

**ATTACHMENT (B): Background Information, question 12 – Description of Facility**

Pioneer Hydro Electric consists of two dams and a total of 5 turbines within ¼ mile of each other on the Ware River in Ware, Massachusetts. In 1995, Lucas, David, and Sarah Wright of Ware River Power, Inc. (WRP) purchased Pioneer Hydro out of bankruptcy. Since that time, the Wrights and WRP have devoted a vast amount of hard work, time, energy and capital to make Pioneer low impact on its surroundings. Ware River Power's approach is one of restoration and conservation of existing structures and equipment rather than replacement. Numerous examples of the dedicated work towards minimal impact of the facility are documented in the Comments Attachment of the original LIHI application for certification which was approved in 2010.

The facility is managed and owned by Lucas Wright who, as CEO of Ware River Power, Inc., has over 25 years experience in hydropower. He resides 5.6 miles from the plant. Assistance is provided by Ware River Power's staff of three employees. The facility consists of Ware Upper Dam which falls 34 feet, and Ware Lower Dam which falls 16 feet. Ware Upper Dam houses turbines 1, 2, 4, and 5. Ware Lower Dam houses turbine 3. Turbines 4 and 5 on the upper dam and turbine 3 on the lower dam are controlled automatically with direct pond leveling controls.

Since the initial LIHI certification and as a result of an agreement with Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, minimum stream flow at the facility has been voluntarily increased by Pioneer Hydro over and above the FERC required 20cfs to 26.8cfs. This represents a 34% increase and is a reflection of Pioneer Hydro having been granted 33.88% Mass. Class 1 REC's by the DOR. The increased minimum stream flow was achieved through significant alterations to the upper dam and flashboard structure in October of 2010 which increased the bypass weir width from 11.4 feet to 15.3 feet. (Please see December 2010 letters to FERC and LIHI below which reflect the agreement). Minimum stream flow is constantly and closely monitored by pond leveling sensors that control turbine actuation. In case of low pond level, an automatic dialer notifies operators via cell and pager communications of a low pond level scenario. If response is not delivered manually, the site trips offline before a violation of minimum stream flow occurs. The lower dam has no minimum stream flow, as its discharge is directly at the foot of the dam and it has no reach area. The lower dam is "run of river" at all times and has shutdown protection if water gets below dam crest.