55 Walkers Brook Drive – Suite 100, Reading, MA 01867 (HQ)
Tel: 978.532.1900

January 27, 2021

Ms. Maryalice Fischer
Certification Program Director
Low Impact Hydropower Institute
PO Box 424
Strafford, NH 03384

Re: Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station
Low Impact Hydropower Institute Certification Application

Dear Ms. Fischer

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., on behalf of the City of Fitchburg, MA, is pleased to submit an application for consideration of Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) certification.

As background, the Narrows Road facility is located at 140 Narrows Road, Westminster, MA and is owned by the City of Fitchburg. The facility was constructed in 1961 and is currently operated by the City of Fitchburg's Water Division. This facility serves as a critical piece of infrastructure for the City, as it receives high pressure water from the Regional Water Treatment Plant and reduces it to a serviceable level for distribution in the City of Fitchburg's water system. The valve station is enclosed within a concrete vault, adjacent to the existing brick building.

Should any additional information be required, please contact me by phone at 978-523-1900 x2250, by e-mail at hamela@wseinc.com, or by mail at Weston & Sampson Engineers, 55 Walkers Brook Drive – Suite 100, Reading, MA 01867.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact me at (978) 532-1900.

Sincerely

WESTON & SAMPSON

Andrew Hamel
Engineer

Enclosures: LIHI Certification Application

Contacts Forms

All applications for LIHI Certification must include complete contact information.

A. Applicant-related contacts

Facility Owner:	
Name and Title	John M. Deline, Jr. – Deputy Commissioner of Water Supply
Company	City of Fitchburg, MA – Water Division
Phone	978-345-9616 ext. 109
Email Address	jdeline@fitchburgma.gov
Mailing Address	1200 Rindge Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420
Facility Operator (if different from Owner):	
Name and Title	
Company	
Phone	
Email Address	
Mailing Address	
Consulting Firm / Agent for LIHI Program (if different from above):	
Name and Title	Andrew Hamel – Engineer
Company	Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
Phone	978-532-1900 ext. 2250
Email Address	hamela@wseinc.com
Mailing Address	55 Walkers Brook Drive – Suite 100, Reading, MA 01867
Compliance Contact (responsible for LIHI Program requirements):	
Name and Title	Samuel Kenney
Company	Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
Phone	978-532-1900 ext. 5007
Email Address	kenneys@wseinc.com
Mailing Address	100 International Drive #152, Portsmouth, NH 03801
Party responsible for accounts payable:	
Name and Title	Samuel Kenney
Company	Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
Phone	978-532-1900 ext. 5007
Email Address	kenneys@wseinc.com
Mailing Address	100 International Drive #152, Portsmouth, NH 03801

B. Current and relevant state, federal, and tribal resource agency contacts with knowledge of the facility (copy and repeat the following table as needed).

Agency Contact		***Area of Responsibility***
Agency Name	Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	T&E Species
Name and Title	Melany Cheeseman – Endangered Species Review Assistant	
Phone	508-389-6300	
Email address	Melany.cheeseman@mass.gov	
Mailing Address	1 Rabbit Hill Road Westborough, MA 01581	

Agency Contact		***Area of Responsibility***
Agency Name	Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	Fish/Wildlife
Name and Title	Caleb Slater – Hatchery Supervisor	
Phone	508-389-6300	
Email address	Caleb.slater@mass.gov	
Mailing Address	1 Rabbit Hill Road Westborough, MA 01581	

Agency Contact		***Area of Responsibility***
Agency Name	Massachusetts Historical Commission	Cultural/Historic
Name and Title		
Phone	508-389-6300	
Email address	Mhc@sec.state.ma.us	
Mailing Address	220 William T. Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125	

Table B-1.1. Facility Information.

Item	*Information Requested*	*Response (include references to further details)*
Name of the Facility	Facility name (use FERC project name or other legal name)	Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station
Reason for applying for LIHI Certification	1. To participate in state RPS program 2. and specify the state and the total MW/MWh associated with that participation (value and % of facility total Mw/MWh). 3. To participate in voluntary REC market (e.g., Green-e) 4. To satisfy a direct energy buyer's purchasing requirement 5. To satisfy the facility's own corporate sustainability goals 6. For the facility's corporate marketing purposes 7. Other (describe)	1. To participate in the state RPS program. 2. Anticipated 65,297 kWh of generation. Annual usage by the facility is on the order of 948 kWh.
	If applicable, amount of annual generation (MWh and % of total generation) for which RECs are currently received or are expected to be received upon LIHI Certification	
Location	River name (USGS proper name)	Not applicable – conduit facility
	Watershed name - Select region, click on the area of interest until the 8-digit HUC number appears. Then identify watershed name and HUC-8 number from the map at: https://water.usgs.gov/wsc/map_index.html	Nashua Watershed. HUC-01070004
	Nearest town(s), county(ies), and state(s) to dam	Fitchburg, MA – Not a dam.
	River mile of dam above mouth	Not a dam.
	Geographic latitude of dam	42.53895 or 42°32'20.5"N
	Geographic longitude of dam	-71.87212 or 71°52'19.7"W
Facility Owner	Application contact names (Complete the Contact Form in Section B-4 also):	City of Fitchburg, MA

Item	*Information Requested*	*Response (include references to further details)*
	Facility owner company and authorized owner representative name. **For recertifications: If ownership has changed since last certification, provide the effective date of the change.**	Owner: City of Fitchburg, MA Owner Rep: Weston & Sampson Engineers
	FERC licensee company name (if different from owner)	Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. on behalf of the City of Fitchburg
Regulatory Status	FERC Project Number (e.g., P-xxxxx), issuance and expiration dates, or date of exemption	Exempt. Docket No. CD18-3-000
	FERC license type (major, minor, exemption) or special classification (e.g., "qualified conduit", "non-jurisdictional")	Qualified Conduit. Exempt.
	Water Quality Certificate identifier, issuance date, and issuing agency name. Include information on amendments.	Not applicable. Exempt from needing a WQC
	Hyperlinks to key electronic records on FERC e-library website or other publicly accessible data repositories[1]	FERC Exemption enclosed in attachments. https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/docketsheet?docket_number=CD18-3-000&Subdocket=All&dtFrom=1960-01-01&dtTo=2021-01-05&chklegadata=false&PageNm=dsearch&dateRange=custom&searchType=docket&dateType=filed_date&sub_docket_Q=Allsub
Powerhouse	Date of initial operation (past or future for pre-operational applications)	1961
	Total installed capacity (MW) **For recertifications: Indicate if installed capacity has changed since last certification**	10 kW
	Average annual generation (MWh) and period of record used **For recertifications: Indicate if average annual generation has changed since last certification**	65,297 kWh

[1] For example, the FERC license or exemption, recent FERC Orders, Water Quality Certificates, Endangered Species Act documents, Special Use Permits from the U.S. Forest Service, 3rd-party agreements about water or land management, grants of right-of-way, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits, and other regulatory documents. If extensive, the list of hyperlinks can be provided separately in the application.

