CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE CORP.

PASSUMPSIC PROJECT
FERC NO. 2400

RECREATION AND LANDSCAPING PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Articles 412 and 409 of the license for the Passumpsic Hydroelectric Project require recreation and landscaping plans respectively. The plans are detailed in Figure 1.

RECREATION PLAN DETAILS

1) A public parking area for 4 vehicles will be constructed as shown on Figure 1 with hard pack gravel and pressure treated curb stops.

2) The picnic tables are in place as shown in Figure 1. The closest table to the parking lot has been modified for wheelchair use. A gravel path to this table will be installed. The tables were constructed with concrete frames and pressure treated table tops and benches.

3) An interpretive sign will be located next to the headworks as shown on Figure 1. Proposed layout of the interpretive sign is shown in Figure 2.

4) An impoundment access site, or canoe takeout, is shown on Figure 1. The portage trail originates here, crosses the wall and proceeds by the parking area to the canal headworks. Precast concrete steps will be installed to enable canoeists to get up to the canal headworks bridge. A warning sign will be installed here indicating access for canoe put-in only. Fences on the headworks bridge and on the island will be installed for canoeists' safety. The portage trail will come down off the headworks bridge via large fabricated steel stairs. The trail winds around roughly parallel to the canal and proceeds down the ledge to the station tailwater and the canoe put-in site. Several concrete leveling steps will be installed to provide better footing on the ledge. Per a suggestion from Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation, the concrete will be stained dark to match the ledge.

5) Directional, informational and warning signs detailed in Figure 3 will be installed as shown in Figure 1.

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD COMPLIANCE

The recreational plan was developed using the guidelines of the Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide, 1993 PLAE, Inc. Berkeley, California. The Design Guide was created with help from the USDA Forest Service and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board to help designers of outdoor recreation areas comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and was given to CVPS by the Green Mountain National Forest for use in designing recreation areas at licensed hydroelectric facilities.

The parking lot includes an eight foot wide barrier free area to the right of the first space for the use by a van with a side mounted lift. If recreational use of the area ever causes the parking lot to be fully utilized, CVPS will install a sign indicating that the first spot is reserved by displaying the International Symbol of Accessability.

The picnic table closest to the parking lot meets Americans with Disabilities Act Accessability Guidelines (ADAAG) number 4.32.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

The activities requiring ground disturbance are the parking lot and the trail to the picnic table. In all cases gravel will be brought in to build the item. Excavation of existing topsoil is not contemplated thus erosion and sediment transport should not be a concern. The gravel will be packed and contoured to prevent any erosion. CVPS is proposing to not submit a detailed erosion control plan per Article 401 for this work.

ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The CVPS operating personnel that take care of the hydroelectric station operation will see to the operation and maintenance of the recreational facilities.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Completion of the recreation area will be within 90 days of the receipt of the plan's approval, except that installation of gravel and the portage concrete can probably not take place between November 15 and April 15 due to ground conditions.

