

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission (FERC)
FERC Form 80

Licensed Hydropower Development Recreation Report

Form Approved
OMB No. 1902-0106
Expires: 09/30/2016
Burden 3.0 hours

General Information:

This form collects data on recreation amenities at projects licensed by FERC under the Federal Power Act (16 USC 791a-825r). This form must be submitted by licensees of all projects except those specifically exempted under 18 CFR 8.11 (c). For regular, periodic filings, submit this form on or before April 1, 2015. Submit subsequent filings of this form on or before April 1, every 6th year thereafter (for example, 2021, 2027, etc.). For initial Form No. 80 filings (18CFR 8.11(b)), each licensee of an unconstructed project shall file an initial Form No. 80 after such project has been in operation for a full calendar year prior to the filing deadline. Each licensee of an existing (constructed) project shall file an initial Form No. 80 after such project has been licensed for a full calendar year prior to the filing deadline. Filing electronically is preferred. (See <http://www.ferc.gov> for more information.) If you cannot file electronically, submit an original and two copies of the form to the: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, 888 First St., NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The public burden estimated for this form is three hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden, to: FERC via e-mail DataClearance@ferc.gov; or mail to 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426 (Attention: Information Clearance Officer) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB), via e-mail to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov; or mail to OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for FERC, Washington, DC 20503. Include OMB Control Number 1902-0106 as a point of reference. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a valid control number (44 U.S.C. § 3512 (a)).

Instructions:

- All data reported on this form must represent publicly available recreation amenities and services located within the project boundary.
- To ensure a common understanding of terms, please refer to the Glossary on page 3.
- Report actual data for each item. If actual data are unavailable, then please estimate.
- Submit a completed form for each development at your project.

Schedule 1. General Data

1. Licensee Name: <u>CONSOLIDATED EDISON ENERGY M/</u>		Complete the following for each development if more than one.	
2. Project Name: <u>GARDNERS FALLS</u>		8. Reservoir Surface Area at Normal Pool (acres): <u>35.00</u>	
3. Project Number: <u>2334</u>		9. Shoreline Miles at Normal Pool: <u>2.00</u>	
4. Development Name: <u>GARDNER FALLS</u>		10. Percent of Shoreline Available for Public Use: <u>25.00</u>	
States Development/Project Traverses (List state with largest area within the development/project boundary first):		11. Data Collection Methods (enter percent for each method used; total must equal 100%):	
5. State #1: <u>MA</u>		<u>0.00</u> traffic count/trail count	
6. State #2: _____		<u>0.00</u> attendance records	
7. Type of Project License: Major <input type="checkbox"/>		<u>80.00</u> staff observation	
(check one) Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>0.00</u> visitor counts or surveys	
		<u>20.00</u> estimate (explain)	
For 2014, enter only the licensee's annual recreational construction, operation, and maintenance costs for the development (project). Also, enter the annual recreational revenues for that year.			
Item	Licensee's Annual Recreation Costs and Revenues (In Whole Dollars)		
	Construction, Operation and Maintenance Costs		Recreation Revenues for Calendar Year
12. Dollar Values	<u>\$7,000.00</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>
13. Length of Recreation Season: Summer: From (MM/DD) <u>4/15</u> To <u>10/31</u> Winter: From (MM/DD) <u>11/1</u> To <u>4/14</u>			
Period	Number of visits to all recreational areas at development/project (in Recreation Days)		
	Annual Total		Peak Weekend Average (see Glossary)
14. Daytime	<u>4,607</u>		<u>78</u>
15. Nighttime	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>

Respondent Certification: The undersigned certifies that he/she examined this report; and to the best of his/her knowledge, all data provided herein are true, complete, and accurate.

Kim C. Marsili
Legal Name

Signature

Station Manager
Title
03/23/16
Date Signed

(413) 730-4721
Area Code/Phone No.
2015
Reporting Year Ending

Title 18 U.S.C.1001 makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willingly to make to any Agency or department of the United States any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or misrepresentation as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

Schedule 2. Inventory of Publicly Available Recreation Amenities Within the Project Boundary

16. Enter data for each Recreation Amenity Type (a). For User Free (b) and User Fee (c) enter the number of publicly available recreation amenities, located within the project boundary, regardless of provider. For FERC Approved (d) enter the number of amenities identified under User Free (b) and User Fee (c) for which the licensee has an ongoing responsibility for funding or maintenance (see Glossary for further detail). For Capacity Utilization (f), of the total publicly available amenities (b) + (c), compare the average non-peak weekend use (see Glossary) for each recreation amenity type (during the recreation season, with the highest use, reported on Schedule 1, Item 13) with the total combined capacity of each amenity type and enter a percentage that indicates their overall level of use. For example, if all public boat launches are used to half capacity during the non-peak weekend days, enter 50% (should use exceed capacity for an amenity type, enter the appropriate percentage above 100).

Recreation Amenity Type (a)	Number of Recreation Amenities			Total Units (e)	Capacity Utilization (%) (f)
	User Free (b)	User Fee (c)	FERC Approved (d)		
Boat Launch Areas. Improved areas having one or more boat launch lanes (enter number in column e) and are usually marked with signs, have hardened surfaces, and typically have adjacent parking.	2	0	2	2 Lanes	18
Marinas. Facilities with more than 10 slips on project waters, which include one or more of the following: docking, fueling, repair and storage of boats; boat/equipment rental; or sell bait/food (see Glossary FERC approved).				N/A	
Whitewater Boating. Put-ins/Take-outs specifically designated for whitewater access.				N/A	
Portages. Sites designed for launching and taking out canoes/kayaks and the improved, designated, and maintained trails connecting such sites (enter length of trail in column e).				Feet	
Tailwater Fishing. Platforms, walkways, or similar structures to facilitate below dam fishing.	1		1	N/A	13
Reservoir Fishing. Platforms, walkways, or similar structures to facilitate fishing in the reservoir pool or feeder streams.	1		1	N/A	23
Swim Areas. Sites providing swimming facilities (bath houses, designated swim areas, parking and sanitation facilities).				Acres	
Trails. Narrow tracks used for non-automobile recreation travel which are mapped and designated for specific use(s) such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, or XC skiing (excludes portages, paths or accessible routes; See Glossary).	1		1	1 Miles	3
Active Recreation Areas. Playground equipment, game courts/fields, golf/disc golf courses, jogging tracks, etc.				Acres	
Picnic Areas. Locations containing one or more picnic sites (each of which may include tables, grills, trash cans, and parking).	1		1	1 Sites	8
Overlooks/Vistas. Sites established to view scenery, wildlife, cultural resources, project features, or landscapes.				Acres	
Visitor Centers. Buildings where the public can gather information about the development/project, its operation, nearby historic, natural, cultural, recreational resources, and other items of interest.				N/A	
Interpretive Displays. Signage/Kiosks/Billboards which provide information about the development/project, its operation, nearby historic, natural, cultural, recreational resources, and other items of interest.				N/A	N/A
Hunting Areas. Lands open to the general public for hunting.				Acres	
Winter Areas. Locations providing opportunities for skiing, sledding, curling, ice skating, or other winter activities.				Acres	
Campgrounds. Hardened areas developed to cluster campers (may include sites for tents, trailers, recreational vehicles [RV], yurts, cabins, or a combination, but excludes group camps).				Acres	N/A
Campsites. Sites for tents, trailers, recreational vehicles [RV], yurts, cabins, or a combination of temporary uses.				N/A	
Cottage Sites. Permanent, all-weather, buildings rented for short-term use, by the public, for recreational purposes.				N/A	
Group Camps. Areas equipped to accommodate large groups of campers that are open to the general public (may be operated by public, private, or non-profit organizations).				Sites	
Dispersed Camping Areas. Places visitors are allowed to camp outside of a developed campground (enter number of sites in clmn. e).				Sites	
Informal Use Areas. Well used locations which typically do not include amenities, but require operation and maintenance and/or public safety responsibilities					
Access Points. Well-used sites (not accounted for elsewhere on this form) for visitors entering project lands or waters, without trespassing, for recreational purposes (may have limited development such as parking, restrooms, signage).				N/A	
Other. Amenities that do not fit in the categories identified above. Please specify (if more than one, separate by commas):					

