

LAWRENCE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

LIHI APPLICATION

ATTACHMENT G

RECREATION

The Project is located in a highly industrial area which limits recreational development. The Project's recreational facilities include walkways, trash receptacles and a restored the gatekeeper's Carriage House on the North Canal. LHA provides tours of the Carriage House which contains video displays and interactive exhibits to illustrate the history of the region, the operation of the hydroelectric facilities, and the operation of the fish passage facilities. There are also numerous recreational opportunities throughout the project area. The State of Massachusetts maintains a boat launch with a large parking area upstream of the project. The City of Lawrence maintains a fishing area and boat ramp downstream of the project. The downstream boat ramp is accessed through a recreational park with numerous pathways and grass areas.



Photo R1: Restored Carriage House with interactive exhibits and video displays



Photo R2: Parking Area at State Operated boat ramp upstream of the Project



Photo R3: Boat ramp and fishing access along left downstream river bank



Photo R4: Riverside Park adjacent to fishing and boat ramp (City operated)

Licensed Hydropower Development
Recreation Report

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Schedule 2. Inventory of Recreational Resources

16. Enter data for each Recreational Resource Type (a). For Facility Capacity (f), of total available resources (b) + (c), compare the average total amount of weekend use (during the recreation season reported on Schedule 1, Item 13) with the total combined capacity of these resources to handle such use and enter a percentage that indicates their overall level of use. Do not consider peak weekend use (see Glossary). For example, if all available Boat Ramps are used to half capacity during non-peak weekend days, enter 50%. For all available Boat Ramps that are used beyond their combined capacity, enter the appropriate percentage above 100.

Recreational Resource Type (a)	No. of Available Resources			Total Miles/Acres (e)	Facility Capacity (percent) (f)
	User Free (b)	User Fee (c)	No. FERC Approved Resources (d)		
Access Areas. (No Facilities). Unimproved but well-known/popular sites which can be used to reach development/project waters (including waters below a dam) without trespassing on other property. Such areas can be used for launching boats, fishing, swimming, or other water recreational purposes.					
Boat Launch Areas. Improved areas having one or more boat launching lanes and (a) are usually marked with signs, (b) have compacted gravel or concrete surfaces, and (c) usually have adjacent parking lots.	2	0	0	N/A	25.00
Boat Launch Lanes. The number of lanes are determined by the total number of boats that can be launched easily at the designated boat launch areas at one time.	3	2	0	N/A	30.00
Marinas. Public and Private facilities on or adjacent to the development/project waters for the docking, fueling, repair and storage of boats, and which may rent boats and equipment, or sell bait or food.	4	2	0	N/A	50.00
White Water Boating. Access areas below a dam that can be used for rafting/kayaking.	0	2	0	Acres 2.00	25.00
Canoe Portages. Site located above and below a dam, diversion, or other obstruction where persons can launch and take out canoes; and the improved, designated, and maintained trails connecting such sites.				Miles	
Tailwater Fishing Facilities. Platforms, walkways, or similar structures to facilitate below-dam fishing.	1	0	0	N/A	30.00
Fishing Piers. Structures which are installed and maintained in development/project waters specifically for fishing. This code excludes tailwater fishing facilities.				N/A	
Parks. Designated areas which usually contain multiple use facilities (e.g., picnic sites, playgrounds, swimming beaches, and boat ramps). Individual facilities within each park should be reported under the appropriate resource type (e.g. playground areas, picnic areas, etc.)	2	0	0	Acres 4.00	50.00
Playground Areas. Have playground equipment, game courts/fields, jogging tracks, etc.	2	0	0	4.00 Acres	30.00
Trails. Improved pathways used for non-automobile recreational travel which (a) can be located on a reference map, and (b) are designated according to type of use (hiking, bridle, trail bikes, snow mobiles, cross-country skiing). This category excludes canoe portages.	1	0	0	Miles 5.00	20.00
Swimming Areas. Sites providing access to development/project waters where swimming facilities (bath houses, designated swim areas, parking, and sanitation facilities) are available.				Acres	
Picnic Areas. Areas designated and maintained for picnicking and which contain one or more picnic sites, each of which includes a picnic table and in some cases cooking grills, trash receptacles, and a parking area.				Acres	
Wildlife Areas. Natural areas and reserves specifically created and managed for the protection and propagation of wildlife and the viewing of wildlife in their natural habitat.	1	0	0	Acres 40.00	40.00
Visitor Centers. Facilities located in a kiosk, pavilion or similar structure from which persons may obtain information about the development/project, its operation, recreational facilities, and related items of interest.	1	0	1	N/A	5.00
Interpretive Displays. Facilities (exhibits and museums) which describe or explain archaeological, historic, or prehistoric objects, structures, sites, areas, activities, artifacts, and materials.				N/A	
Overlooks. Public areas to view natural areas/project features (e.g., pull-offs or vistas).				Acres	
Hunting Areas. Public or private areas open to the general public for hunting.				Acres	
Golf Courses. All types of golf areas, except miniature golf.				Acres	
Cottage/Cabin Sites. Recreational dwellings which are seasonally rented by the public for recreational purposes.				N/A	
Camping Areas/(Campgrounds). Areas containing two or more campsites, tent sites, or trailer/recreational vehicle (RV) sites which accommodate overnight camping. This category does not include group camps.				Acres	
Tent/Trailer/RV Sites. The total number of sites within Camping Areas that have been specifically developed for tent, trailer, or RV use. This category does not include sites within group camps.				Acres	
Organizational Camps. Camping areas that are maintained and operated by a specific entity but which may be used by other persons or groups (scout camps, military base recreation camps, church camps, handicapped children camps).				Acres	
Group Camps. Camping areas which are equipped with facilities to accommodate use by the general public. These areas usually require registration or advance reservation.				Acres	
Winter Sports. Any facility or site providing sports like skiing, sledding, ice skating, or ice fishing.	1	0	0	N/A	75.00
Other - such as informal/dispersed camping areas, unimproved trails, etc. (specify):				N/A	

