

E. Resource Agency Exemption Correspondence



United States Department of the Interior

File - COLLINS
REG.
U.S. DOI

JAN 23 1984

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY Office of Environmental Project Review

15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ER 83/1433
FERC #6544

Mr. Kenneth F. Plumb, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Mr. Plumb:

This responds to your public notice dated November 3, 1983, concerning the application for exemption for the Collins Project, FERC No. 6544, located on the Chicopee River, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

Fish and Wildlife Resources

The Applicant intends to restore the breached dam to impound water at the original elevation of 222.8 msl. We anticipate no environmental problems at that level.

The Chicopee River is not scheduled for restoration of anadromous fish runs in the foreseeable future (20-25 years), however, a condition concerning provision of fish passage when and if needed will be required, since exemptions are granted in perpetuity. The plan calls for installation of two turbines at the dam, utilizing flows in a range from 100-598 cfs. Operation will be run-of-river, utilizing available inflows from a peaking plant upstream. Thus, aquatic habitat will be protected by an instantaneous release at the dam of 332 cfs (0.5 cfs), or inflow to the project, whichever is less.

To prevent loss of, or damage to, fish and wildlife resources, the following terms and conditions are prescribed for inclusion in their entirety in the exemption, consistent with our responsibilities and the Commission's pursuant to Section 30(c) of the Federal Power Act and Section 408 of the Energy Security Act:

1. The Exemptee shall provide fish-passage facilities at this project when so prescribed by the Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Design, construction, and operation of fish-passage facilities will be the responsibility of the Exemptee; however, approval of the design by the Fish and

Wildlife Service will be necessary. Any additional instantaneous flows for operation of these facilities will also be provided by the Exemptee, as prescribed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. The Exemptee shall provide an instantaneous discharge below the project of at least 332 cfs (0.5 cfs) or inflow to the project, whichever is less, to protect downstream aquatic habitat.
3. The Exemptee shall provide access to the project area for public utilization of fish and wildlife resources wherever possible.
4. The Exemptee shall allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to inspect the project area at any time while the project operates under an exemption from licensing to monitor compliance with their terms and conditions.
5. The Exemptee shall notify the Fish and Wildlife Service in writing when the project commences operation. Such notice shall be sent within 30 days of start-up to Supervisor, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1518, Concord, New Hampshire 03301.
6. The Exemptee shall, within six months of the date of issuance of an exemption from licensing, present to the Fish and Wildlife Service for approval a plan for monitoring instantaneous flow releases at this project. Following approval of the monitoring plan, the Exemptee shall then measure instantaneous flows and provide records of discharges at the project on a regular basis as per specification of the Fish and Wildlife Service.
7. The Exemptee shall incorporate the aforementioned fish and wildlife conditions in any conveyance -- by lease, sale or otherwise -- of his interests so as to legally assure compliance with said conditions for as long as the project operates under an exemption from licensing.

Recreational Resources

The National Park Service notes that project developments include repair of the breached dam and restoration of the impoundment to its former level. This should increase the area's value as a recreational resource. The project's potential for public recreation should be explored in consultation with State and local agencies and community groups concerned with providing

opportunities for public recreation. The assessment should include consideration of recreation needs and priorities identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, with particular attention being given to water-based activities, such as fishing, canoeing, boating and swimming.

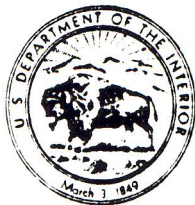
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application for exemption.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William P. Patterson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

William P. Patterson
Regional Environmental Officer

JUN 23 1983



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 1518
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

Mr. Kevin Shea
Swift River Company
148 State Street
Boston Massachusetts 02109

JUN 17 1983

Dear Mr. Shea:

This responds to your letters of May 12 and June 9, 1983, concerning your proposed exemption from licensing under FERC Order No. 106 for the Collins Dam Hydro Project, Chicopee River, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

It is our understanding that you intend to restore the breached dam to impound water at the original elevation of 222.8 msl. Therefore, we anticipate no environmental problems at that level.