**Licensed Hydropower Development
Recreation Report****Glossary of FERC Form 80 Terms**

Data Collection Methods. (Schedule 1, Item 11) – If a percentage is entered for the estimate alternative, please provide an explanation of the methods used (if submitted on a separate piece of paper, please include licensee name, project number, and development name)

Development. The portion of a project which includes:

- (a) a reservoir; or
- (b) a generating station and its specifically-related waterways.

Exemption from Filing. Exemption from the filing of this form granted upon Commission approval of an application by a licensee pursuant to the provisions of 18 CFR 8.11(c).

General Public. Those persons who do not have special privileges to use the shoreline for recreational purposes, such as waterfront property ownership, water-privileged community rights, or renters with such privileges.

Licensee. Any person, state, or municipality licensed under the provisions of Section 4 of the Federal Power Act, and any assignee or successor in interest. For the purposes of this form, the terms licensee, owner, and respondent are interchangeable *except where*:

- (a) the *owner* or licensee is a subsidiary of a parent company which has been or is required to file this form; or
- (b) there is more than one owner or licensee, of whom only one is responsible for filing this form. Enter the name of the entity that is responsible for filing this report in Schedule 1, Item 2.1.

Major License. A license for a project of more than 1,500 kilowatts installed capacity.

Minor License. A license for a project of 1,500 kilowatts or less installed capacity.

Non-Peak Weekend. Any weekend that is not a holiday and thus reflects more typical use during the recreation season.

Number of Recreation Amenities. Quantifies the availability of natural or man-made property or facilities for a given recreation amenity type. This includes all recreation resources available to the public within the development/project boundary. The resources are broken into the following categories:

User Free (Schedule 2, column b) - Those amenities within the development/project that are free to the public;

User Fee (Schedule 2, column c) - Those amenities within the development/project where the licensee/facility operator charges a fee;

FERC Approved (Schedule 2, column d) – Those amenities within the development/project required by the Commission in a license or license amendment document, including an approved recreation plan or report. Recreation amenities that are within the project boundary, but were approved by the licensee through the standard land use article or by the Commission through an application for non-project use of project lands and waters, are typically not counted as FERC approved, unless they are available to the public, but may be counted as either user free or user fee resources. The total FERC approved amenities column does not necessarily have to equal the sum of user free and user fee amenities.

Peak Use Weekend. Weekends when recreational use is at its peak for the season (typically Memorial Day, July 4th & Labor Day). On these weekends, recreational use may exceed the capacity of the area to handle such use. Include use for all three days in the holiday weekends when calculating Peak Weekend Average for items 14 & 15 on Schedule 1.

Recreation Day. Each visit by a person to a development (as defined above) for recreational purposes during any portion of a 24-hour period.

Revenues. Income generated from recreation amenities at a given project/development during the previous calendar year. Includes fees for access or use of area.

Total Units (Schedule 2, column e) – Provide the total length, or area, or number that is appropriate for each amenity type using the metric provided.

Trails. Narrow tracks used for non-automobile recreation travel which are mapped and designated for specific use(s) such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, or XC skiing. Trails are recreation amenities which provide the opportunity to engage in recreational pursuits, unlike paths (means of egress whose primary purpose is linking recreation amenities at a facility) or accessible routes (means of egress which meets the needs of persons with disability and links accessible recreation amenities and infrastructure at a facility).

Document Content(s)

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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2334 -- Massachusetts
Gardner Falls Project
Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC

June 20, 2016

Mr. Kim Marsili
Station Manger
Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC
15 Agawam Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089

Subject: Confirmation of Environmental Inspection for the Gardner Falls Project No. 2334

Dear Mr. Marsili:

This letter confirms my recent telephone conversation with you regarding the environmental inspection of the Gardner Falls Project No. 2334. I will meet you at the project, located at 25 Gardner Falls Road, Buckland, MA at 10:00 a.m. on August 4, 2016 to begin the pre-inspection meeting. Please arrange to have the appropriate personnel accompany me during the inspection.

The inspection will consist of site visits to visually confirm compliance and observe fish and wildlife facilities, recreational facilities, cultural resources, if applicable, and public safety features at the project. It will also include a discussion of license requirements and a review of project records to confirm compliance with license requirements.

Copies of this letter are being furnished to appropriate Federal and State resource agencies via electronic mail. If agency representatives are interested in accompanying me during the inspection, they are requested to contact me at (781) 707-7406. This contact will be the basis of notification should the inspection schedule require a last minute change.

If you have any questions regarding my role as a contract inspector for the Commission, please contact Mr. Erich Gaedeke at (503) 552-2716 or by email at erich.gaedeke@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Funk
Environmental Inspector
The Louis Berger Group

on behalf of

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erich G. Gaedeke".

Erich G. Gaedeke
Aquatic Resources Group
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

Document Content(s)

P-2334-001.PDF.....1

**ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT
(ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED)
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
New York Regional Office**

	Date of Inspection:	<u>August 4, 2016</u>	
Name	<u>Gardners Falls</u>	Project No.	<u>2334</u>
Licensee	<u>Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC</u>	License Type	<u>Major</u>
License Issued	<u>April 4, 1997</u>	License Expires	<u>March 31, 2037</u>
Location	<u>Deerfield River</u>		<u>n/a</u>
	(Waterway)		(Reservation)
	<u>Franklin</u>		<u>Massachusetts</u>
	(County)		(State)
Inspector	<u>Ken Hodge/Nick Funk</u>		
Licensee Representatives	<u>Nicholas Hollister, Kim Marsili, and Alan Douglass</u>		
	<u>(Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC)</u>		
Other Participants	<u>N/A</u>		

Summary of Findings

This report covers conditions observed on the day of the inspection and the availability of recreational facilities, public safety signage and devices, and compliance with the environmental requirements for the Gardners Falls Hydroelectric Project.

Flow Information:

- Inflow – natural river flow
- Outflow (over dam) – natural river flow

Elevation Information:

- Project Impoundment – 332.5 feet mean sea level (msl)

Generation: Project shut down at time of inspection due to structural issues

A follow-up letter was issued on August 22, 2016 indicating that there were no

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follow-up items requiring corrective action or noncompliance matters identified during the inspection.

Submitted August 18, 2016

Kenneth Hodge

Senior Civil Engineer

The Louis Berger Group

A. PROJECT PROFILE

The Gardners Falls Project was originally constructed in 1904 and included two units (Units 1 and 2). The project was expanded on the north side of the Unit 1 and 2 powerhouse in 1914 with the installation of Units 3 and 4. The final unit (Unit 5) was added on the south side of Units 1 and 2 in 1925. The project is located at river mile 15.8 between the Deerfield No. 3 (upstream) and Deerfield No. 2 (downstream) developments (FERC Project No. 2323), which are owned and operated by TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc. The project is located in western Massachusetts, just south of the town of Shelburne Falls. The shoreline of the project is mostly comprised of steep slopes and rocky terrain with timber and brush. The shoreline is free of development. The project occupies no federal land.