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 72 FERC 62,074
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Lawrence Hydroelectric Associates
and Essex Company

Project No. 2800-009
Massachusetts

ORDER APPROVING REVISED EXHIBIT R
(Issued August 1, 1995)

On March 6, 1992, Lawrence Hydroelectric Associates and Essex Company (licensees) filed an application to amend the approved Exhibit R for the Lawrence Project, FERC No. 2800, licensed on December 4, 1978. The application includes a revised Exhibit R in which the licensees propose to delete the picnic area and the requirement for providing access to the North Canal Gatehouse, revise the interpretive programs provided and eliminate the multimedia slide presentation, provide parking including handicapped-accessible areas, and retain the South Canal Gatehouse in its present location. The application was supplemented with filings on July 16, 1993, November 9, 1994, and April 26, 1995.

In the March filing, the licensees also included a layout of the greenway built by the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority (LRA), and a layout of the proposed Riverfront Park. The licensees provided documentation that they requested comments from Lawrence Heritage State Park (LHSP), the City of Lawrence Planning Department (City), and the Department of Environmental Management of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (DEM). In a letter dated December 1, 1992, the licensees provided comments from the DEM and LHSP.

The proposed changes to the approved Exhibit R are discussed below:

1. Picnic Area

The licensees state in the filing that the picnic area proposed in the original Exhibit R is located immediately adjacent to the south abutment of the Great Stone dam and powerhouse intake. This area has extremely fast-moving water and precipitous drops which make it undesirable as a picnic area unless significant safety measures are implemented. In addition, the licensees state that the additional picnic area is unnecessary because other recreational facilities are provided in the project area to address the needs of visitors.