The Chicopee River is not scheduled for restoration of anadromous fish runs in the foreseeable future (20-25 years), however, a condition concerning provision of fish passage when and if needed will be required, since exemptions are granted in perpetuity. Your plan calls for installation of a new turbine at the dam and refurbishing of four existing turbines in a downstream powerhouse. The turbine at the dam will have first priority for available inflows, and will operate in a range from 255-520 cfs. Operation will be run-of-river, utilizing available inflows from a peaking plant upstream. Thus, aquatic habitat will be protected by an instantaneous release at the dam of 332 cfs (0.5 cfs), or inflow to the project, whichever is less. All flows during non generation should be spilled at the dam.

To prevent loss of, or damage to, fish and wildlife resources, the following terms and conditions are prescribed for inclusion in their entirety in the exemption, consistent with our responsibilities and the Commission's pursuant to Section 30(c) of the Federal Power Act and Section 408 of the Energy Security Act:

1. The Exemptee shall provide fish-passage facilities at this project when so prescribed by the Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Design, construction, and operation of fish-passage facilities will be the responsibility of the Exemptee; however, approval of the design by the Fish and Wildlife Service will be necessary. Any additional instantaneous flows for operation of these facilities will also be provided by the Exemptee, as prescribed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. The Exemptee shall provide an instantaneous discharge at the dam of at least 332 cfs (0.5 cfs) or inflow to the project, whichever is less, to protect downstream aquatic habitat.
3. The Exemptee shall provide access to the project area for public utilization of fish and wildlife resources wherever possible.
4. The Exemptee shall allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to inspect the project area at any time while the project operates under an exemption from licensing to monitor compliance with their terms and conditions.
5. The Exemptee shall incorporate the aforementioned fish and wildlife conditions in any conveyance -- by lease, sale, or otherwise -- of his interests so as to legally assure compliance with said conditions for as long as the project retains an exemption from licensing.

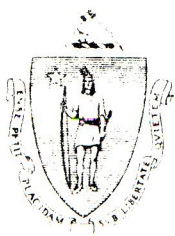
If you have any questions concerning these terms and conditions, please contact Mr. Bob Scheirer at this office (603-224-2585).

Sincerely yours,

Gordon E. Beckett

Gordon E. Beckett
Supervisor
New England Field Office

JUN 2 1983



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Field Headquarters, Westboro 01581

May 27, 1983

Mr. Kevin Shea
Swift River Company
148 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Dear Mr. Shea,

On behalf of Peter H. Oatis I have reviewed the draft proposal describing the Collins Dam hydro project on the Chicopee River in Wilbraham and offer the following comments:

1. An instantaneous minimum flow, perhaps the Aquatic Base Flow, as perscribed by the US F&WS should be provided to protect aquatic biota below the project site.
2. Although the MDFW does not plan to restore anadromous fish runs to the Chicopee River for at least 25 years, the potential for a fish ladder might be incorporated during the design phase.
3. We understand the project will be operated in a run-of-the-river mode, this should present limited negative impacts to fish and wildlife both above and below the project site.
4. The project should not reduce or substantially restrict fisherman access.
5. There is contradiction as to the location of the additional turbine:
 - a) Page 2, locates it on the west end of the side channel spillway.
 - b) Page 36, locates it immediately at the dam in the repaired section.
6. During construction, measures to control sedimentation and turbidity should be utilized.

Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment upon this project.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Madore

*Robert P. Madore
Aquatic Biologist*

RPM/mp



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MID-ATLANTIC REGION
143 SOUTH THIRD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19106

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13 JUN 1983

Mr. Kevin Shea
Swift River Company
148 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Dear Mr. Shea:

This is in response to your request for comments on the descriptive material (Exhibits A, B, E and G) for the proposed Collins Dam hydroelectric project located on the Chicopee River in Wilbraham, Massachusetts.