Item	*Information Requested*	*Response (include references to further details)*
	Mode of operation (run-of-river, peaking, pulsing, seasonal storage, diversion, etc.) **For recertifications: Indicate if mode of operation has changed since last certification**	Operates as needed to reduce 45PSI intake from west, to serviceable 6.5 PSI for City.
	Number, type, and size of turbine/generators, including maximum and minimum hydraulic capacity and maximum and minimum output of each turbine and generator unit	There is one unit, a Cornell 10 kW hydroturbine.
	Trashrack clear spacing (inches) for each trashrack	Not applicable.
	Approach water velocity (ft/s) at each intake if known	45 PSI intake to reduction valves. Output of 6.5 PSI.
	Dates and types of major equipment upgrades **For recertifications: Indicate only those since last certification**	Valve station was upgraded with new equipment and controls in November & December of 2020.
	Dates, purpose, and type of any recent operational changes **For recertifications: Indicate only those since last certification**	There have been no recent operation changes.
	Plans, authorization, and regulatory activities for any facility upgrades or license or exemption amendments	No additional plans for facility upgrades.
Dam or Diversion	Date of original dam or diversion construction and description and dates of subsequent dam or diversion structure modifications	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Dam or diversion structure length, height including separately the height of any flashboards, inflatable dams, etc. and describe seasonal operation of flashboards and the like	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Spillway maximum hydraulic capacity	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Length and type of each penstock and water conveyance structure between the impoundment and powerhouse	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Designated facility purposes (e.g., power, navigation, flood control, water supply, etc.)	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
Conduit Facilities Only	Date of conduit construction and primary purpose of conduit	Building was constructed in 1961, updated in 2020. Serves as pressure reduction station for the City.

Item	*Information Requested*	*Response (include references to further details)*
	Source water	Regional Water Treatment Plant
	Receiving water and location of discharge	Discharges to City water distribution systeml
Impoundment and Watershed	Authorized maximum and minimum impoundment water surface elevations **For recertifications: Indicate if these values have changed since last certification**	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Normal operating elevations and normal fluctuation range **For recertifications: Indicate if these values have changed since last certification**	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Gross storage volume and surface area at full pool **For recertifications: Indicate if these values have changed since last certification**	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Usable storage volume and surface area **For recertifications: Indicate if these values have changed since last certification**	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Describe requirements related to impoundment inflow and outflow, elevation restrictions (e.g., fluctuation limits, seasonality) up/down ramping and refill rate restrictions.	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Upstream dams by name, ownership and river mile. If FERC licensed or exempt, please provide FERC Project number of these dams. Indicate which upstream dams have downstream fish passage.	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Downstream dams by name, ownership, river mile and FERC number if FERC licensed or exempt. Indicate which downstream dams have upstream fish passage	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Operating agreements with upstream or downstream facilities that affect water availability and facility operation	There are no current interconnection or operating agreements for this facility pertaining to private parties.
	Area of land (acres) and area of water (acres) inside FERC project boundary or under facility control. Indicate locations and acres of flowage rights versus fee-owned property.	Total area owned by City of Fitchburg: 12.004 acres.

Item	*Information Requested*	*Response (include references to further details)*
Hydrologic Setting	Average annual flow at the dam, and period of record used	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Average monthly flows and period of record used	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Location and name of closest stream gaging stations above and below the facility	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Watershed area at the dam (in square miles). Identify if this value is prorated from gage locations and provide the basis for proration calculation.	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Other facility specific hydrologic information	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
Designated Zones of Effect	Number of zones of effect	There are no zones of effect.
	Type of waterbody (river, impoundment, bypassed reach, etc.)	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Upstream and downstream locations by river miles	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
	Delimiting structures or features	Not applicable as this is a conduit facility.
Pre-Operational Facilities Only		
Expected operational date	Date generation is expected to begin	
Dam, diversion structure or conduit modification	Description of modifications made to a pre-existing conduit, dam or diversion structure needed to accommodate facility generation. This includes installation of flashboards or raising the flashboard height. Date the modification is expected to be completed	
Change in water flow regime	Description of any change in impoundment levels, water flows or operations required for new generation	

Table B-1.2.a. Standards Matrix Template for One ZoE.

Facility Name: Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station **Zone of Effect:** Conduit

		Alternative Standards				
	Criterion	***1***	***2***	***3***	***4***	***Plus***
A	**Ecological Flow Regimes**	X				
B	**Water Quality**	X				
C	**Upstream Fish Passage**	X				
D	**Downstream Fish Passage**	X				
E	**Watershed and Shoreline Protection**	X				
F	**Threatened and Endangered Species Protection**	X				
G	**Cultural and Historic Resources Protection**	X				
H	**Recreational Resources**	X				

Table B-1. Information Required to Support Ecological Flows Standards.

Criterion	*Standard*	*Instructions*
A	1	<u>Not Applicable / De Minimis Effect:</u> • Confirm the location of the powerhouse relative to dam/diversion structures and demonstrate that there are no bypassed reaches at the facility. • For run-of-river facilities, provide details on operations and describe how flows, water levels, and operations are monitored to ensure such an operational mode is maintained. In a conduit facility, identify the source waters, location of discharge points, and receiving waters for the conduit system within which the hydropower facility is located. This standard cannot be used for conduits that discharge to a natural waterbody. • For impoundment zones only, explain water management (e.g., fluctuations, ramping, refill rates) and how fish and wildlife habitat within the zone is evaluated and managed. ***NOTE:*** this is required information, but it will not be used to determine whether the Ecological Flows criterion has been satisfied. All impoundment zones can apply Criterion A-1 to pass this criterion.

The Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station is a conduit facility that is located in the City of Fitchburg and is situated between the Falulah Regional Water Treatment Facility and the City of Fitchburg water distribution system. At no point does this facility directly receive from surface waters and is considered a closed water system.

Required regardless of standard selected:

1. Please specify the state's water quality classification and designated uses for the river at the facility or, for each zone if they differ. For instance, "*The impoundment is a Class B water designated as a habitat for fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife, including for their reproduction, migration, growth and other critical functions, and for primary and secondary contact recreation*".
2. If the facility is located on a Water Quality Limited river reach, provide a link to the state's most recent impaired waters list and indicate the page(s) therein that apply to facility waters. If possible, provide an agency letter stating that the facility is not a cause of such limitation.

Table B-1. Information Required to Support Water Quality Standards.

Criterion	***Standard***	***Instructions***
B	1	Not Applicable / De Minimis Effect: • Explain the rationale for why the facility does not alter water quality characteristics below, around, and above the facility.

The Narrows Road Pressure Reduction facility is not located on a Water Quality Limited reach river, it is a conduit facility that discharges into the City of Fitchburg water distribution system.