2. Public access to the North Canal Gatehouse and interpretive programs

The proposed revised Exhibit R also addresses changes in the interpretive programs offered. In the original Exhibit R, the

licensees agreed to provide public access to the North Canal Gatehouse by installing a multimedia slide tape presentation. The North Canal gatehouse is still in operation and does not provide a safe location for interpretive programs. In the proposed revised Exhibit R, the licensees will provide educational information through tours of the powerhouse and fish lifting area. These tours are to be scheduled on an as-needed basis. The tours will cover the following topics:

- ØHow electricity is generated from waterpower;
- ØThe purpose and operation of the fish passage facilities;
and
- ØThe role of The Essex Company, the Great Stone Dam canals and gatehouses (recognized on the National Register of Historic Places) in the development of the City, and early industrialization using hydromechanical power.

Interpretive displays will be erected to explain different aspects of the project's operation and exhibits will be constructed in the North Canal Carriage House which will display educational information. In addition, a portable fence will be provided to safely direct tour groups past the intake and fish lift area to the dam overlook. The DEM and LHSP suggested that a clearly marked walkway be painted on the pavement to direct tours to points of interest. The licensees agreed to provide a marked walkway and signage at the site.

The licensees note that, since filing of the original Exhibit R and issuance of the project license, the LRA created a greenway and pedestrian walkway along the entire length of the North Canal from the Spicket River Bridge to Broadway. In addition, the State has planned development of "Riverfront Park" on the Merrimack River in Lawrence, Massachusetts. This park will abut the south side of the Lawrence Hydroelectric Project and will include a roadway, parking areas, an extensive trail system, two pedestrian bridges, an existing boat ramp with improved parking, playing courts and fields, a canoe basin fitness course, tot lot, and other recreational amenities. These additional facilities will provide public access to the area. The licensees now believe that state and local development in the project area eliminated the need to provide public access to the North Canal Gatehouse.

3. South Canal Gatehouse

The original Exhibit R also called for the South Canal Gatehouse to be moved. It is not clear to the current licensees why this was proposed. The South Canal Gatehouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and continues to control the water flow and level of the South Canal as it has since 1865.

Because the South Canal Gatehouse is still working and is on the National Register of Historic Places, the licensees propose that it be left in its present location.

Consultation

The licensees consulted extensively with an Advisory Committee (committee) which included the City, the National Park Service, the Merrimack River Watershed Council, the Immigrant City Archives, DEM, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, and the LHSP. This committee has worked since 1992 to develop facilities that will address the recreational and educational needs of the people in the area.

The licensees also consulted with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). The MHC states that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on the North Canal and North Canal Historic District, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The MHC requested copies of any plans for exterior alteration of the existing buildings. In a letter dated June 27, 1995, the Commission staff requested concurrence on the determination of no-adverse effect from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council). In a letter dated June 27, 1995, the Council concurred, provided the MHC is given an opportunity to review the final plans and specifications for the proposed visitor's center, particularly the plans for handicapped access ramps and any plans which would require alteration of the exterior fabric of the historic properties.

Schedules

The licensees included, in the April 1995 filing, a schedule for completion. According to the proposed schedule, the exhibits will be installed by September 30, 1995. This time period will allow for development and installation of exhibits and signage. Once the exhibits are installed, the facilities will be open to the public from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year. Tours will be by appointment and signage will direct the visitors to the facilities.

Conclusion

The licensees are requesting changes to the Exhibit R because other entities are providing additional facilities in the vicinity of the project that were not expected when the Exhibit R was approved. The deletion of the picnic area and the relocation of the interpretive programs are reasonable requests and should be granted. The existing and proposed facilities in the surrounding area, including Merrimack Riverfront Park and the pedestrian walkway built by the LRA, provide public access and recreational facilities which will complement the licensees' recreational development. The provision for relocation of the

South Canal Gatehouse required in the original Exhibit R should be deleted, because it is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a working gatehouse. Relocation is not needed for project purposes.

