

**Subject:** FW: Collins Project Comments

**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2017 at 1:18:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Shannon Ames <sames@lowimpacthydro.org>

**To:** Shannon Ames <sames@lowimpacthydro.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Emerson** <jemerson9479@yahoo.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 16, 2017 at 3:37 PM

Subject: Collins Project Comments

To: "[dhall@lowimpacthydro.org](mailto:dhall@lowimpacthydro.org)" <[dhall@lowimpacthydro.org](mailto:dhall@lowimpacthydro.org)>

Hello,

My name is Jim Emerson. I live on the Chicopee River just about 1/2 mile downstream of the Collins Project. We understand this licensing is being open for comments regarding LIHI certification. I don't know or understand all of the legal ease involved, but I will try my best to offer a contribution for consideration.

I assist with boy scout groups such as troop 159 and 175. We do enjoy this river for kayaking and canoeing. We typically put in at the Red Bridge (lower area) and paddle down to this Collins project. However, there is no current way to legally portage around this project.

We also put in at a location called "Putts Landing" down stream in Ludlow, MA. We paddle up to the downstream side of the project.

Again, we can not portage around to continue to the Red Bridge area.

Since we became aware of this open comment period, let me put down our reasons for allowing portage.

1. Young scouts and their parents can continue to travel around this impediment to normal navigation by human powered small craft. This helps the young scouts see more of this wonderful river and gain valuable outdoor experience.
2. In being able to portage, one could enter at either location and continue to the other.
3. There is a growing number of people with interest in these river sections.
4. We wish to show the younger persons how to portage but more importantly, respect the land and the water by having no detrimental physical impacts. We teach to not leave litter, to not treat any land on the river banks disrespectfully and also to aide and assist with cleanups at all launch sites.
5. Finally, consider allowing persons with kayaks and canoes, especially the next generation, to become good nature, river and land conservationists as well a recreationers. This takes effort and the participation of **all**, including you ! By allowing for this portage, Ampersand would be behaving with good consideration, corporate citizenship as well as ethically.

If I can offer any more suggestions or information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Jim Emerson  
22 Railroad Ave  
Wilbraham, MA 01095

[413.386.3623](tel:413.386.3623)

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