Project works consist of: (1) the 337-foot-long, 30-foot-high Gardners Falls dam; (2) a 3,200-foot-long project impoundment with a surface area of 21 acres, 190 acre-feet of gross storage, and 37.2 acre-feet of usable storage; (3) a brick and concrete powerhouse equipped with four turbine-generator units (Units 2, 3, 4, and 5) with a total capacity of 3.58 MW¹; (4) a 1,300-foot-long, 31-feet-wide, 15-feet-deep power canal ; (5) a double circuit 13 kV transmission line; and (6) appurtenant facilities.

Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC operates the Gardners Falls Project in a limited pond-and-release mode, where flows to the project are regulated by releases from the upstream Deerfield No. 3 development.

The most recent project inspection was a dam safety inspection conducted in December 2014. The most recent environmental inspection was conducted on May 5, 2004. According to the May 2004 environmental inspection, the licensee was in compliance with all license requirements during that inspection.

¹ A fifth unit (Unit 1) is retired in place.

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B. INSPECTION FINDINGS

Requirements	Date of Requirement	Follow-up Needed	Photo Nos.
FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES			
<p>Article 401: The licensee shall release from Gardners Falls Dams a minimum flow of 150 cfs, or inflow to the project reservoir, whichever is less, for the protection and enhancement of fish resources in the bypassed reach of the Deerfield River. During those periods when inflows to the project reservoir are less than 150 cfs, the licensee shall release available water from the project reservoir's daily storage capacity, not to exceed the 37.2 acre-feet available from a 1.8 – foot drawdown, as necessary to maintain a flow of 150 cfs into the bypassed reach. The minimum flow shall be comprised of the total flows over the dam and flows through the downstream fish passage facility.</p> <p>Flow may be temporarily modified if required by operating emergencies, and for short periods upon agreement between the licensee and the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife (MassDFW).</p> <p>Request of Rehearing filed 05/08/1997 Order on Rehearing issued 07/05/1997</p>	O: 04-04-97	No	13
<p>Article 402: Within 180 days from the date of issuance of the Commission's order on rehearing of this license, file a plan to augment minimum flows from project reservoir storage and to monitor the flows required in article 401.</p> <p>The monitoring plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a schedule for installing the monitoring equipment; (2) the proposed location, design, and calibration of the monitoring equipment; (3) the method of flow data collection; (4) methods of maintaining flow records; (5) a schedule for consulting with the appropriate federal and state agencies concerning the results of the monitoring; and (6) filing of the results of agency comments, and the licensee's response to agency comments, with the Commission</p> <p>Annual Report filed 04/10/2012</p>	<p>O: 04-04-97 F: 04-03-98 AP: 05-06-98</p>	No	--

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Requirements	Date of Requirement	Follow-up Needed	Photo Nos.
<p>Article 403: Within 120 days of license, file detailed design drawings of the proposed downstream fish passage facilities together with a plan and schedule to construct and install the facilities.</p> <p>The plan shall include quantification of flows required to operate the proposed facility, an operation and maintenance schedule, measures to control erosion and sedimentation during project construction, and a construction schedule for installation of the fish passage facilities, with a target date that the facilities be operational within two years. The licensee shall operate the downstream fish passage facilities from April 1 – June 15; September 15 – November 15 each year.</p> <p>Licensee must consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Mass DFW.</p> <p>Facility Design Drawings filed 08/24/1998 Plunge Pool Drawings filed 12/04/1998 As-Built Drawings filed 08/15/2002</p> <p>Request to Suspend License Article filed 03/30/2016</p>	<p>O: 04-04-97 F: 08-08-97 R: 09-09-97 AP: 11-13-97 R: 04-03-98 AP: 05-06-98</p> <p>AP: 01-22-99 AP: 11-01-02</p> <p>AP: 05-16-16</p>	No	--
<p>Article 404: Within 1 year of license, file a plan to monitor the effectiveness of the permanent downstream fish passage facilities required by article 403 and associated operational flows at the facility to safely and efficiently pass Atlantic salmon smolts down the Deerfield River past the Gardners Falls Project.</p> <p>Plan shall include provisions for: (1) facility oversight and personnel commitments; and (2) back-up equipment and supplies that would be maintained to ensure efficient and consistent operation of the facilities. Licensee must consult with FWS and Mass DFW.</p> <p>Study Results and Request for 1 year Extension of Study filed 12/20/1999 Final Study Results filed 04/04/2001</p> <p>Request to Suspend License Article filed 03/30/2016</p>	<p>O: 04-04-97 F: 04-10-98 AP: 05-06-98</p> <p>AP: 03-06-00 AP: 06-15-01 AP: 05-16-16</p>	No	--
<p>Standard Article 8 requires the licensee to install and thereafter maintain gages and stream gaging stations for the purpose of determining the stage and flow of the stream or streams on which the project is located.</p>	O: 04-04-97	No	--
<p>Standard Article 11 requires the licensee to install fish passage and other wildlife facilities when requested by state and federal resource agencies.</p>	O: 04-04-97	No	--

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Requirements	Date of Requirement	Follow-up Needed	Photo Nos.
RECREATION RESOURCES			
<p>Article 406: Within 1 year of license, file a recreation plan describing existing recreation facilities, evaluating whether the existing facilities are meeting public recreation needs, and proposing specific recreation improvements to address the need for new public recreation facilities and improvements at the project.</p> <p>The licensee shall prepare the recreation plan in consultation with National Park Service (NPS), FWS, Mass Dept of Environmental Management/Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and Mass DFW.</p> <p>Recreation plan filed pursuant to this article shall provide for implementing the recreational facilities and improvements described in the Gardners Falls Project recreation plan, filed 12-23-91, and supplemented on 12-11-92, including: (1) providing an impoundment boat launch; (2) improving the picnic area, the nature trail, and powerhouse access area; (3) improving the Wilcox Hollow Access Area by paving the access road entrance, improving the access road, expanding parking; and providing directional signs, trash barrels, restroom facilities, and a carry-in boat launch.</p> <p>Form 80 filed 03/24/2016</p>	<p>O: 04-04-97 F: 04-07-98 AP: 04-19-01 R: 06-05-01 AP: 10-19-01</p>	No	5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23
<p>Article 407: Within 180 days of license issuance, file a recreational use erosion and sediment control plan. The plan shall include: (1) designing and implementing appropriate erosion and sediment control measures and measures for revegetation for land-clearance and ground-disturbances associated with improvement and construction of any new recreational facilities; and (2) regularly-scheduled monitoring and maintenance for all recreational use areas at the project.</p> <p>The licensee shall prepare the recreation plan in consultation with NPS, FWS, Mass DCR.</p>	<p>O: 04-04-97 F: 04-07-98 AP: 08-04-98</p>	No	--
Standard Article 13 requires the licensee to allow public free access to project waters and adjacent lands.	O: 04-04-97	No	--
CULTURAL RESOURCES			
<p>Article 408: The licensee shall implement the Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the Commission, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Mass SHPO, for managing historic properties that may be affected by the continued operation of the Project. In the event that the PA is terminated, the licensee shall implement the provisions of its approved cultural resources management plan.</p> <p>Annual Report filed 02/29/2012 Letter Requesting Amendment to CRMP filed: 06/04/2012</p>	<p>O: 04-04-97 F: 06-04-98 AP: 11-18-98</p> <p>AP: 01-07-13</p>	No	17