CANOE PORTAGE ROUTE

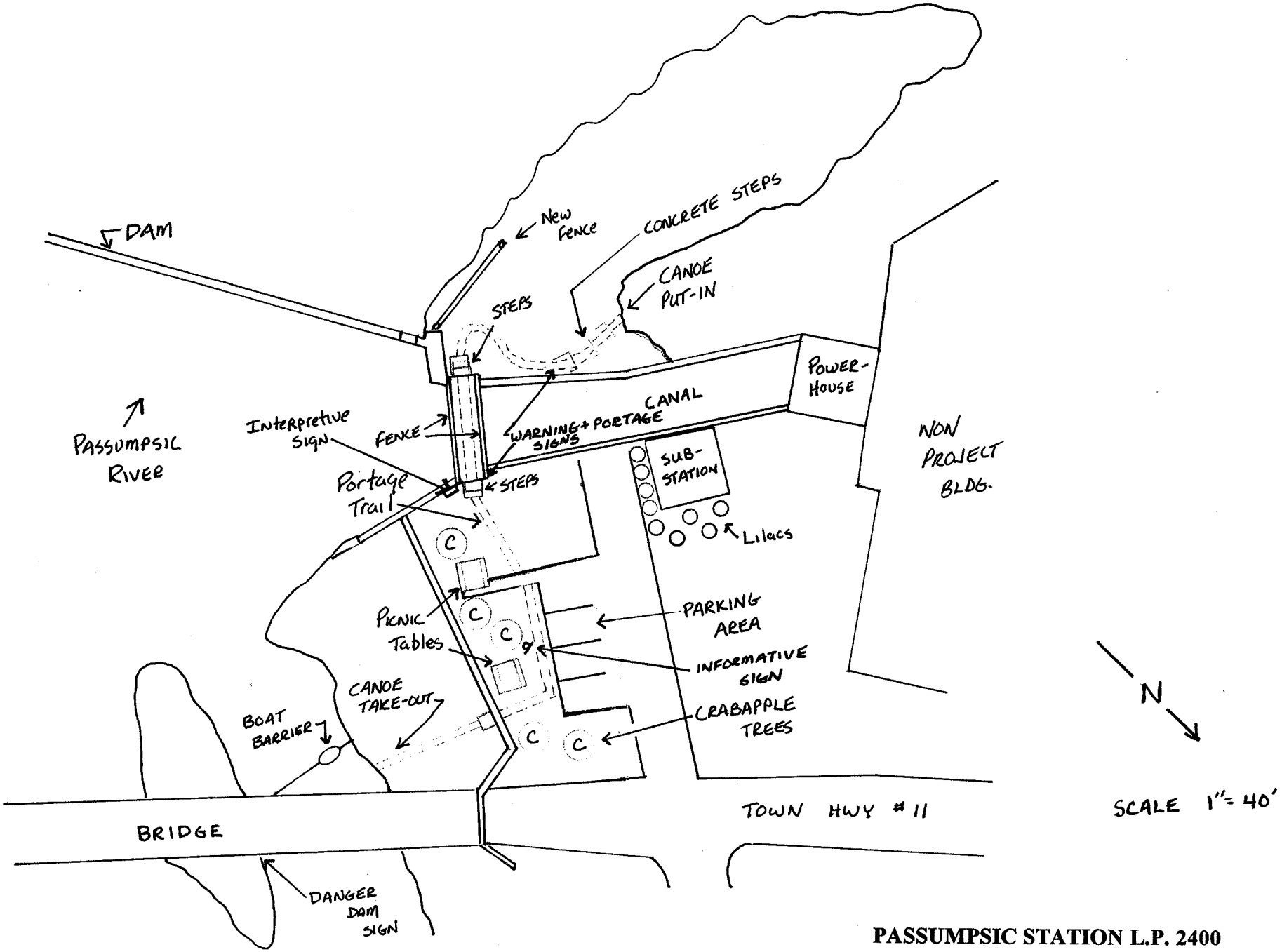
CVPS attempted for longer than a year to obtain an easement for a portage route through the adjacent property and parallel to the railroad right of way. The landowner did not respond favorably and in fact performed substantial landscaping to prevent canoeists from crossing his property. The proposed route is shorter, although probably more difficult. With the proposed enhancements, CVPS believes it is a safe and reasonable alternative.

LANDSCAPING PLAN

The purpose of the landscaping plan is to reduce the visual intrusiveness of the substation from the picnic area. Crabapple trees and Lilac will be planted for this purpose as shown in Figure 1.

LANDSCAPING IMPLEMENTATION

If plan approval is received in time, CVPS would prefer to perform the plantings in late September 1995 to ensure survival. Otherwise the plantings would be completed by June 1996.



