

Oakdale Station

This conduit project also has been operational for many years. Review of the project file indicates that this station (pre- and post-FERC permit) has had a history of fishery impacts. In a letter from the MA DFW to the MWRA back in November of 1992, the issue of turbine mortality at the plant was discussed in detail. Apparently, lake trout residing in Wachusett Reservoir were attracted to the turbine's discharge and became entrained in the unit. This problem was identified back in the 1970s, and subsequently the Fish and Wildlife Service assisted the State with designing protective fish screens, which were installed in the early 1980s.

At some point those screens were removed, and on November 4, 1992 (two years after the FERC permit was issued) MA DFW staff observed over 100 dead lake trout at the Oakdale outlet. In its November 17, 1992 letter, MA DFW requested that MWRA reinstall the tailrace racks to prevent further fish kills. We have no further correspondence in our file since the date of that letter.

Based on this information, the FWS would only recommend that this project receive LIHI certification if (1) the MWRA commits to installing and maintaining the tailrace screens, or, (2) the MWRA provides evidence that those screens are no longer needed.

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