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Requirements	Date of Requirement	Follow-up Needed	Photo Nos.
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Facilities and measures to ensure public safety (18 CFR, Part 12). Public Safety Plan	O: 04-04-97 F: 03-10-03	No	1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 20, 24, 25
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES			
Standard Article 19 requires the licensee to take reasonable measures to control sedimentation and other pollution at the project.	O: 04-04-97	No	24, 25
Standard Article 20 requires the licensee to clear and keep clear to an adequate width lands along open conduits and shall dispose of all temporary structures, unused timber, brush, refuse, or other material unnecessary for the purposes of the project which results from the clearing of lands or from the maintenance or alteration of the project works.	O: 04-04-97	No	--
O: Ordered; 18 CFR: Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations; AP: Approved; F: Filed; R: Revised *Form L-3 Terms and Conditions of License for Constructed Major Project Affecting Navigable Waters of the United States, October 1975.			

C. COMMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Based on file reviews, discussions, and field observations made during the inspection, no follow-up or noncompliance matters were identified. The following comments and observations are included:

(1) Fish and Wildlife Resources: Article 401 requires the licensee to release a minimum flow of 150 cfs, or inflow to the project reservoir, whichever is less, from Gardners Falls Dam for the protection and enhancement of fish resources in the bypassed reach of the Deerfield River. During those periods when inflows to the project reservoir are less than 150 cfs, the licensee is required to release available water from the project reservoir's daily storage capacity, not to exceed the 37.2 acre-feet available from a 1.8-foot drawdown, as necessary to maintain a flow of 150 cfs, or inflow, if less, into the bypassed reach. The minimum flow is comprised of the total flow over the dam and flows through the downstream fish passage facility. During the inspection, the project was shut down due to structural issues related to the powerhouse intakes and foundation. The licensee noted that the minimum flow gate was wide open to pass all flow downstream. Any leakage into the power canal from the canal intake structure was returning through the canal drain gate located approximately halfway down the canal. Since the project was shut down, project flow data was not available. A visual inspection confirmed that, with the exception of some leakage into the power canal through the canal intake structure, all of the inflow to the project was being passed through the gate structure and over the dam crest at the time of the inspection. The licensee appears to be

in compliance with all requirements of this Article.

Article 402 required the licensee to file a plan to augment minimum flows from the project reservoir storage and to monitor the flows required by Article 401. The monitoring plan included a requirement for installing monitoring equipment and consultation with appropriate federal and state agencies. Due to project shut down at the time of inspection, flow data was not available, but essentially all inflow was being passed to the bypass reach. The licensee noted that this data is available when the project is in normal operation. The licensee appears to be in compliance with all requirements of this article.

Article 403 required the licensee to file detailed design drawings of the proposed downstream fish passage facilities together with a plan and schedule to construct and install the facilities. The licensee was required to operate the downstream fish passage facilities from April 1 – June 15 and September 15 – November 15 each year. On March 30, 2016, the licensee filed a request to suspend the license Article. On May 16, 2016, the Commission issued an order approving the suspension of Article 403. The order requires the facilities to be retained in case fisheries management objectives change in the future.

Article 404 required the licensee to file a plan to monitor the effectiveness of the permanent downstream fish passage facilities required by Article 403 and associated operational flows at the facility to safely and efficiently pass Atlantic salmon smolts down the Deerfield River past the project dam. On March 30, 2016, the licensee filed a request to suspend the license article. On May 16, 2016, the Commission issued an order approving the suspension of Article 404.

(2) Recreation Resources: Article 406 required the licensee to file a recreation plan describing existing facilities and evaluating whether the existing facilities are meeting public recreation needs. The licensee was ordered to prepare the recreation plan in coordination with NPS, FWS, Mass DEM, and Mass DFW. The plan was required to incorporate recreational facility items from a project recreation plan filed on December 23, 1991. This December 1991 plan included provisions for: (1) an impoundment boat launch; (2) improving the picnic area, nature trail, and powerhouse access area near the powerhouse along Gardners Falls Road; and (3) improving the Wilcox Hollow Access Area, located along Route 2 east of the project, by paving the access road entrance, improving the access road, expanding parking, and providing a carry-in boat launch area.

During the inspection, walking tours were conducted of all recreational sites. The nature trail was well-maintained with improvements to the trail and footbridges evident. Signage boards along the nature trail were empty of recreational information. The licensee noted that when information was posted, it was usually defaced. The picnic area near the Shelburne Waste Water Treatment Plant was well maintained. The licensee noted that the grill at the site had been stolen. Shoreline access below the picnic area was accessed by a staircase and footbridge. Both were well-maintained. The licensee noted that the impoundment boat launch receives little use. The Wilcox Hollow Access Area, including the access road, parking area, carry-in boat launch area, and all required signage was in good condition and well-maintained. The boat launch area and associated access road were free of roadside vegetation. During the inspection, two kayakers had just returned from boating on the river and had loaded their kayaks at the carry-in area. The licensee noted that local residents are the primary users of the recreational facilities. The licensee appears to be in compliance with all requirements of this Article.

(3) Cultural Resources: Article 408 requires the licensee to implement the “Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer” executed on September 4, 1996. The Programmatic Agreement required the licensee to develop and implement a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) for the project. The CRMP was filed on June 4, 1998, and was accepted by the Commission on November 18, 1998. The CRMP originally required the licensee to file an annual report of activities conducted under the CRMP. The most recent report was filed on February 29, 2012.

The original CRMP noted two potentially eligible archaeological sites located on the Gardners Falls impoundment, potential historic stone foundation and a potential prehistoric rock shelter (cave). On August 28, 2011, a historic flood caused by Tropical Storm Irene devastated the area near the rock shelter. On February 10, 2012, the licensee conducted the annual visual site inspection of the two cultural sites. The stone foundation was found intact, but due to the historic flooding, the licensee was unable to find any sign of the rock shelter.

On June 4, 2012 the licensee filed a letter requesting that the CRMP be revised to no longer include an annual inspection of the rock shelter. On January 7, 2013 the Commission issued an order amending the approved CRMP to remove the requirements to monitor and report on the rock shelter.

During the inspection, the stone foundation was found to be intact and in a stable condition. It is not clear if the licensee is required to continue to monitor the stone foundation. No project operation or maintenance activities have been conducted in the

FERC Project No. 2334

-10-

area of the foundation and the site was not affected by the recent flooding. The licensee appears to be in compliance with all requirements of this article.

(4) Public Safety: The licensee filed a revised public safety plan on March 10, 2003. Based on the site visit, appropriate fencing is maintained around the project. The boat barrier upstream of the dam was in place. All of the signage noted in the Public Safety Plan was in place and well-maintained.

(5) Other Environmental Resources: The interior of the powerhouse had proper spill prevention and containment materials on site and in place for oil and other liquid waste spills and disposal. No spills or oil sheens were observed in the powerhouse or in project waters.

D. EXHIBITS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

The following are provided to show the location of the project and to illustrate project features: project location map, photo location maps, and 25 photographs.

FERC Project No. 2334

-11-



Project location map for the Gardners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2334).

