



May 3, 2012

Rolland Zeleny
Saywatt Hydroelectric, LLC
18 Washington Street, PMB# 18
Canton, MA 02021

Subject: **Mechanicsville Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 9611)
LIHI Certification No. 74 – Material Change**

Dear Rolland:

Thank you for notifying LIHI of the proposed material change to the Mechanicsville Hydroelectric Project. You propose to add generating capacity to the existing powerhouse by installing a second generating unit, and you have sought a determination from LIHI as to whether the project as reconfigured would continue to meet the LIHI criteria. The request was placed on public notice and reviewed by a LIHI application reviewer. No public comments were received, and the application reviewer recommended continuing the certification with the project reconfigured as proposed and authorized by FERC (exemption amendment order of March 29, 2012). The Institute's Governing Board received and reviewed the proposal at its May 3, 2012 meeting, and I am pleased to inform you that the Board voted to confirm that the facility would continue to comply with the LIHI criteria subsequent to completion of the material change to the facility and that there would be no revocation or modification of the certification.

LIHI also notes that Saywatt consulted with the resource agencies during the exemption amendment process and addressed the issue of flashboard management. The original certification was conditioned in part on this issue being resolved. The resource agencies have accepted continuation of the past practice of limiting the summer removal of flashboards to one foot.

Since the material change could affect water quality, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service modified its original exemption Condition 4 to require up to three years of post-construction water quality sampling. Should there be a significant adverse impact on water quality, the Service may require remediation. CT DEEP concurs. Please provide the results of the water quality sampling, including any agency correspondence, to LIHI with the annual LIHI compliance statements (*see* p. 16 of the LIHI Certification Handbook¹), and immediately report any incidences of water quality violations.

Contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Fred Ayer,
Executive Director

¹ [http://www.lowimpacthydro.org/assets/files/LIHI%20HandbookDecember%202011\(1\).pdf](http://www.lowimpacthydro.org/assets/files/LIHI%20HandbookDecember%202011(1).pdf)