



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045



April 21, 2014

Dana Hall
Low Impact Hydropower Institute
PO Box 194
Harrington Park, NJ 07640

**RE: Hoosic River Hydroelectric Project (FERC #2616)
LiHi Application for Re-Certification**

Dear Ms. Hall:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your April 17, 2014, email request for comments on the application by Brookfield Renewable Energy Group (BREG) for re-certification of the Hoosic River Hydroelectric Project (Project) as a low impact hydro project. The Project is located on the Hoosic River in Rensselaer County, New York. The Service was a signatory to the 2002 Offer of Settlement filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as part of the relicensing of the Project. To the best of our knowledge, BREG is still in compliance with all aspects of the Offer of Settlement and the subsequent license issued by the FERC. Therefore, we have no objections to this re-certification.

We note that your email states that the Offer of Settlement was signed by "...then owner Erie...." Erie Boulevard Hydropower, LP (Erie) is still the licensee for the project. Please be advised of the following: Erie has been sold many times since the company was formed from Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's hydro assets, and currently is a subsidiary of BREG. In reviewing your list of addressees, we also note that New York Rivers United has been out of business for several years and Alice Richardson is no longer with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the re-certification application. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Steve Patch at 607-753-9334.

Sincerely,

for Patricia Cole
David A. Stilwell
Field Supervisor