The water within the facility does not affect the water quality below, around, or above the facility. The water flows from the Falulah Water Treatment Facility, passes through the facility, and then continues to flow into the City of Fitchburg distribution system.

Required regardless of standard selected: Provide a list all migratory fish species (anadromous, catadromous, and potamodromous species) that occur now or have occurred historically at the facility.

Table B-1. Information Required to Support Upstream Fish Passage Standards.

Criterion	*Standard*	*Instructions*
C	1	Not Applicable / De Minimis Effect: • Explain why the facility does not impose a barrier to upstream fish passage in the designated zone. Typically, impoundment zones will qualify for this standard since once above a dam and in an impoundment, there is no facility barrier to further upstream movement. • Document available fish distribution data and the lack of migratory fish species in the vicinity. • If migratory fish species have been extirpated from the area, explain why the facility is not or was not the cause of the extirpation.

The Narrows Road facility is a conduit hydropower facility that is fed from the Regional Water Treatment Facility and flows into the City of Fitchburg water distribution system. Historically, the Water Treatment Facility receives water from numerous reservoirs including the Falulah, Lovell, Ashby, and Bickford reservoir. It is anticipated that the Water Treatment Facility has its own system for keep migratory fish out of its facility, however this is not publicly available information.

After consultation with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, there are no anticipated impacts on migratory fish species that pertain to the Narrows Road facility.

After reviewing online resources, a large variety of fish can be found in the reservoirs listed above including: Rainbow Trout, Large Mouth Bass, Small Mouth Bass, Chain Pickerel, and Yellow Perch.

Required regardless of standard selected: In addition to the migratory species list provided for criterion C above, provide a list of all riverine/resident fish species that occur now or have occurred historically at the facility.

Table B-1. Information Required to Support Downstream Fish Passage Standards.

Criterion	*Standard*	*Instructions*
D	1	<u>Not Applicable / De Minimis Effect:</u> • Explain why the facility does not impose a barrier to downstream fish passage in the designated zone, considering both physical obstruction and increased mortality relative to natural downstream movement (e.g., entrainment into hydropower turbines). Typically, tailwater/downstream zones will qualify for this standard since below a dam and powerhouse there is no facility barrier to further downstream movement. Bypassed reach zones must demonstrate that flows in the reach are adequate to support safe, effective and timely downstream migration. • For riverine fish populations that are known to move downstream, explain why the facility does not contribute adversely to the species populations or to their access to habitat necessary for successful completion of their life cycles. • Document available fish distribution data and the lack of fish species requiring passage in the vicinity. • If migratory fish species have been extirpated from the area, explain why the facility is not or was not the cause of the extirpation.

The Narrows Road facility is a conduit hydropower facility and is considered a closed water system. Treated water enters the facility and is discharged into the City of Fitchburg water distribution system. There is no direct discharge from this facility that could impact downstream fish passage.

***Required regardless of standard selected*:** Describe land use and land cover around the facility. Describe any protections afforded the river or lands around the facility (e.g., Wild and Scenic River, conservation lands surrounding the impoundment, critical habitats, etc.)

Table B-1. Information Required to Support Shoreline and Watershed Protection Standards.

Criterion	*Standard*	*Instructions*
E	1	<u>Not Applicable / De Minimis Effect:</u> • If there are no lands with significant ecological value associated with the facility, document and justify this (e.g., describe the land use and land cover within the FERC project or facility boundary, and absence of critical habitat for protected species). • Document that there have been no Shoreline Management Plans or similar protection requirements for the facility.

The site consists of a small brick instrumentation house, as well as an adjacent concrete pump vault station located along Narrows Road, Westminster MA. Therefore, there are no impacts to shoreline or watersheds. The land is owned by the City of Fitchburg, and operated by the City of Fitchburg Water Division.

***Required regardless of standard selected*:** Identify all federal and state listed species (fish, aquatic plants and organisms, and terrestrial plants and wildlife) in the facility area based on current data. Avoid using privileged locational information or provide that information in a separate confidential attachment.

Table B-1. Information Required to Support Threatened and Endangered Species Standards.

Criterion	*Standard*	*Instructions*
F	1	Not Applicable / De Minimis Effect: • Document that there are no listed species in the facility area or affected riverine zones downstream of the facility. • If listed species are known to have existed in the facility area in the past but are not currently present, explain why the facility was not the cause of the extirpation of such species. • If the facility is making significant efforts to reintroduce an extirpated species, describe the actions that are being taken.

Based on specific correspondence with Melany Cheeseman of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Division has determined that this project, as currently proposed, does not occur within Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife or Priority Habitat as indicated in the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas (14th Edition). Therefore, the project is not required to be reviewed for compliance with the rare wildlife species section of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.37, 10.59 & 10.58(4)(b)) or the MA Endangered Species Act Regulations (321 CMR 10.18).

Upon revies of the USFWS IPaC report for federally-listed species, all of Massachusetts is considered roosting territory for the Northern Long Eared Bat. However, there are no trees located around the pump station that could be considered roosting trees, and this project occurs within the pump station vault. Therefore there will be no impacts on this species. In addition, the report lists several migratory birds that may be present, however the same considerations as above are in play regarding these species.

Required regardless of standard selected: Identify the cultural and historic resources present on facility-owned property or that may be affected by facility operations. Avoid using privileged locational information or provide that information in a separate confidential attachment.

Table B-1. Information Required to Support Cultural and Historic Resources Standards.

Criterion	*Standard*	*Instructions*
G	1	<u>Not Applicable / De Minimis Effect:</u> • Document that there are no cultural or historic resources located on facility lands that can be affected by construction or operations of the facility; or • Document that the facility construction and operation have not in the past, nor currently adversely affect any cultural or historic resources that are present on facility lands.

The Narrows Road facility is a conduit hydropower facility located in the Town of Westminster, MA and serves the City of Fitchburg's water distribution system. This very small project site is located on land that is owned and operated by the City of Fitchburg. There are no known cultural or historic resources located on the property. No digging or land disturbance was performed during construction, and all work occurred within the pre-existing pump vault.

Required regardless of standard selected: Identify and briefly describe all recreational amenities associated with the facility, identify which are owned by the facility, and which not owned or operated by the facility. If there has been a FERC Environmental and Recreation Inspection, please provide a link to or copy of the report and any follow up activities. If there was no inspection, please state that.

Table B-1. Information Required to Support Recreational Resources Standards.

Criterion	***Standard***	***Instructions***
H	1	<u>Not Applicable / De Minimis Effect:</u> • Document that the facility does not occupy lands or waters to which public access can be granted and that the facility does not otherwise impact recreational opportunities in the facility area.

The facility is a secure and locked area, with no opportunities for public access. While the surrounding parcel may be used for recreational opportunities by neighbors, access to the facility is strictly controlled as it is a critical piece of infrastructure for the City of Fitchburg.

Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station

Attachments

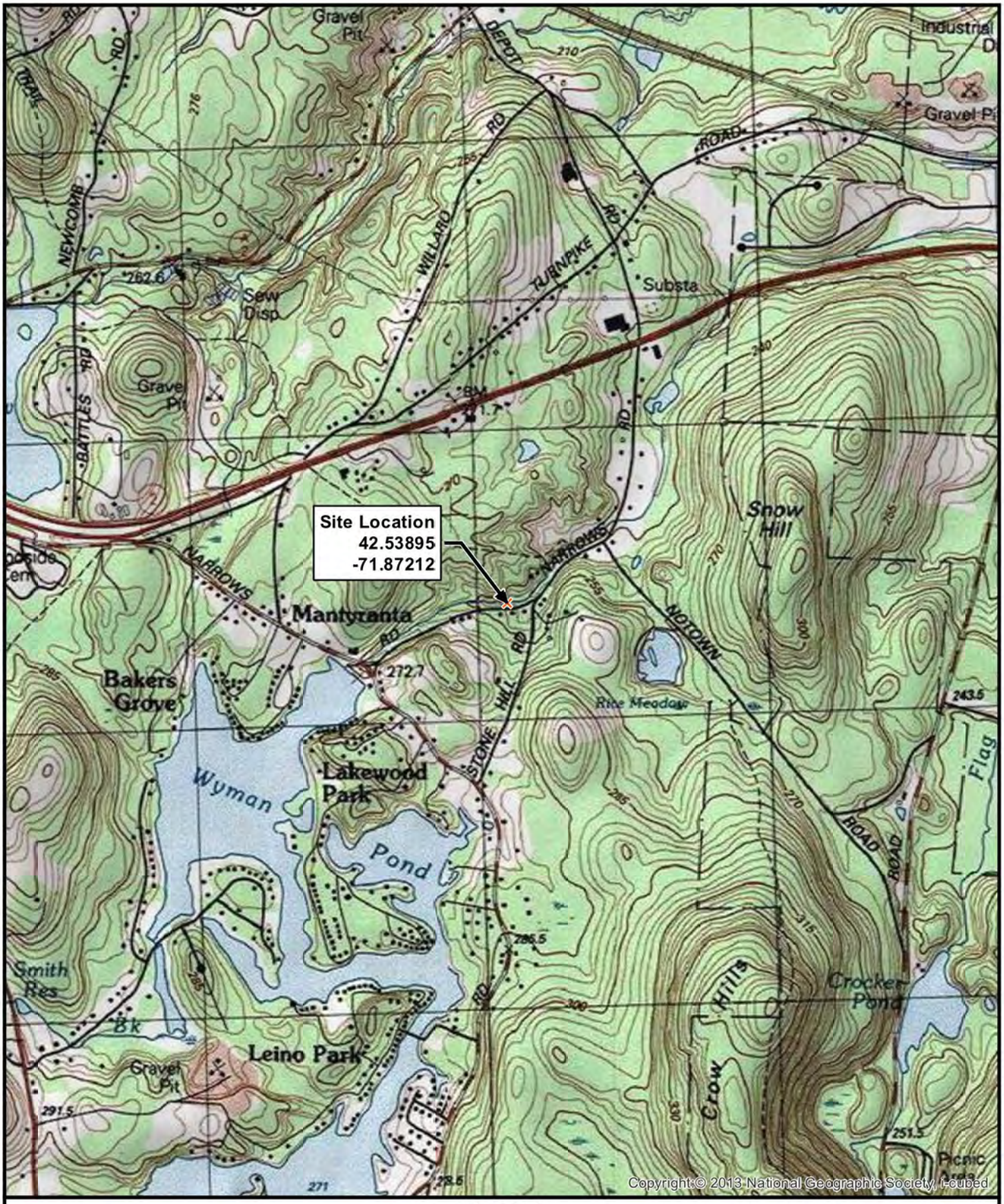


FIGURE 1
NARROWS ROAD PRV STATION
CITY OF FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSSETS
Westminster, MA