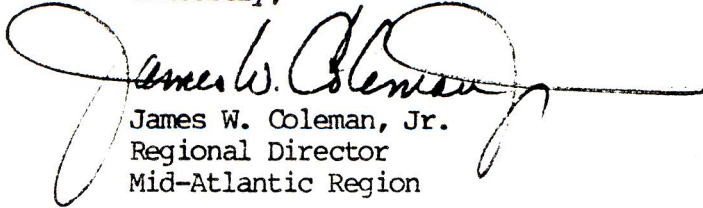
Based on our review of the material submitted under cover letter dated May 12, 1983, it does not appear that this project, which will include repairing the existing breached dam, will conflict with any programs of the National Park Service.

Further consideration should be given to providing for public recreational opportunities at the project. With the planned repair of the dam and restoration of the impoundment to its former level, the area's value as a recreational resource should increase. The project's potential for public recreation should be explored in consultation with the State Liaison Officer (SLO) and local agencies and community groups concerned with providing opportunities for public recreation. The assessment should include consideration of recreation needs and priorities identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, with particular attention being given to water-based activities, such as fishing, canoeing, boating and swimming. The SLO for Massachusetts is Mr. James S. Hoyte, Secretary of Environmental Affairs, State Office Building, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02202.

These comments are to be viewed as technical assistance only and do not represent the National Park Service's or the Interior Department's final position regarding this project. The Department's final comments will

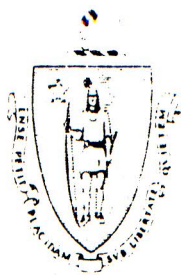
be given when the project is reviewed through the formal environmental review process. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review this project.

Sincerely,



James W. Coleman, Jr.
Regional Director
Mid-Atlantic Region

JUN 27 1983



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Field Headquarters, Westboro 01581

June 22, 1983

Secretary Plumb
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capital Street
Washington, D.C. 70426

SUBJECT: Collins Dam Hydroelectric Project, Wilbraham, Massachusetts

Dear Secretary Plumb,

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has reviewed the Collins Dam Hydroelectric Project on the Chicopee River in Wilbraham, Massachusetts proposed by the Swift River Company relative to impacts on fish and wildlife.

Review of the draft proposal and an on-site inspection on June 22 indicates that reconstruction of the existing but breached dam back to its historic height will have no significant environmental impacts to fish and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Madore

Robert P. Madore
Aquatic Biologist

RPM/mp

cc: Swift River Company



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
424 TRAPELO ROAD
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02254

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEC 13 1983

Planning Division
Executive Office

SUBJECT: COMMENTS, Project No. 6544-001

Mr. Kenneth F. Plumb, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Mr. Plumb:

This is in reply to the Commission's notice of November 3, 1983 concerning the application for a 5MW Exemption filed by I-MAXMAT Corporation for the proposed hydroelectric generating facility to be known as the Collins Project, FERC No. 6544-001, located on the Chicopee River near the Town of Wilbraham in Hampden County, Massachusetts.

The Collins hydroelectric project will not involve any Federally-owned land utilized for water resource purposes under Corps jurisdiction. The proposed project will not have an impact on Corps flood control activities.

This portion of the Chicopee River has not been determined to be a navigable water of the United States for the purposes of the River and Harbor Act of 1899.

Please advise the applicant that pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, a Department of the Army Permit is required for any discharge of dredged or fill material, including concrete, into a water of the United States including placement of any fill material necessary for site investigation and subsequent construction of the project. Fill material placed for the repair of existing structures is exempt from the provisions of this Act. The applicant should contact the Regulatory Branch (ATTN: NEDOD-R) of the New England Division regarding the permit procedures.

As the proposed project will utilize existing facilities and will be operated as a run-of-the-river station, no significant environmental impacts are anticipated from the project.

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Reg.
ACE

Subject to the above comments, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has no objection to the issuance of a 5MW Exemption for the proposed project.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please feel free to contact me at (617) 647-8220. Mr. Harmon Guptill of my staff coordinated this review. He can be reached at (617) 647-8513.