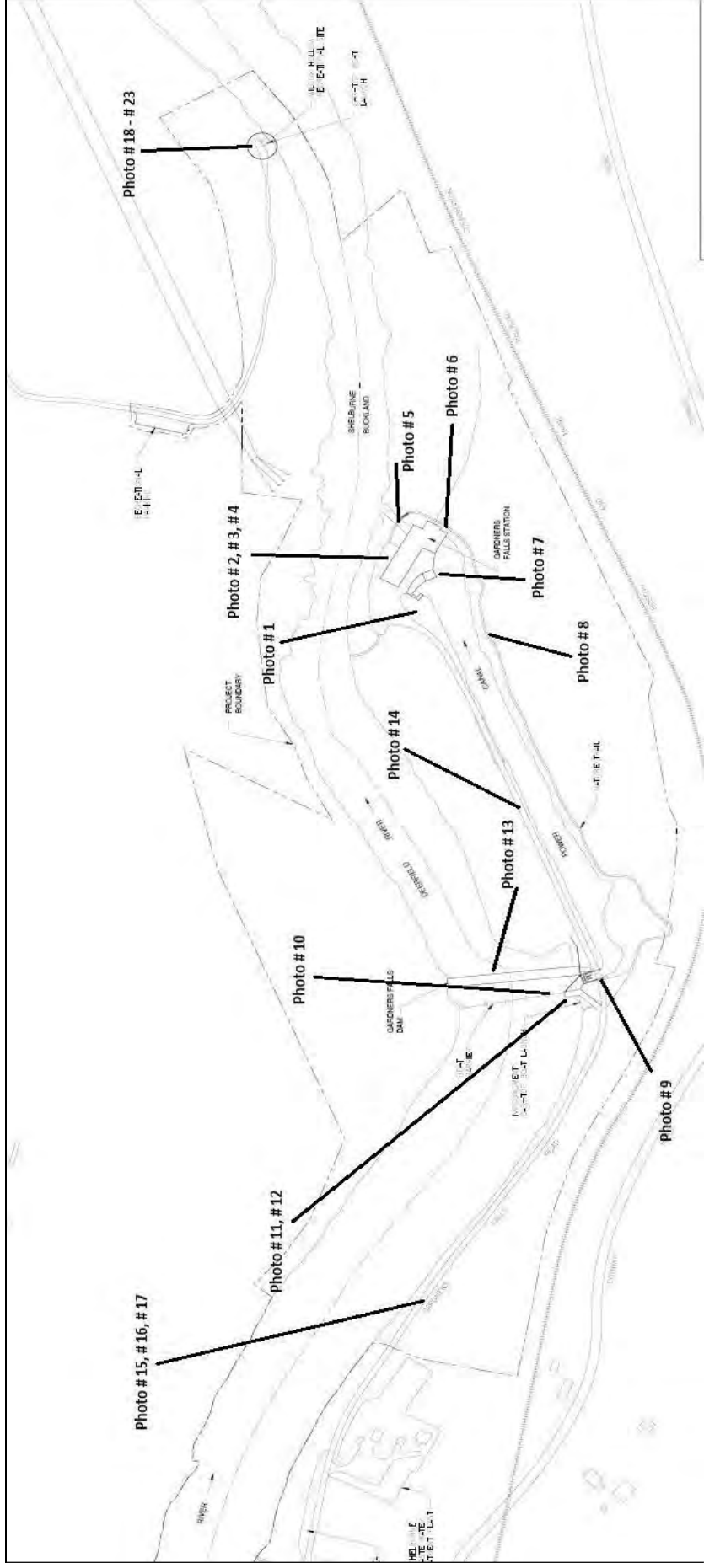


Photo location map for the Gardners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2334).



Photo 1: Public safety signage at Gardners Falls Project (signs located throughout project area).

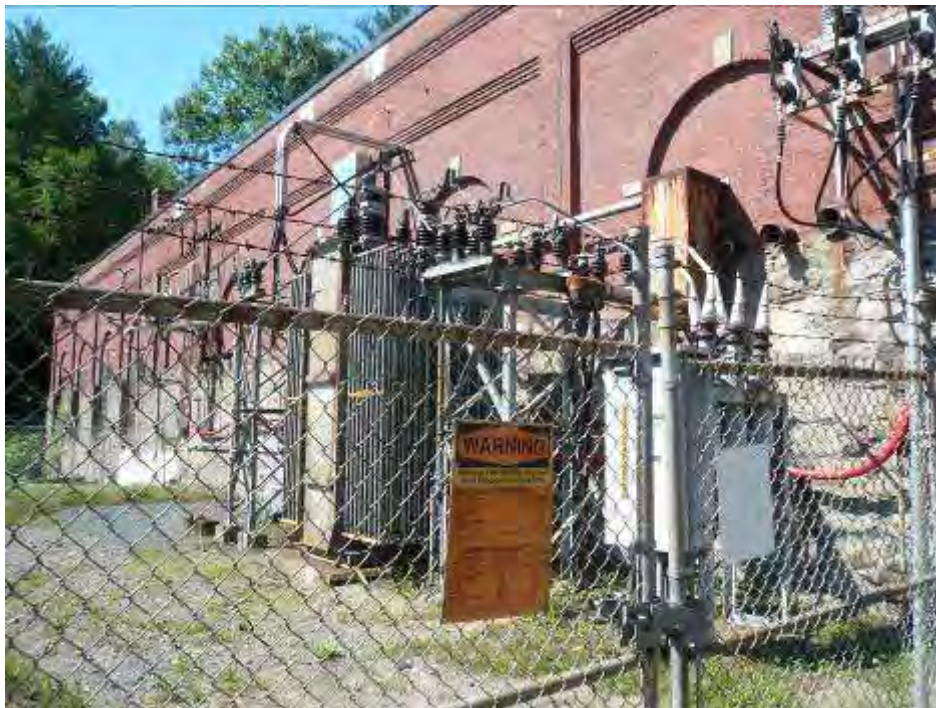


Photo 2: Project switchyard with warning signs and fencing (project was shut down at time of inspection). Note: most of the equipment shown is no longer in service as it has been replaced by equipment now located inside the powerhouse, and will likely be

removed in the future. The interconnection with the electric grid is located on the structure at the right in the photo. Once the unneeded equipment is removed, the licensee plans to reduce the amount of area within the fencing as appropriate to provide public safety for any remaining electrical equipment and electrical interconnections.



Photo 3: Deerfield River downstream of the powerhouse (photo taken from switchyard).



Photo 4: Public safety signage on outside of switchyard fencing.



Photo 5: Public access footbridge crossing the Unit 3 and 4 tailrace structures downstream of the powerhouse (photo taken from recreational nature trail).



Photo 6: Project nature trail with required fencing.



Photo 7: View of powerhouse looking toward downstream end of power canal (dewatered in the foreground) (photo taken from nature trail).



Photo 8: Nature trail public signage (located along nature trail).



Photo 9: Entrance to wooded part of nature trail (photo taken at the upstream end of the power canal).



Photo 10: Boat barrier in place in project impoundment.



Photo 11: Warning signage at north dam abutment (photo taken adjacent to impoundment boat launch area).



Photo 12: Boat launch area at project impoundment.



Photo 13: River flow over dam and through existing fish passage facilities (photo taken looking upstream from Gardners Falls Road).



Photo 14: Public safety guardrail along power canal (dewatered on right) on Gardners Falls Road (photo taken looking towards powerhouse).