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCUS MAP

N

1,500 0 1,500

Scale In Feet

Weston & Sampson

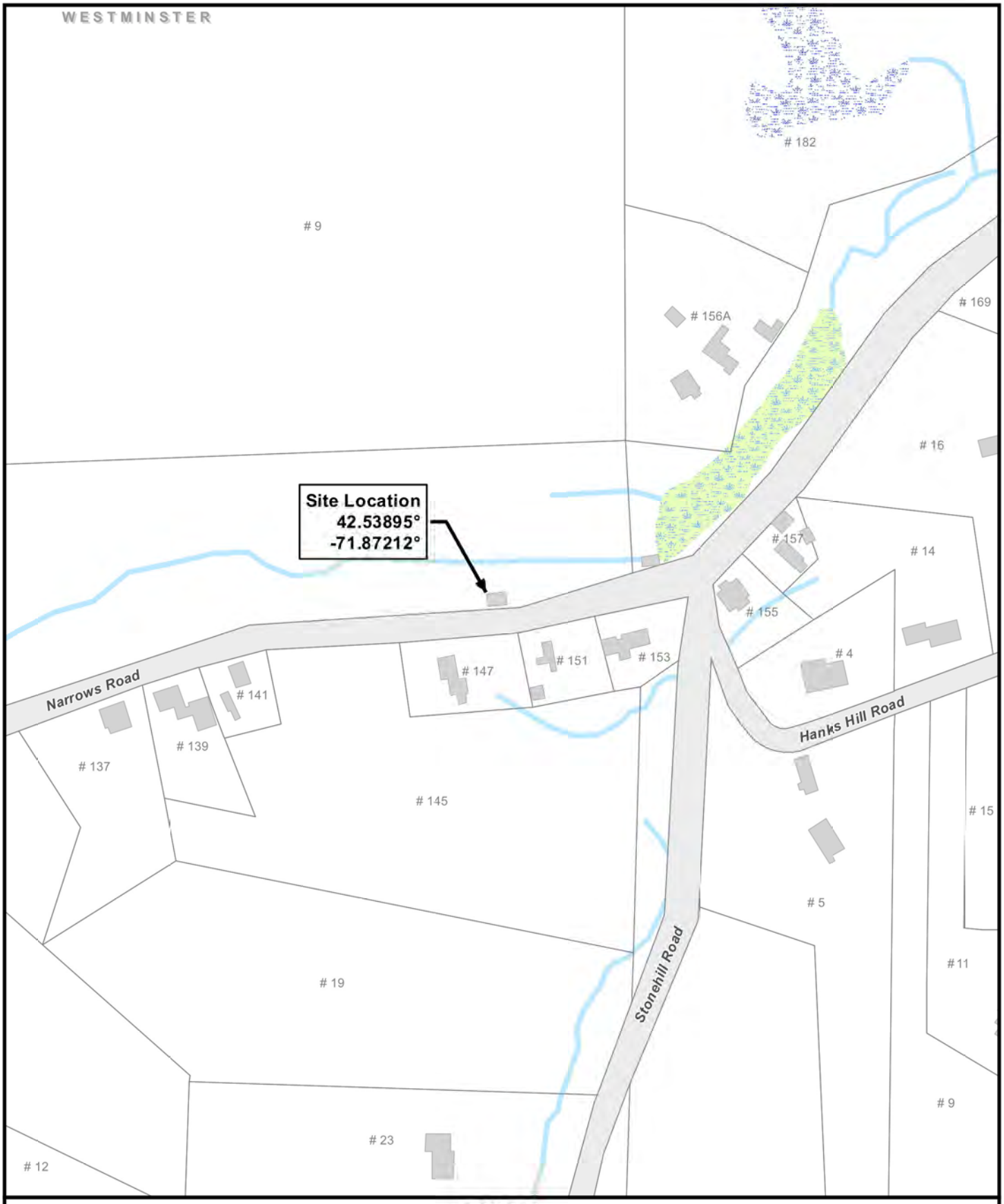


FIGURE 2
NARROWS ROAD PRV STATION
CITY OF FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSSETS
Westminster, MA

PARCEL LOCUS MAP

Buildings
Parcel
Marsh/Bog
Wooded marsh

200 0 200
Scale In Feet

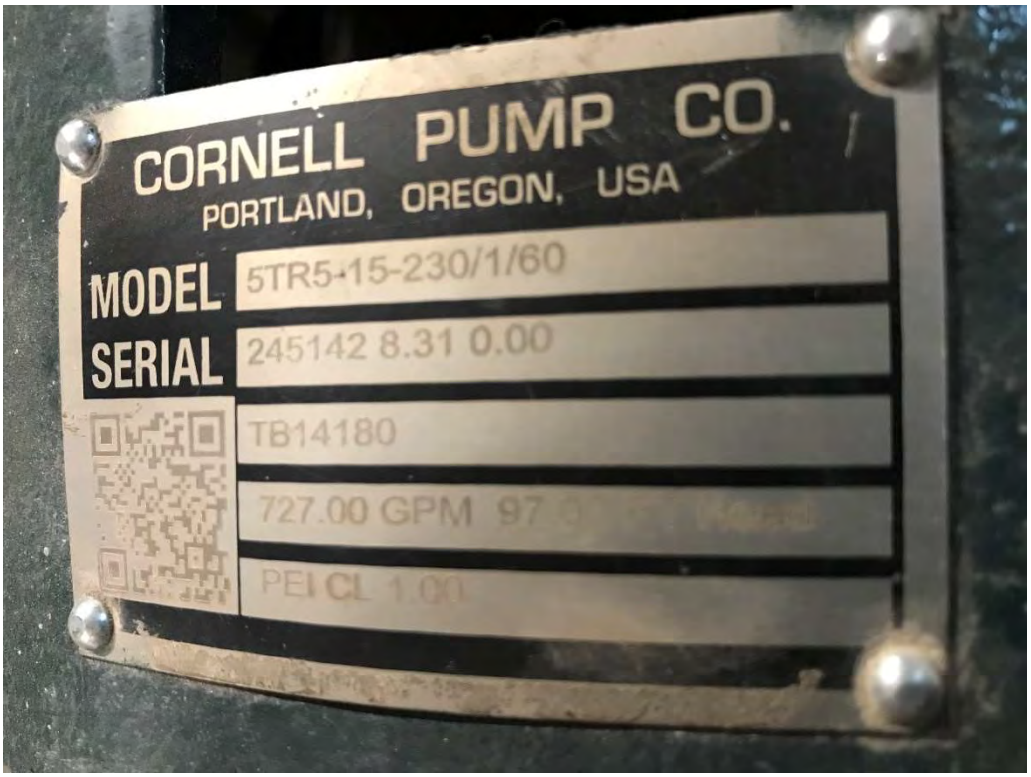
N

Weston & Sampson

Photograph 1: Overview of Narrows Road Facility.

Photograph 2: Pumps and Hydroelectric generator located within facility.

Photograph 3: Generator located within facility.

