

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

Washington Lempster Marlow Gilsum Sullivan Surry Keene Swanzey Winchester Hinsdale

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Low Impact Hydropower Institute
PO Box 194
Harrington Park, New Jersey 07640

RE: LIHI recertification #46, Ashuelot River Project, NH

Based on the LIHI certification requirements of management of a hydro dam with minimization of environmental impact, the Ashuelot River Dams have shown themselves to qualify as low impact. The Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee (ARLAC) recognizes the efforts of the dam owner in his ongoing contributions to land conservation in the headwaters of the Ashuelot River, the creation of a portage trail at his dam site, and the management of the dam environment to reduce the impact to abutters in high water events. Water quality was evaluated when certification was first sought and showed no impact by the operation of the dams. We have no reason to believe that this would've changed over the last 5 years.

However, ARLAC continues to have concerns regarding the impact of the dams on the resident fish population. While the trigger for a fish ladder is tied to migratory species, ARLAC believes a truly low impact hydro dam would provide full passage of all species and protect species from being destroyed by the dam turbines. Unknown is the tally of fish mortality occurring as fish attempt their way downstream only to be caught in the dams' turbines, and unknown is the number of fish able to successfully pass downstream. We suggest that the dam owner support studies to determine the actual impact of the dams on the passage of resident fish species both up and downstream. Once that data is compiled perhaps methods to promote passage of all fish could be reconsidered.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Skuly
Chairman

EC: Jacquie Colburn, RMPP
Bob King, Ashuelot Hydro