Photo 15: Project public picnic area near the Shelburne Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant (2nd picnic table not shown).



Photo 16: Public picnic area river access stairs (photo taken looking down stairs towards footbridge).



Photo 17: Potentially historic stone foundation.



Photo 18: Wilcox Hollow Recreational Area lead-in sign.



Photo 19: Required public (part 8) signage at the Wilcox Hollow Recreational Area parking area.



Photo 20: Public safety signage at the Hollow Recreational Area parking area along the access road.

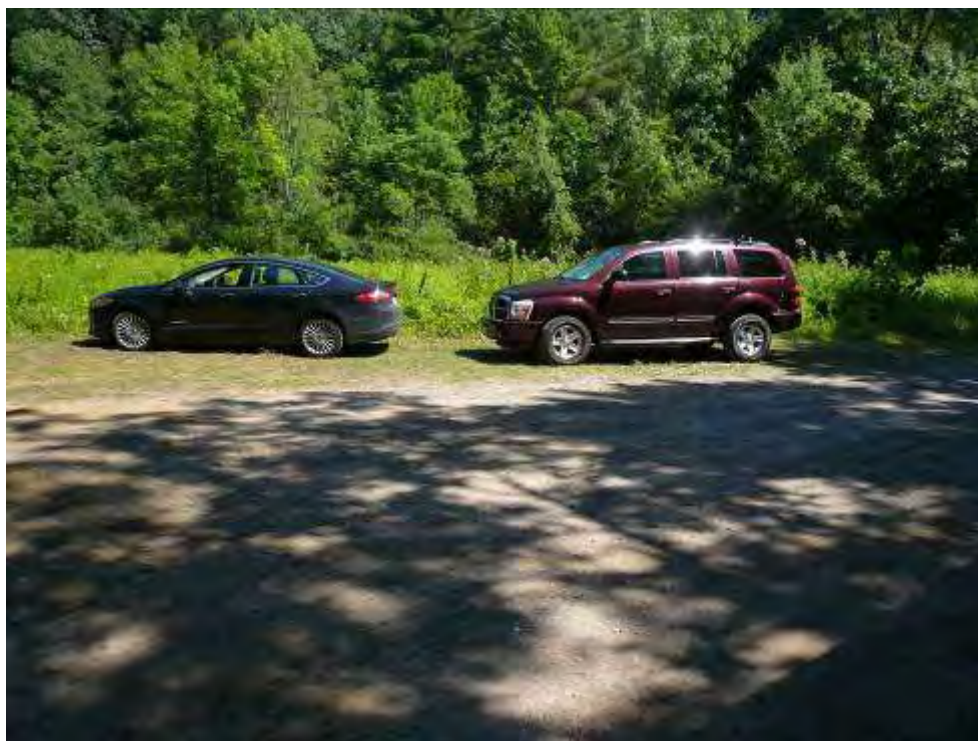


Photo 21: Parking area along the access road at the Wilcox Hollow Recreational Area.



Photo 22: Turn-around and parking area at the Wilcox Hollow Recreational Area carry-in boat launch area.



Photo 23: Carry-in boat launch area at Wilcox Hollow Recreational Area (looking downstream).



Photo 24: Oil spill response kit located inside of powerhouse (numerous kits located throughout powerhouse building).



Photo 25: Secondary containment measures inside project powerhouse.

Document Content(s)

P-2334.PDF.....1

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2334-001 -- Massachusetts
Gardners Falls Hydroelectric Project
Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC

August 22, 2016

Mr. Kim Marsili
Station Manager
Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC
15 Agawam Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089

Subject: Environmental Inspection Follow-Up Correspondence

Dear Mr. Marsili:

On August 4, 2016, Nick Funk and Kenneth Hodge, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission contractors, conducted an environmental inspection of the Gardners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2334). Thank you for the cooperation and assistance that your staff extended to Mr. Funk and Mr. Hodge during their inspection.

Overall, the project was in good condition with clean and well-maintained generating facilities, recreational facilities, and public access locations. The project continues to be out of service pending intake and powerhouse foundation stabilization work scheduled to begin in the near future.

Based on file reviews, discussions, and field observations made during the inspection, the project was found to be in compliance with the license articles related to fish and wildlife, recreation, public safety, and cultural resources. No follow-up items or noncompliance matters were identified during the inspection of the project.

Project No. 2334-001

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at (503) 552-2716 or by email at erich.gaedeke@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Gaedeke", written in a cursive style.

Erich G. Gaedeke
Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

Document Content(s)

P-2334-001.PDF.....1

From: [Skip Medford](#)
To: wiljneeley@gmail.com
Cc: [Johnathan Robichaud](#)
Subject: RE: Deerfield River Access Gardners Falls Plant
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:13:09 PM
Attachments: [GF Shelburne access rd pcls_20200924.PDF](#)

Hi Mr. Neeley—thank you for noting concern about the condition of the upper portion of the access road to Wilcox Hollow in Shelburne. The river access is important and popular, and road conditions were first brought to our attention in 2020 by a local citizen. Since our 2020 visit to assess conditions upon the citizen's request, we've been in touch with MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Eversource/NStar—each of whom, along with Central Rivers Power, appears to own about 1/3 segments of the access road. According to Shelburne town records, the “upper” access road portion (closest to Rte 2), and subject of your photos, is owned by Eversource/NStar. It's parcel #6 on the attached plan, while DCR owns the middle portion #3 and Central Rivers Power, the lower or river-adjacent parcel #7.

Since September, we've been in touch with each of the other owners of parcels which contain the access road. While we will maintain our road portion, we also plan to review entire roadway maintenance in the near future with DCR and Eversource/NStar, to enable a workable solution prior to the recreation season. By mid-April, I hope to have an update from the three parcel owners about access road maintenance. Perhaps we can touch base then?

Again, we appreciate your interest and look forward to connecting in April. Please feel free to let me know of any questions in the meantime—

Sincerely,

Skip Medford
Manager Stakeholder Relations



670 N Commercial Street, Suite 204

Manchester, NH 03101

C: 978-621-9489

From: Wil Neeley <wiljneeley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Distribution List - Info <Info@centralriverspower.com>
Subject: Deerfield River Access Gardners Falls Plant

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. =====

I am trying to figure out who is responsible for maintaining the road to access the Deerfield river at Wilcox Hollow in Shelburne Ma. The road that is off of RT 2 is badly washed out which makes it very hard to access for anyone without a truck with large ground clearance. The attached pictures show the worst part which is right at the beginning near RT 2. However the rest of the road is still bad with deep ruts in certain areas. Can you let me know if you are able to get the road fixed up or get me in contact with whoever is? I have already contacted the town highway department who told me it is not a town road so they won't fix it.