Sincerely,

Carl B. Sciple
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Division Engineer

Copies Furnished:
Mr. Fred E. Springer, Chief
Applications Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: (DAEN-CWH-Y)
Washington, DC 20314

✓ Mr. Kevin Shea
Swift River Company, Inc.
148 State Street
Boston, MA 02109



Collins
Reg.
MASS DEM

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Environmental Management

100 Cambridge Street
Boston
Massachusetts
02202

September 14, 1983

Ms. Ellen Tohn
Clark-McGlennon Associates, Inc.
148 State Street
Boston, Ma. 02109

Office of
Planning &
Development

Dear Ms. Tohn:

Re: EFSC 83-3: Collins Hydroelectric
Project.

As the scenic river resources of the Commonwealth are extensive, we must limit our environmental review to those projects on rivers classified and proposed for designation under the Scenic Rivers Program.

The Chicopee is not such a waterway. We therefore have no further comments on the Collins Hydroelectric Project at this time.

Sincerely,

Katharine M. Preston

Katharine M. Preston
Scenic Rivers Program Coordinator

KMP:phb

CC: William Febiger, EFSC



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

March 1, 2012

Peter B. Clark
General Manager
Collins Hydroelectric Project
pclark@swiftrivercompany.com

Re: Collins Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 6544

Dr. Mr. Clark,

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (Division) is the agency responsible for the protection and management of the fish and wildlife resources of the Commonwealth. As such we monitor operations at hydroelectric projects within the Commonwealth. The Division has the following response to your letter of February 17th requesting information about the Collins project for an application for Low Impact Hydro Certification.

Requests from the Low Impact Hydro Institute and Division responses:

1. Confirmation from Resource Agencies that there were no Agency recommendations regarding shore land management in the Collins FERC Exemption.
 - The Division has no recommendations regarding shore land management at this Project.
2. Confirmation that the current river flows meet the FERC exemption requirements.
 - The Division believes that the current operation of the Project meets the river flow requirements in the FERC exemption.
3. Confirmation that the current upstream and/or downstream passage prescriptions are still valid and that no fish passage facilities, such as entrainment barriers, have been requested at the Collins Hydroelectric project to date.
 - The Division can confirm that the current upstream and/or downstream passage prescriptions are still valid and that no fish passage facilities, such as entrainment barriers, have been requested at the Collins Hydroelectric project to date.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Caleb Slater, Ph.D.
Anadromous Fish Project Leader

cc: John Warner, USFWS
Melissa Grader, USFWS
Bob Kubit, MADEP
Don Pugh, Trout Unlimited

www.masswildlife.org

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Field Headquarters, One Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581 (508) 389-6300 Fax (508) 389-7890
An Agency of the Department of Fish and Game



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

Central Regional Office • 627 Main Street, Worcester MA 01608 • 508-792-7650

DEVAL PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY F. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR.
Secretary

KENNETH L. KIVMELL
Commissioner

Peter B. Clark
Swift River Company
P.O. Box 149A
Hamilton MA 01936

March 6, 2012

Water Quality Issues – LIHI Application
FERC #6544

Dear Mr. Clark,

The MA Department of Environmental Protection has received your letter dated February 17, 2012 requesting information related to water quality at the Collins Hydroelectric Project (FERC #6544). Specifically, you requested:

1. *If the MassDEP has more current water quality information than the 2003 Chicopee River Watershed Assessment Report.* No. The 2003 Chicopee River Watershed Assessment Report is the most recent water quality information we have.
2. *Recent data on dissolved oxygen, the presence of pathogens, and the presence of both escherchia coli and fecal coliform both immediately up and downstream of or in the Collins Hydroelectric Project area.* The MassDEP does not possess more recent data than that contained in the 2003 Chicopee River Watershed Assessment Report.
3. *A statement that the 2003 Chicopee River Watershed Assessment Report represents current water quality conditions and that the Collins Hydroelectric Project and its operations neither cause nor contribute to the presence of pathogens, escherchia coli and fecal coliform both immediately up and downstream of or in the Project area.* The MassDEP believes current water quality conditions are those described in the 2003 Chicopee River Watershed Assessment Report. The MassDEP also believes that the Collins Hydroelectric Project and its operations neither cause nor contribute to the presence of pathogens, escherchia coli and fecal coliform both immediately up and downstream of or in the Project area.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 508-767-2854 or robert.kubit@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Robert Kubit, P.E.