



Certification Comments &lt;comments@lowimpacthydro.org&gt;

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**LIHI Certificate #121**

1 message

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**John Harden** <jharden@lawrencecommunityworks.org>  
To: comments@lowimpacthydro.org

Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 5:01 PM

Dear Executive Director Ames,

I'm writing both as a resident of Lawrence and as someone active in a partnership working to restore the North and South canals in Lawrence currently operated by Central Rivers Power (CRP), as the most recent owner of the Essex Company, the original licensee. Organizations and individuals in this partnership represent not only residents of Lawrence, but owners of properties that abut the canals, as well as holders of water rights to canal water. I'll come back to this last point shortly.

The Partners had been discussing the condition of the Canals for years (long before I became involved) with Enel, the previous parent owner, and made essentially no progress. Unfortunately CRP seems to be continuing this pattern. Requests for group meetings have been largely ignored. A recent letter from CRP indicated that 'when' the canals are removed from the project area, CRP sees them as an asset that can be sold.

As I've become more aware of the history of attempts at communication, and the neglect by Essex and Enel, I feel that it is more critical that there be more specific actions taken to require CRP, as the current owner, to undertake specific actions to address issues raised by an engineering report commissioned by the Partners in our local group, as well as issues raised by FERC itself in 2019.

Decades of neglect on the part of Essex/Enel resulted in severe deterioration to the canal walls, and in the case of my organization, collapse of a penstock located beneath one of our buildings due to extended periods of low water, when our wooden penstock had been designed to be constantly wet.

I'd also like to point out that although CRP has created the impression in several of their communications that there is no operation ever planned to happen using canal sourced water, that is not actually true, and there are significant water rights that will return to the control of the owners that leased them to Essex years ago, when those leases end.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

**John R. Harden**

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