--

-Wil Neeley



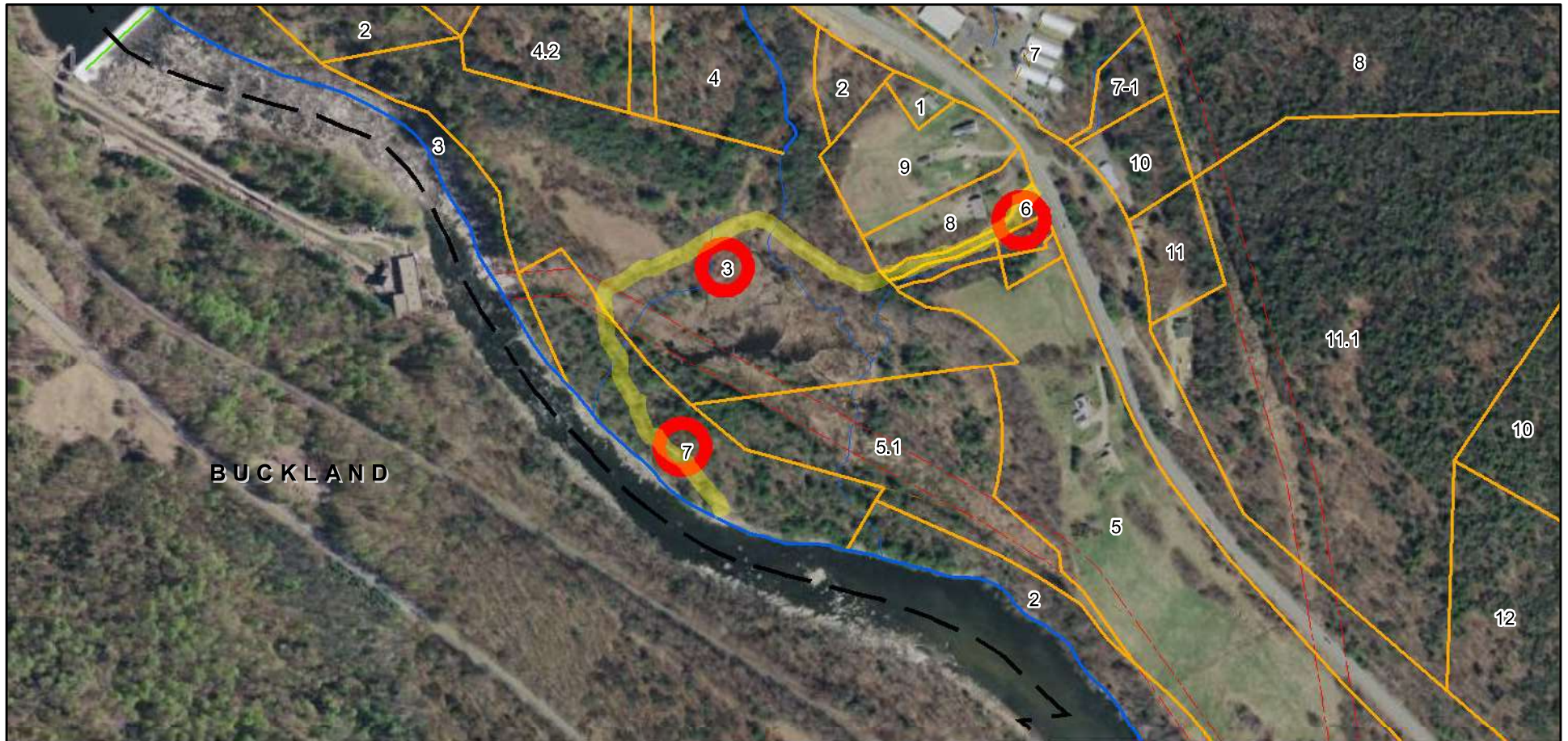
Wilcox Hollow Access Road (yellow)

Shelburne, MA

1 inch = 500 Feet



September 24, 2020



Large Scale	Public Road	Property Hook
CAI Town Line	Utility	WaterLines
PWater	Tract Line	
Property Line	Bridge	

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From: [Skip Medford](#)
To: w.shortiii@verizon.net
Cc: [lucas wright](#); [Johnathan Robichaud](#); [Curtis Mooney](#)
Subject: Deerfield River Access Gardners Falls Plant
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 2:31:39 PM
Attachments: [GF Shelburne access rd pcls_20200924.PDF](#)

Hi Bill—below is a brief summary of joint parties call on March 26 about Wilcox Hollow access. The attached (circled, numbered) map parcels depict ownership in Shelburne town records:

#6 = Eversource/NStar

#3 = MA DCR

#7 = CRP

March 26 2021, 2pm joint call with DCR, Eversource, CRP and A. Harris:

Eversource will look into permitting needs for road repair (months out according to DCR and CRP experience), DCR mentioned “no funding, labor or potential on improvements until 2022 or later”, and Eversource regarded the road as passable but wondered if they could restrict it to walking only, with parking on Route 2? It was concluded this wasn’t a feasible option, given Route 2 proximity and that Wilcox Hollow was planned as a car-top access point to the river (GF Rec Plan). The local citizen, Alan Harris, may bring a construction/excavation friend of his out to look at repair options. Recommendation was made that Eversource should donate their roadway parcel to Town of Shelburne—for better, local upkeep. They’ll look into that novel idea.

DCR and Eversource seem to think a feasible repair to their road sections (the worst, ours closest to river is the best of all) will require some major investment and lead time. We’ll reconvene in about a month.

skip



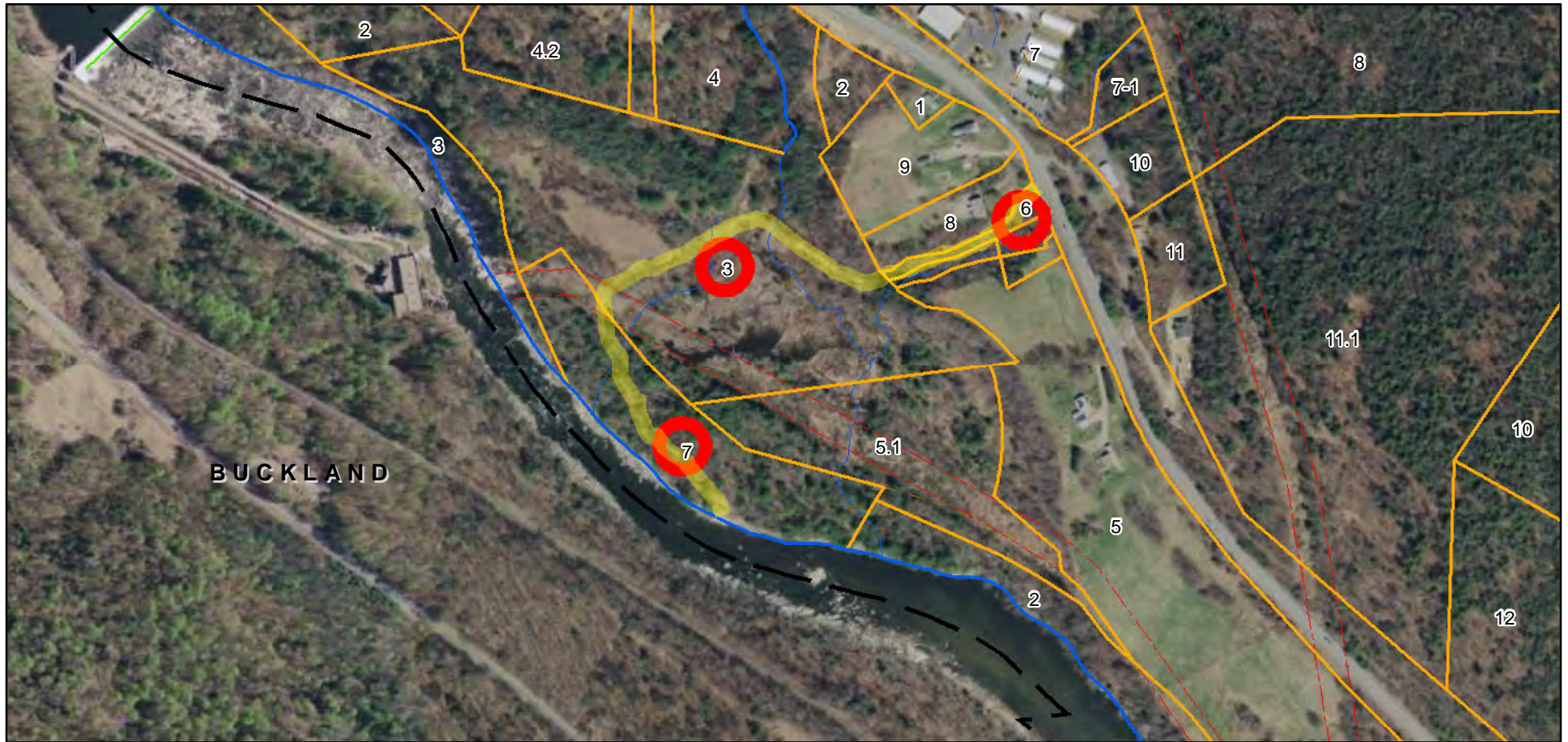
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From: [Skip Medford](#)
To: w.shortiii@verizon.net
Cc: [Curtis Mooney](#); [lucas wright](#); [Johnathan Robichaud](#)
Subject: FW: Wilcox Hollow Access Road, Shelburne, MA (R22122)
Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:26:20 PM
Attachments: [RE Deerfield River Access Gardners Falls Plant \(515 KB\).msg](#)