The licensees do not propose any exterior alterations to the National Register Eligible sites. If any changes are proposed, the licensees must file plans with the Commission, for approval, before any work affecting the National Register Eligible properties is initiated, other than the interior modifications for construction of exhibits authorized in this order. We are also requiring the licensees to provide their plans and specifications for the proposed visitor's facility to the MHC and allow them an opportunity to comment. If the MHC objects to the licensees' plan, the licensees must file the plans and specifications with the Commission along with the comments from the MHC and their response. The Commission reserves the right to make changes to the plans in order to protect the National Register eligible sites at the project.

The revisions to the Exhibit R address comprehensive development of recreation in the area. The proposed facilities meet the needs of the public at this time, but if changes occur in the project area, the Commission reserves the right to require changes in the recreation plan. The revised Exhibit R should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The proposed revised Exhibit R filed on March 6, 1992, and supplemented on July 16, 1993, November 9, 1994, and April 26, 1995, is approved. This revised plan includes deletion of the requirement to move the South Canal Gatehouse and install a picnic area, construction of visitor parking areas including provisions for handicapped-accessible parking, and the relocation of the site and type of interpretive programs offered. The Commission reserves the right to require changes in the recreation plan.

(B) The licensees shall file, by October 1, 1995, notification that they sent the plans and specifications for the proposed visitor's facility to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and requested its comments. If the MHC does not agree with the plans and specifications, the licensees shall file, with the Commission, the MHC's comments along with their response. The Commission reserves the right to make changes in the plans and specifications for the visitor's center based on the MHC's comments.

(C) If modifications are proposed to the exterior portions of the buildings listed or eligible for listing on the National Register, the licensees must file, for Commission approval, a

plan to modify the exterior portions of these facilities. The licensees must prepare this plan in consultation with the MHC and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

(D) Within 90 days after completion of the facilities, the licensees shall file as-built drawings showing the location of the facilities including parking and walkways, and indicating the placement and text of signage.

(E) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.

J. Mark Robinson
Director, Division of Project
Compliance and Administration

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 72 FERC ¶62,215
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Lawrence Hydroelectric Associates
and Essex Company

Project No. 2800-018
Massachusetts

ORDER AMENDING ORDER APPROVING REVISED EXHIBIT R

Issued September 8, 1995

On August 17, 1995, Lawrence Hydroelectric Associates and Essex Company, licensees for the Lawrence Project, FERC No. 2800, filed a request for clarification of an Order Approving Revised Exhibit R issued on August 1, 1995.¹

In this order, it states that "in the proposed revised Exhibit R, the licensees will provide educational information through tours of the powerhouse and fish lifting area. These tours are to be scheduled on an as-needed basis. . . Interpretive displays will be erected to explain different aspects of the project's operation and exhibits will be constructed in the North Canal Carriage House which will display educational information. In addition, a portable fence will be provided to safely direct tour groups past the intake and fish lift area to the dam overlook. The Department of Environmental Management of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (DEM) and Lawrence Heritage State Park (LHSP) suggested that a clearly marked walkway be painted on the pavement to direct tours to points of interest. The licensees agreed to provide a marked walkway and signage at the site."

The licensees requested clarification of two sections of this order. First, instead of providing tours of the powerhouse and fish lifting area, the order should state that the licensees will provide tours through the North Canal Carriage House. These tours will provide the same information as stated in the August 1 order, but will occur in safer areas of the project. Second, the licensees agreed to paint markings and provide signage to the Carriage House as requested by the LHSP and DEM, but will not erect a portable fence to direct tour groups past the intake and fish lift area since these areas are no longer being used for tours.

These clarifications do not change the recreation facilities that are being provided by the licensees or the intent of the August 1 order. They should be incorporated into the order to clearly state what the licensees intend to provide.

1 See 72 FERC 62,074.

The Director orders:

(A) The Order Approving Revised Exhibit R issued August 1, 1995 is amended to state that: the licensees will provide tours through the North Canal Carriage House. Further, the licensees will paint markings on the paved walkway and provide signage to direct visitors to the Carriage House. The portable fence will not be installed to direct tour groups past the intake and fish lift areas.

(B) This order constitutes final Commission action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.

J. Mark Robinson
Director, Division of Project
Compliance and Administration