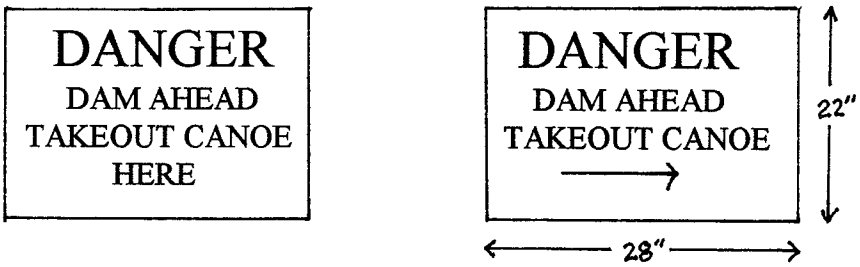
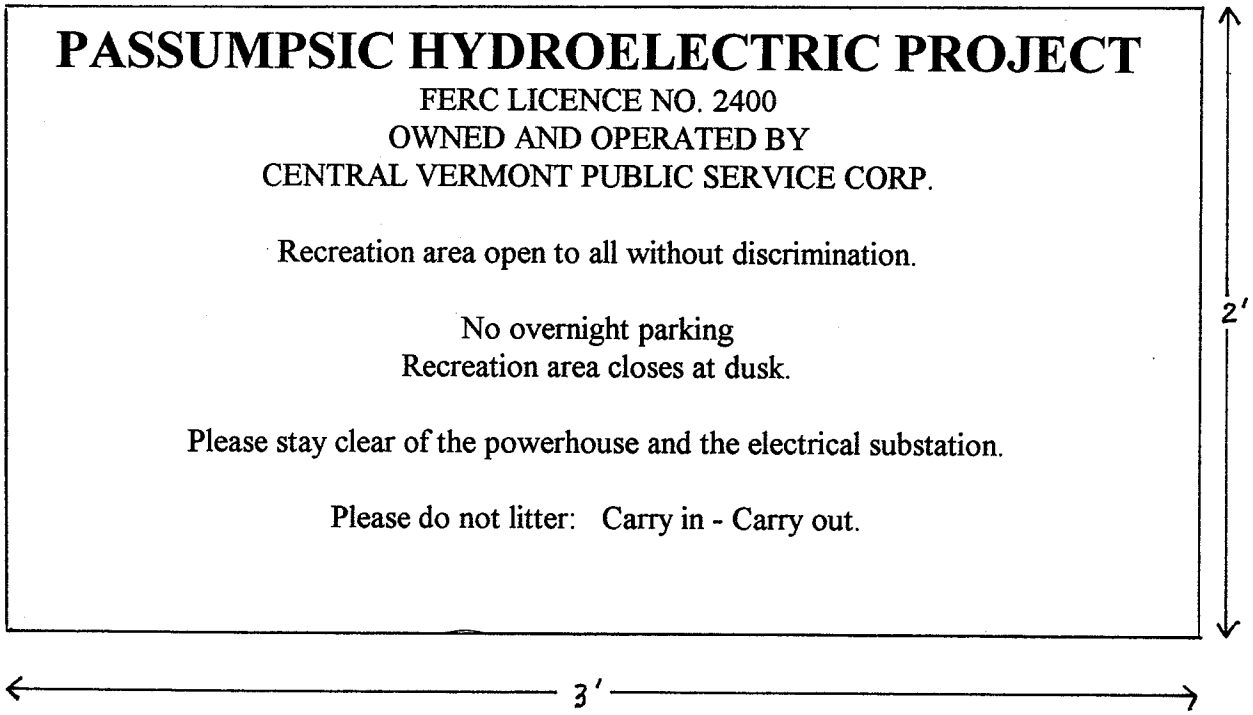
PASSUMPSIC STATION L.P. 2400
RECREATION AND LANDSCAPING PLAN
FIGURE 1

PASSUMPSIC STATION L.P. 2400
RECREATION PLAN
FIGURE 2
INTERPRETIVE SIGN

The Passumpsic hydroelectric station was built in 1905-1906 for the St. Johnsbury Electric Company. The powerhouse was completely destroyed in the flood of 1927. Portions of its foundations, and those of its associated power canal remain buried on the other side of the existing canal. The plant was rebuilt in 1929 from designs by the New England Public Service Company, in the location of the Chase's leatherboard mill water wheel, which was also destroyed in the flood. The building behind the powerhouse, which is not owned by CVPS, is the remainder of the former leatherboard mill. Passumpsic Station, together with the Arnold Falls and Pierce Mills hydroelectric stations meet the National Register of Historic Places definition of a historic district because they are united historically by design and by physical development. Each station is compact, barely (but sufficiently) large enough to accommodate a single generating unit, with brick exterior walls, flat roof, and large, round-arched wall openings typical of utility designs in the 1920s.

The facility which is owned and operated by Central Vermont Public Service Company still generates in excess of 3.8 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year, enough to supply approximately 310 homes.

Up to 460 cubic feet per second of water passes through the power canal, from the dam to the powerhouse. The water powers one vertical shaft Francis unit, rated at approximately 700 kilowatts.

The project is operated under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and was issued a new forty year license in 1994.

PASSUMPSIC STATION L.P. 2400
RECREATION PLAN
FIGURE 3 - SIGNS