow, at the base of the dam. The minimum flow is released from canal drain gates at the base of the dam. In Appendix B of the Plan, the USFWS requested that CEEI consider installing some kind of bar rack or similar device to avoid large debris plugging the minimum flow drain gates. CEEI should review alternatives to protect the inlet gate and provide us with the alternative decided upon.

7. Included in Appendix B of the Plan is a letter dated June 24, 1999, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs in which they state their concerns with fish passage facilities and land protection issues. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requested that you provide specific options to protect the lands and other environmental issues mentioned in the Plan. Please provide us with your comments in response to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.