



MASSWILDLIFE

**DIVISION OF
FISHERIES & WILDLIFE**

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Jack Buckley, *Director*

October 21, 2016

Dana Hall, Deputy Director
Low Impact Hydropower Institute
PO Box 194
Harrington Park, NJ 07640

RE: Chicopee Valley Aqueduct Fish Hatchery Project (FERC No. CD14-8-000)

Dear Ms. Hall:

The Department of Fish and Game (“DFG”) hereby submits the following comments on the Low Impact Hydropower Institute’s (“LIHI”) Pending Application for the proposed LIHI certification of the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct (CVA) Fish Hatchery Project located in Ware, Massachusetts.

DFG is submitting these comments to LIHI in order to fulfill the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Regulations (225 CMR 14.00; “RPS I” and 225 CMR 15.00; “RPS II”). The RPS I and RPS II regulations were promulgated by DOER on January 1, 2009 and require that any hydroelectric project wishing to qualify as either a RPS I or RPS II generator first obtain LIHI certification. These regulations also require all relevant regulatory agencies to comment on the pending LIHI application.

PROJECT

The CVA Fish Hatchery Project is a conduit hydropower facility that is associated with a 4,700 foot-long pipeline that is being constructed off of the MWRA’s existing CVA pipeline that will terminate at the MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife McLaughlin Fish Hatchery. The project is rated at 0.65 MW and will generate approximately 427 MWh annually.

COMMENTS

Operation of the project will result in an additional 6 mgd withdrawal from the Quabbin Reservoir, an insignificant amount from this 412 billion gallon reservoir. Additionally, this flow will be added to the Swift River daily flow as the water will be discharged to the river after it flows through the fish hatchery.

The DFG has no objection to certification of the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct Fish Hatchery Project as a “Low Impact” facility.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Caleb Slater, Ph.D.
Anadromous Fish Project Leader

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