

LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER INSTITUTE

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West Springfield Is First Massachusetts Hydroelectric Project to Earn Low Impact Certification

PORTLAND, ME – (DECEMBER 8, 2005) – The Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) announced today that A&D Hydro's West Springfield Hydroelectric Project has earned LIHI's Low Impact Certification. The Board's vote to certify the West Springfield project was unanimous. The West Springfield Project (FERC No. 2608) located on the Westfield River in West Springfield and Agawam, Massachusetts, is owned and operated by A&D Hydro Inc.

The Project consists of: an 18-foot-high, 447.5-foot-long timber crib dam with a dam crest elevation of 92.80 feet above mean sea level (msl) that creates a 20-acre impoundment; a 2,610-foot-long, 50-foot-wide power canal with concrete headworks containing six gates; a concrete and brick powerhouse about 60 feet long, 54 feet wide, and 63 feet high containing two vertical Francis turbines connected to two 480-volt generators; and a tailrace approximately 157 feet in length and having a width varying from 30 to 48 feet. There are no primary transmission lines included in the project. West Springfield is the first Massachusetts hydropower project to be certified by LIHI.

"We're delighted to certify this as our first facility in Massachusetts," said Richard Roos-Collins, chair of LIHI's Governing Board. "Smaller projects don't necessarily indicate low environmental effects, but in this case, we can assure the public that the West Springfield Hydropower project has low impacts on key resources." Asked if he saw an upswing in the interest in the Institute's Low Impact certification program, Fred Ayer, LIHI's Executive Director responded, "Yes, and here's why. We issued our first Low Impact certification in 2001 and as 2005 comes to a close the Institute has certified 19 projects in fifteen states with an installed capacity of nearly 1500 MW, and based on inquiries from potential applicants I'm expecting 2006 to be a banner year."

The West Springfield project meets LIHI's eight environmentally rigorous low impact criteria addressing river flows, water quality, fish passage and protection, watershed health, endangered species protection, cultural resources, recreation use and access, and whether or not the dam itself has been recommended for removal.

For more information about projects certified as low impact, contact Fred Ayer, LIHI Executive Director at (207) 773-8190, or visit the LIHI website at www.lowimpacthydro.org. LIHI is a nonprofit organization that certifies environmentally low impact hydropower facilities nationwide to help energy consumers, and to support market incentives for reducing the effects of hydropower dams on the nation's rivers and streams.
