

APPENDIX E-2
GILMAN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IMPACT REVIEW
THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
DTD APRIL 19, 2012



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5087
<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>



April 19, 2012

Mr. Stephen J. Hickey
Hydro Management Group, LLC
55 Union Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Hickey:

This responds to your April 8, 2012 e-mail requesting that we review an application to the Low Impact Hydropower Institute for certification of the Gilman Hydroelectric Project for potential effects to federally endangered dwarf wedgemussels. Our comments are provided in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1533).

Dwarf wedgemussels occur below and above the Gilman Hydroelectric Project in Gilman, Vermont/Dalton, New Hampshire. According to information provided in your April 8, 2012 e-mail, the hydroelectric dam operates in a run-of-river mode where instantaneous flows below the tailrace are maintained equivalent to instantaneous inflows into the impoundment. No structural or operational changes are proposed as part of the certification application. Therefore, based on the fact that there will be no physical or operational changes to the project, and no documented adverse effects to dwarf wedgemussels have occurred from the current operation of the hydroelectric dam, we anticipate that the proposed certification is not likely to adversely affect dwarf wedgemussels.

Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required at this time. Should project plans change, or additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. Thank you for your cooperation, and please contact Ms. Susi von Oettingen at (603) 223-2541, extension 22, if you need any further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas R. Chapman
Supervisor
New England Field Office

cc: Mark Ferguson, VTDFW
Mike Marchand, NHFGD
Reading file
ES: SvonOettingen:4-19-12:603-223-2541

Subject: RE: USFWS Comments re Gilman Hydro impact on Dwarf Wedgemussel for LIHI Certification
From: "Ferguson, Mark" <mark.ferguson@state.vt.us>
Date: 4/20/2012 4:29 PM
To: 'Stephen Hickey' <sjh@essexhydro.com>

Steve,

I concur with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's assessment.

Mark Ferguson
Zoologist
Natural Heritage
Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
(802)654-8995

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Hickey [<mailto:sjh@essexhydro.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 2:27 PM
To: Ferguson, Mark
Subject: USFWS Comments re Gilman Hydro impact on Dwarf Wedgemussel for LIHI Certification

Mark,

I received the attached review from USFWS via fax today indicating that "no documented adverse effects to dwarf wedgemussels have occurred from the current operation of the hydroelectric dam" and "that that the proposed certification is not likely to adversely affect dwarf wedgemussels." Please indicate if ANR is in agreement with the assessment provided by USFWS.

Thank you,
Steve

Stephen Hickey
Hydro Management Group, LLC
as authorized agent for Ampersand Gilman Hydro
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