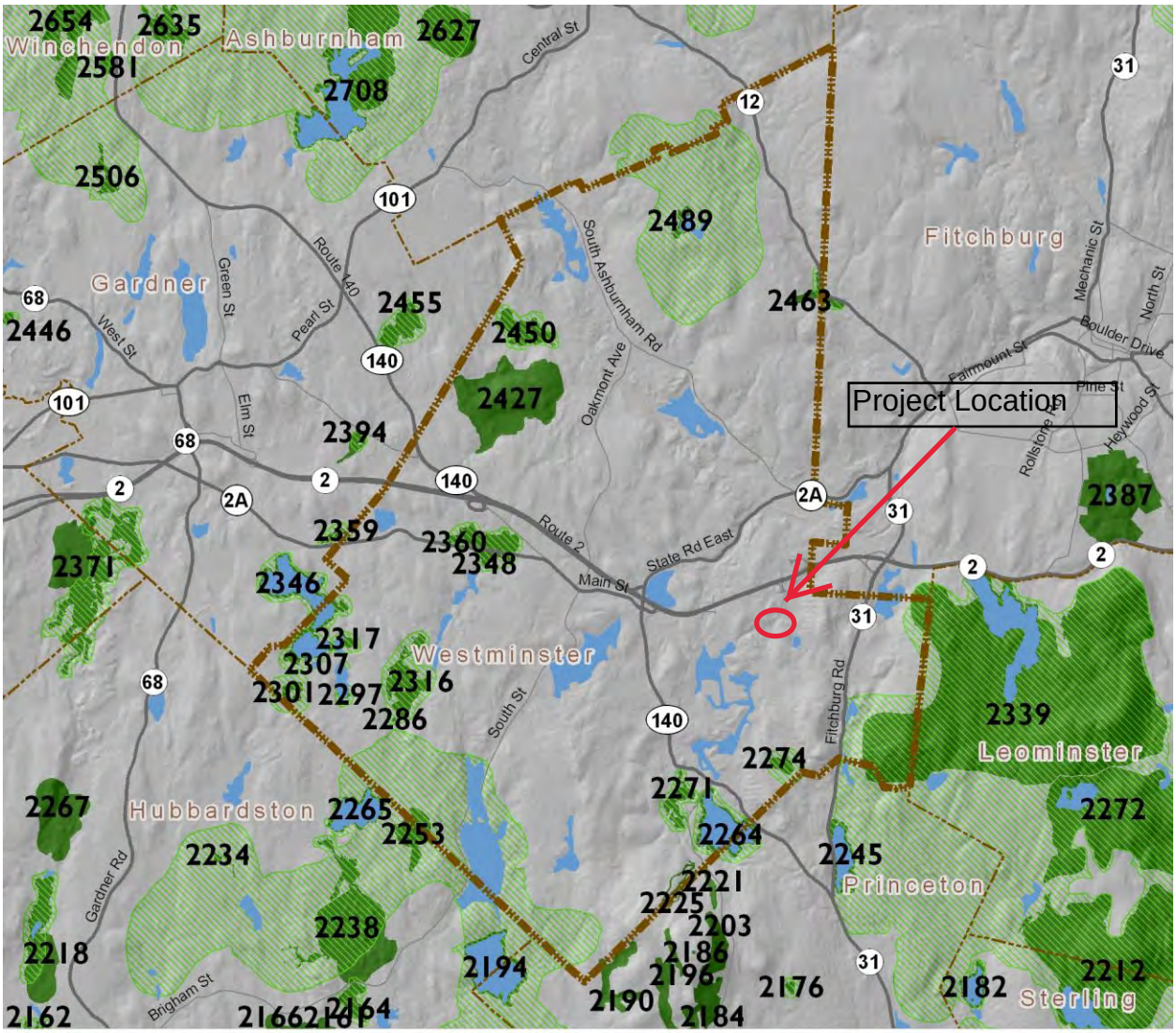


Photograph 4: Pump plate.

Photograph 5: Motor plate.

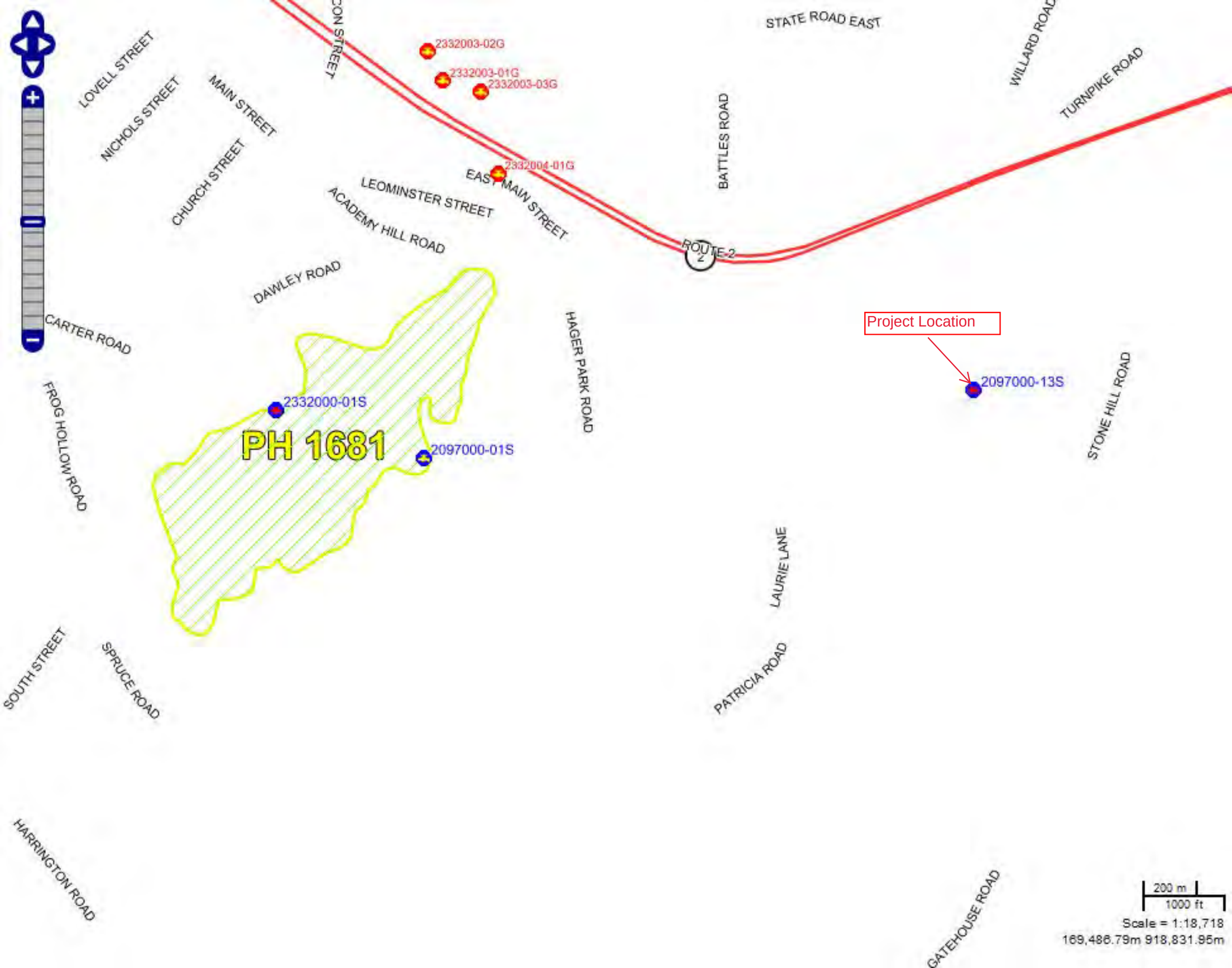
BioMap2 Core Habitat in Westminster

Core IDs correspond with the following element lists and summaries.



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581
phone: 508-389-6360 fax: 508-389-7890


STATE ROAD EAST
WILLARD ROAD
TURNPIKE ROAD
LOVELL STREET
NICHOLS STREET
MAIN STREET
CHURCH STREET
2332003-02G
2332003-01G
2332003-03G
2332004-01G
EAST MAIN STREET
LEOMINSTER STREET
ACADEMY HILL ROAD
BATTLES ROAD
ROUTE 2
DAWLEY ROAD
CARTER ROAD
HAGER PARK ROAD
Project Location
2097000-13S
STONE HILL ROAD
FROG HOLLOW ROAD
2332000-01S
PH 1681
2097000-01S
LAURIE LANE
PATRICIA ROAD
SOUTH STREET
SPRUCE ROAD
HARRINGTON ROAD
GATEHOUSE ROAD
200 m
1000 ft
Scale = 1:18,718
169,486.79m 918,831.95m

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Worcester County, Massachusetts

Local office

New England Ecological Services Field Office

(603) 223-2541
(603) 223-0104

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094

http://www.fws.gov/newengland

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ

below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythropthalmus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399	Breeds May 15 to Oct 10
Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31

Canada Warbler Cardellina canadensis This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Cape May Warbler Setophaga tigrina This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jun 1 to Jul 31
Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Rusty Blackbird Euphagus carolinus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Jul 20
Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence ( )

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence

is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is

queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the AKN Phenology Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets .

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal

also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

THERE ARE NO KNOWN WETLANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in

activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONSTRUCT QUALIFYING CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The City of Fitchburg applies to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a determination that the Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station is a Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility, meeting the requirements of section 30(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by section 4 of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013 (HREA).

