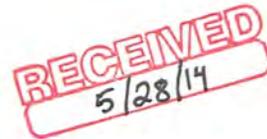


May 23, 2014



Ms. Dana Hall, Deputy Director
Low Impact Hydropower Institute
131 Martha Road
Harrington Park, NJ 07648

Re: Response to Hydro Questions

Dear Dana,

The Blackstone River Watershed Council / Friends of the Blackstone is an organization in existence since 1987. We are a 501-c-3- Non Profit organization, our directors and members receive no salaries, all funds received, are dedicated to the stewardship and support of the Blackstone River. In this response to the LIHI Certification Questionnaire, Our intent is to state our objections to recertifying the fish passage-less, Main Street Dam as low impact. Visit www.blackstonriver.org to view the **Blackstone River Fish Ladder / Fish Passage Video**.

Over many years, the BRWC/ FOB and others have worked diligently to return the Blackstone River to a healthy environment, which today supports a sustaining biosphere. Many of our members took part in the first clean up of the river in 1972, when the EPA labeled the Blackstone the dirtiest river in the country.

Today the Blackstone is thriving with wildlife and ready to receive the millions of anadromous fish of many species. Data from our partner, The Herring Alliance indicates that the potential of the returning fish back to Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean will have a huge impact on the tourism and fishing industry of Rhode Island and New England.

In the pre-colonial era, fish were a major mainstay for the native tribes that lived in the Blackstone Valley and knew the river as “The Great Provider”. Narragansetts, Wampanoags and Nipmucs inhabited the area. In the town of Uxbridge, MA town history tells of the Nipmuc tribe trapping salmon and herring in the tidal waters 22 miles up river. There are historical records that tell of the importance of the returning fish, as a food source, fertilizer for planting and trading. Shad Pond in Burrillville, RI is known today as Spring Lake, a reminder of its historical past.

In 1990, our organization led the rebirth of the Blackstone. With dedication and advocacy, we demanded the Blackstone be made whole after two hundred twenty-one years, by constructing fish passages on the river. Our advocacy led to the BRWC/FOB receiving the EPA’s Region 1, Environmental Organization of the Year Award.

Today, the river boils in the spring, with river herring, and other species. Last spring the RIDEM arrested eel poachers at the base of the Main Street Dam. In the waters, leading up to the Main Street Dam there is great fishing for Striped Bass and Bluefish, which chase the abundant migratory fish seeking their way to spawn in the river only to be blockaded by the Main Street Dam, which diverts the river waters through the Hydro.

With a coalition of many organizations, including federal, state, cities and others, the BRWC / FOB, raised over five million dollars in grants and donations specifically dedicated to the installation of Fish Passages on the first four dams. That five million-dollar sum would likely, be doubled today if the thousands of volunteers, who worked to rehabilitate the river, were paid the standard volunteer amount.

We are grateful for this opportunity to comment on the importance of this iconic project. Thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers, existing plans, paid for by our grants, will be tailored to produce the highest return of fish possible. The project will herald the rebirth of our American Heritage, Mighty Blackstone, and the lifeline to Narragansett Bay.

The BRWC/FOB is very concerned with the consequences and adverse impact the operation of the Hydro will have on the returning fish. A dam that is located at the mouth of a coastal river, and that has no functioning facility for up-river fish passage (Fish Ladder/Fish Passage) cannot be fairly categorized as a “low impact” dam, and does not merit certification as such by LIHI.

Our organization strongly recommends and believes it would be appropriate to withhold the LIHI certification for the Main Street Dam hydro project, FERC #3698 until fish passage proves successful and then, perhaps reconsider the LIHI certification.

Our ultimate goal is to see the Main Street Dam removed from operation. The relatively miniscule amount of power averaging four gigawatts hours it produces per year should not be a controlling factor of the success of returning fish in the Blackstone River in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

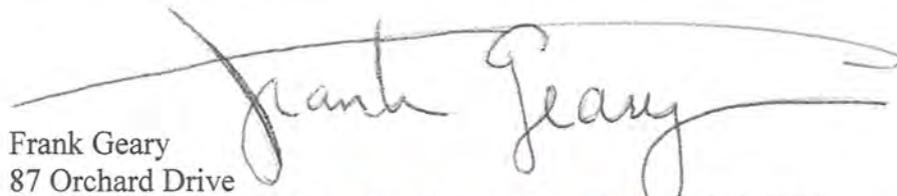
Please note the list of our partners in this project, all of whom have contributed, from pocket change, to over seven million dollars in services and grants.

List of Contributors and Grants:

State of Rhode Island, RI DEM, NRCS, EPA, US Fish and Wildlife, US Department of Interior, National Park Service, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Blackstone River Coalition, RI Historic Commission. Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Representatives Patrick Kennedy, David Cicilline and James Langevin. CRMC, Save the Bay, Nature Conservancy, The Rhode Island Foundation, Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe, Narragansett Tribe, Triple M Productions. Cities and towns including Conservation Commissions of Lincoln, Burrillville, Cumberland, Woonsocket, Pawtucket, Central Falls and Blackstone, Massachusetts and towns along the Blackstone in Massachusetts.

RI Salt Water Anglers, Cumberland Beagle Club, Slater Mill Fishing Association, Weakapoag Surf Casters, Manville Sportsman Club, Narragansett Chapter Trout Unlimited. Schools in Woonsocket, Lincoln, Cumberland, Pawtucket, Central Falls and Mount Saint Charles Academy, Girls and Boys Scout troops, elderly associations in each town, kids, and thousands of interested and supportive people for many years.

Frank Geary, Director, Fish Ladder / Fish Passage Coordinator
Blackstone River Watershed Council / Friends of the Blackstone

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Geary". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Frank Geary
87 Orchard Drive
Cumberland, RI 02864 thegfam1@cox.net 401-333-2123

Please visit our website at www.blackstoneriver.org to learn of our organization, and view our video.

Blackstone River
Fish Ladder / Fish Passage
www.blackstoneriver.org