



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
110 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON 02108

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

July 5, 1978

Dr. Kenneth Plumb, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Water Quality Certification
Lawrence Hydroelectric Project
FERC License Application P-2800
Lawrence, Mass.

Dear Dr. Plumb:

This letter is written at the request of Lawrence Hydroelectric Associates, developers of a proposed 14.1 Megawatt generating station on the Merrimack River at Lawrence, Mass. The Associates have requested a letter from this Division as to the effect of the operation of the proposed facility on the water quality of the Merrimack River below the project.

The proposed development will be located at the existing Essex Dam in Lawrence, approximately two miles upstream of the outfall from the recently-completed Greater Lawrence Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant was designed to produce an effluent of such quality and characteristics that, with a 7-day, 10-year low flow on the Merrimack River at the outfall, the assigned "B" classification of the river would be attained. The Division was concerned lest the regimen of the river would be so changed through the operation of the proposed facility that the Class B standard would be violated.

Staff of this Division have had numerous meetings and correspondence with staff of the developers. As a result, this Division has now received reasonable assurances from the applicant that the proposed project will be operated in a manner which will not cause a violation of applicable water quality standards adopted by this Division under authority of Section 27 (5) of Chapter 21 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Therefore, based on these assurances and our own investigations, this Division hereby issues this Water Quality Certification relative to this project, in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (Public Law 95-217), subject to the following conditions:

1. A minimum flow of 951 c.f.s. (equivalent to approximately 1,000 c.f.s. at the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall) shall be continuously released from the impoundment behind the Essex Dam by whatever means or combination of means necessary to accomplish this release, unless or until the pool elevation behind the dam is so drawn down that it reaches the crest of the dam.

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2. At such times, outflow released from the dam shall be equal to inflow as recorded at the U.S.G.S. Lowell gage, during the period the flow is less than 951 c.f.s. When the flow exceeds 951 c.f.s., the excess flow over 951 c.f.s. may be utilized to refill the impoundment to the top of flashboards, whereupon Condition 1 above will again go into effect.

Should any violation of the water quality standards or the terms of this Certification occur as a result of the proposed activity, the Division will direct that the condition be corrected. Non-compliance on the part of the permittee will be cause for this Division to recommend the revocation of the permit(s) issued therefor or to take such other action as is authorized by the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

Very truly yours,

Thomas G. McMahon
Director

TCM/WAS/rew

cc: Gordon A. Marker, Lawrence Hydroelectric Associates, 8 Arlington Street,
Boston 02116
David Standley, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Quality
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