The location of the facility is:

State or Territory:	Massachusetts
County:	Worcester County
Township or nearby town:	Westminster
Water source:	Regional Water Treatment Plant – Meetinghouse Pond

The exact name and business address of the applicant(s) is:

Applicant's Name:	The City of Fitchburg DPW – Water Division
Address:	1200 Rindge Road Fitchburg, MA 01420
Telephone Number:	(978) 345-9616 ext. 109
Email Address:	jdeline@fitchburgma.gov

The exact name and business address of each person authorized to act as agent for the applicant(s) in this notice of intent is:

Name of Agent:	Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
Address:	100 International Drive, Suite 152 Portsmouth, NH 03801
Telephone Number:	(603) 431-3937
Email Address:	mcclurej@wseinc.com

The City of Fitchburg is a municipality.

NON-FEDERAL CONDUIT

The Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Station will use the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit.

ORIGINAL PROJECT

The Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Station has not been licensed or exempted from the licensing requirements of Part I of the FPA, on or before August 9, 2013, the date of enactment of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act.

Project Information

(1) A detailed description of any conduits and associated consumptive water supply facilities, intake facilities, powerhouses, and any other structures associated with the facility.

The Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve (PRV) station is used to reduce the pressure in the public water supply distribution system due to the higher elevation of the Regional Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) above the lower lying City of Fitchburg. The RWTP is located off Hager Park Road in Westminster, MA, approximately 6,160 feet west of and 120 feet higher in elevation than the Narrows Road PRV station. The RWTP draws raw water from nearby Meetinghouse Pond, just west of Hager Park in Westminster, MA.

The two facilities are connected through a 30-inch ductile iron pipe. The treated water flows into the Narrows Road PRV station, which reduces the pressure to a suitable level for distribution to the public. In the Narrows Road PRV Station there are three pipes in parallel with PRV's that have diameters of 10, 16 and 24 inches. The 10-inch and 16-inch pipes both have 10-inch PRV's in line, the 16-inch handles most of the flow, while the 10-inch handles the higher flows. The 24-inch PRV has not been used in numerous years as the city's water demands have subsided with the closing of key paper mills.

(2) The purposes for which the conduit is used:

The conduit in which we propose to install a hydroelectric pump as turbine system is primarily used for municipal drinking water supply.

(3) The number, type, generating capacity (kW or MW), and estimated average annual generation (kWh or MWh) of the generating units you are proposing, including plans, if any, for future units:

A single hydroelectric pump as turbine is proposed with a nameplate generating capacity of 10kW. The estimated average annual generation of the proposed turbine is 65,297 kWh. There are not currently any plans for the installation of other units in the future.

(4) If your project is associated with any dam or impoundment, please provide a description of the nature and extent of the dam or impoundment, including the distance between the dam or impoundment and the proposed powerhouse, and a statement of the normal maximum surface area and normal maximum surface elevation of any existing impoundment before and after the hydroelectric facilities are installed. You must also provide **evidence that the dam or impoundment would be constructed or continue to exist for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumptive purposes even if the hydroelectric generating facilities were not installed**:

The proposed project is not associated with a dam.

Existing Preliminary Permit or Permit Application Pending

If you have a preliminary permit for the facility or have applied for a preliminary permit, please provide the permit number below.

The facility does not currently hold, nor has it yet applied for any permits with FERC. This is the first application submitted to FERC for this facility.

Drawings, Maps, Diagrams

Include a set of drawings/maps/diagrams clearly showing the structures and equipment of the hydropower facility in relation to the existing conduit. Project drawings of the project must include:

- *A Plan View (overhead view) drawing of the proposed hydropower facilities. The drawing must include the following:*
    - *The hydropower facilities, including all intake and discharge pipes, and how those pipes connect to the conduit*
    - *The portion of the conduit in proximity to the facilities on which the hydroelectric facilities will be located*
    - *The dimensions (e.g. length, width, diameter) of all facilities, intakes, discharges, and conduits*
    - *Identification of all facilities as either existing or proposed*
    - *The flow direction labelled on intakes, discharges, and conduits*

  Both an existing and a proposed diagram of the facility are attached. For the proposed diagram, the Alternate 1 Location will be used. The Alternate 2 Location and Alternate 3 Location should be ignored. These were alternates considered in the design and will not be used.

- *A Location Map showing the facilities and their relationship to the nearest town. The map must include the following:*

    - *The powerhouse location labeled, and its latitude and longitude identified*
    - *The nearest town, if possible, or other permanent monuments or objects, such as roads or other structures, that can be easily noted on the map and identified in the field*

    Two location maps are attached to help identify the facility: a Geographical Location Map and a Parcel Location Map.

VERIFICATION

You must provide Verification in one of the following forms:

Either a sworn, notarized statement, which states:

1. As to any facts alleged in the application or other materials filed, be subscribed and verified under oath in the form set forth below by the person filing, an officer thereof, or other person having knowledge of the matters set forth. If the subscription and verification is by anyone other than the person filing or an officer thereof, it shall include a statement of the reasons therefor.

   This (notice of intent to construct, etc.) is executed in the:

   State of: _____
   County of: _____

   by: (Name) _____
   (Address) _____

   being duly sworn, depose(s) and say(s) that the contents of this (notice of intent to construct, etc.) are true to the best of (his or her) knowledge or belief. The undersigned applicant(s) has (have) signed the (notice of intent to construct, etc.) this _____ day of _____, 20____.

   By: _____

   Subscribed and sworn to before me, a _____ [*Notary Public, or title of other official authorized by the state to notarize documents, as appropriate]* of the State of _____ this day of _____, 20____.

   /SEAL/ [if any]