Hi Bill—for more status update on Wilcox Hollow road, below was received today from Eversource.

I received another local citizen inquiry about road conditions in March, see attached. That citizen, W. Neeley, seemed OK to await developments in subsequent review by all parties.

skip

From: Soroka, Christopher A <christopher.soroka@eversource.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Alan Harris <noblefeastcatering@gmail.com>
Cc: Southworth, Shawn A <shawn.southworth@eversource.com>; Bianchi, Kimberly A <kimberly.bianchi@eversource.com>; Skip Medford smedford@centralriverspower.com; Jester, Mark (DCR) <mark.jester@state.ma.us>
Subject: RE: Wilcox Hollow Access Road, Shelburne, MA (R22122)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. =====

Alan

I received your voice mail message today. Per our call on 03/26/2021, I was going to reach out to Eversource's Environmental Group to obtain high level guidance on what permitting (scope and cost) would be required to perform any (including temporary fix) work on the road. I have reached out to our Environmental folks and provided them with mapping of the area so that they can evaluate what permitting would be required. I hope to have this information within the next couple of weeks. During our call we also agreed to set up a call towards the end of April or early May to review and discuss the permitting information.

As discussed, this is going to take some time to iron out as all three parties (Eversource, DCR and Central Rivers Hydro) need to understand and evaluate the permitting and associated costs with anything to do with the road prior to performing any work on the road.

Christopher A. Soroka

Transmission & Distribution Rights and Survey

Eversource Energy | 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT 06037

Office: 860-665-5493 | Cell: 860-706-3123 | Email: christopher.soroka@eversource.com

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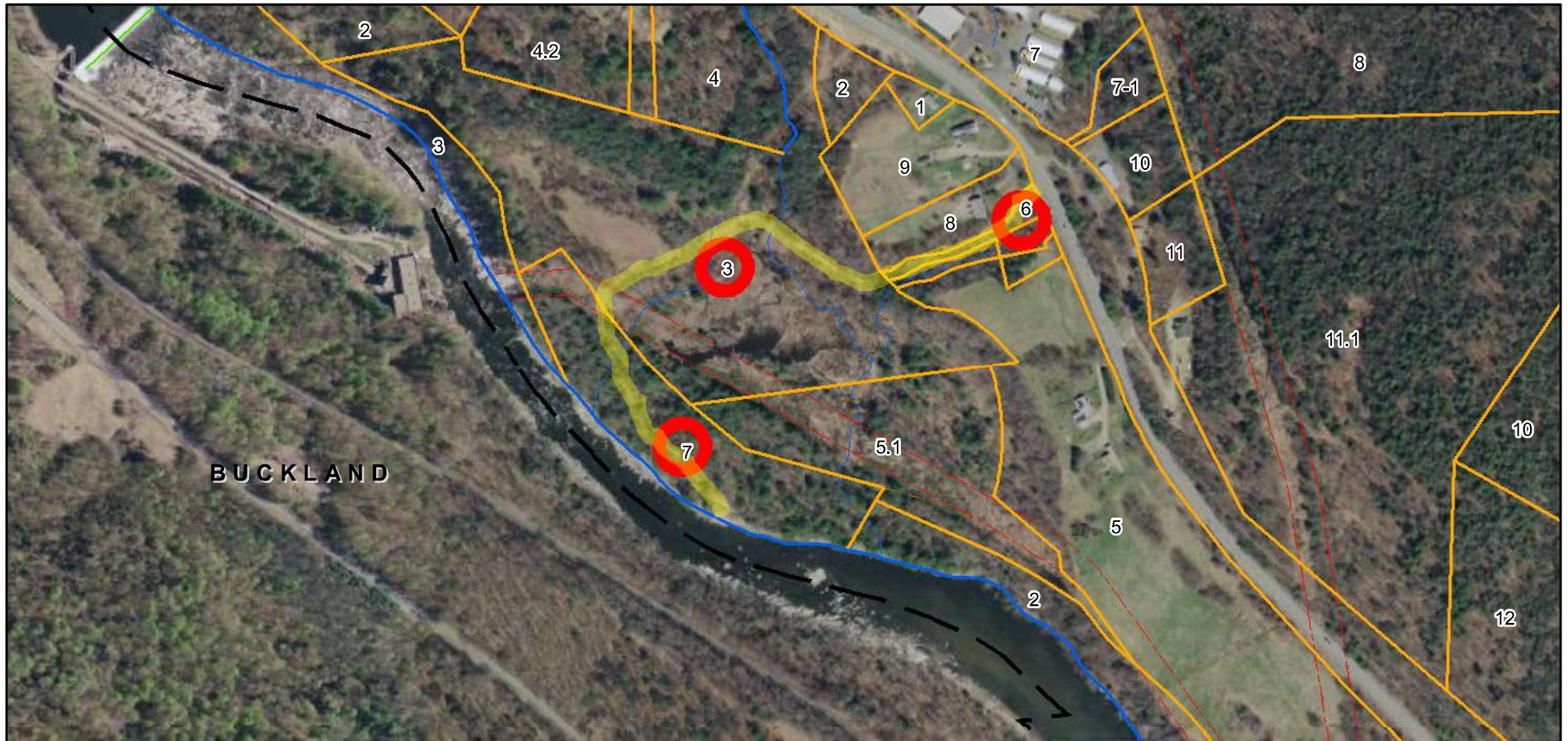
Wilcox Hollow Access Road (yellow)

Shelburne, MA

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HORN SOUNDS
PLEASE LEAVE RIVER

NOTICE

NO TRESPASSING
BY VEHICLES
OR MOTORCYCLES
ON PRIVATE PROPERTY
VIOLATORS WILL BE
PROSECUTED
BY THE STATE OF OHIO



**PREVENT
LYME
DISEASE!**

- WEAR TICK REPELLENT
- CHECK YOURSELF FOR TICKS
- CHECK FOR TICKS DAILY
- REMOVE TICKS AFTER
EVERY OUTDOOR
- CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF
YOU ARE BITTEN

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