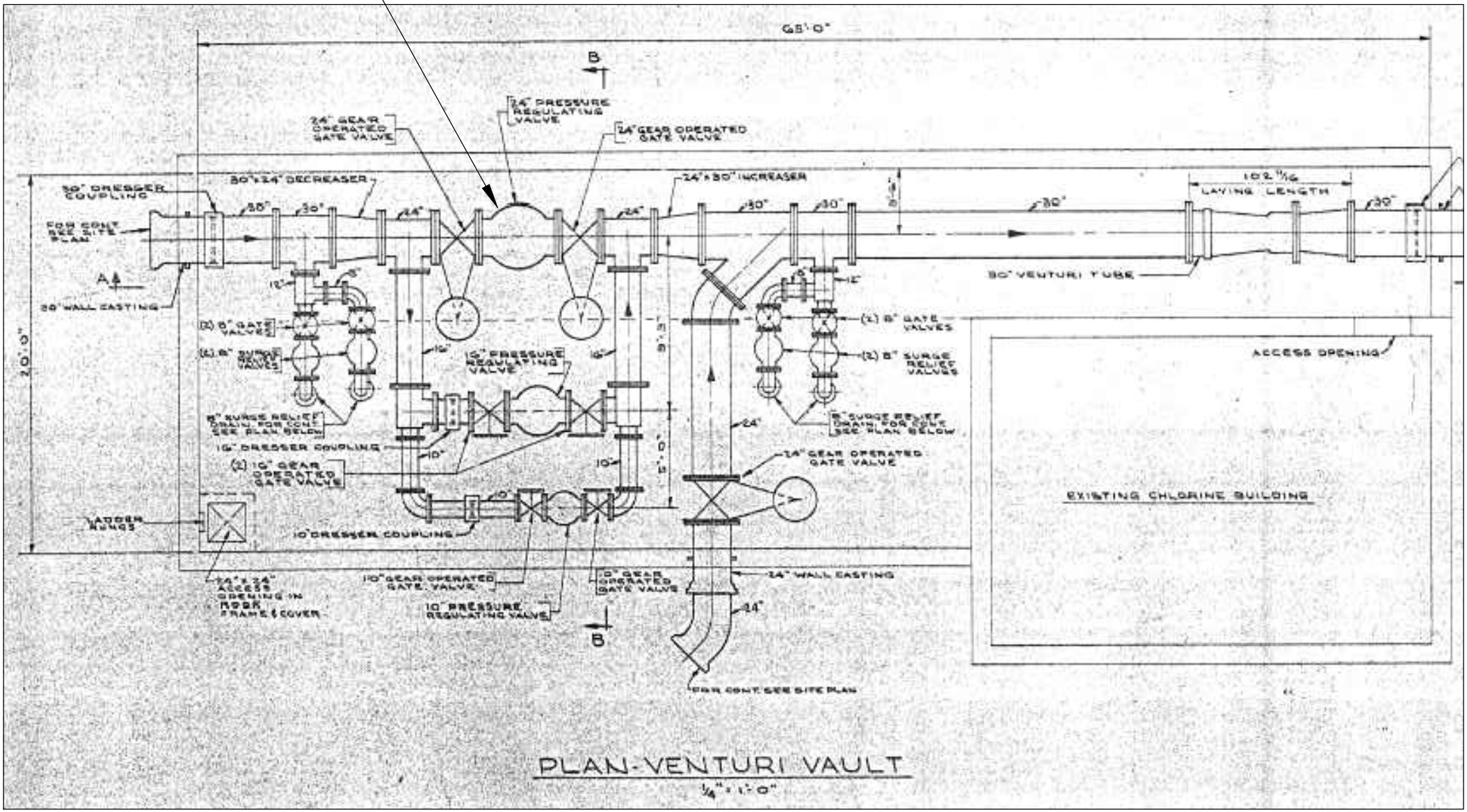
   _____
   (Notary Public, or other authorized official)

Or an unsworn declaration in the following form:

2. "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 11/28/2017 [date]."

   John M. Delin Jr.
   _____
   (Signature)

HYDROELECTRIC TURBINE TO REPLACE EXISTING 24" PRESSURE REGULATING VALVE



PLAN-VENTURI VAULT

1/4" = 1'-0"

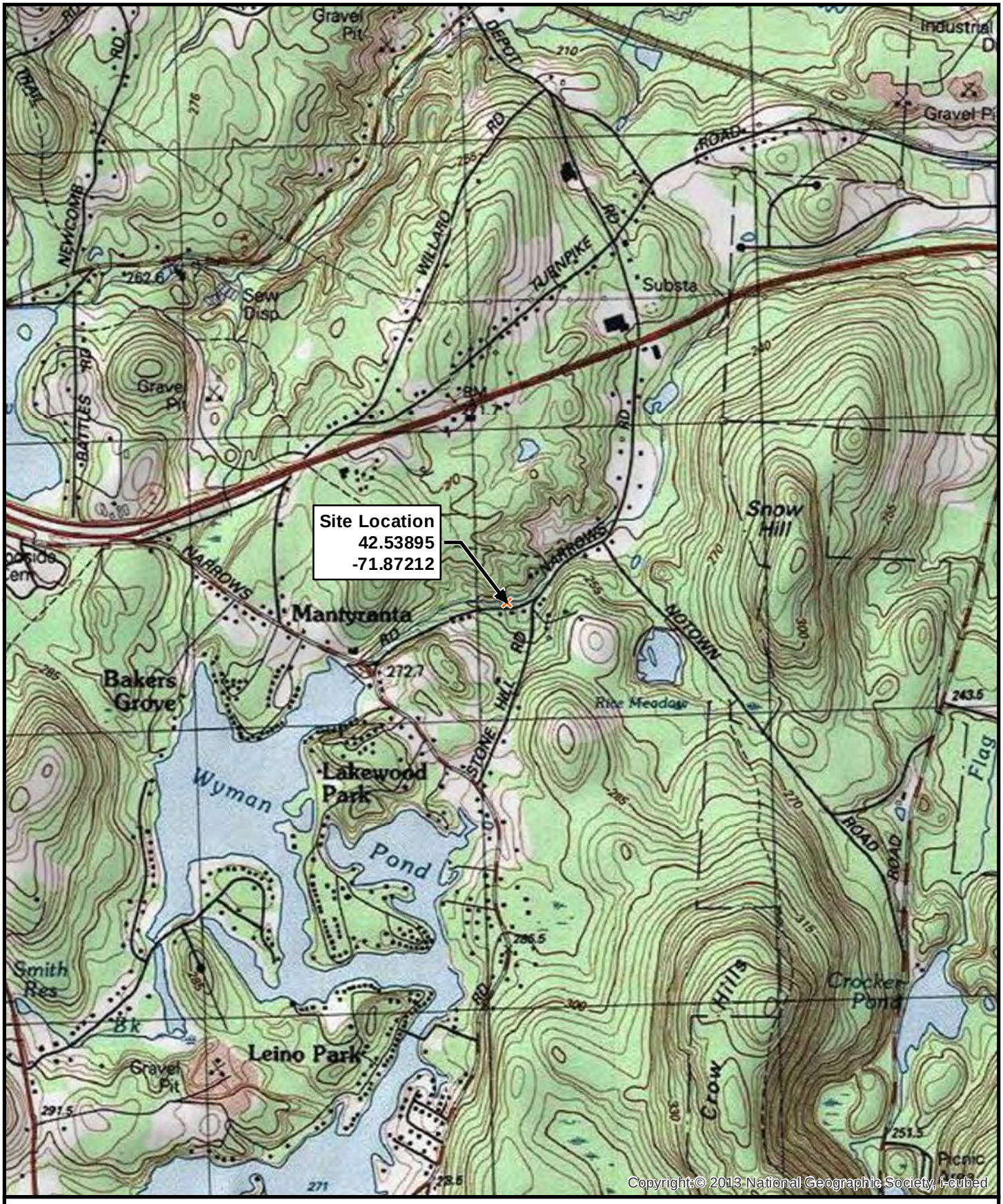


FIGURE 1
NARROWS ROAD PRV STATION
CITY OF FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSSETS
Westminster, MA

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCUS MAP

1,500 0 1,500

Scale In Feet

N

Weston & Sampson

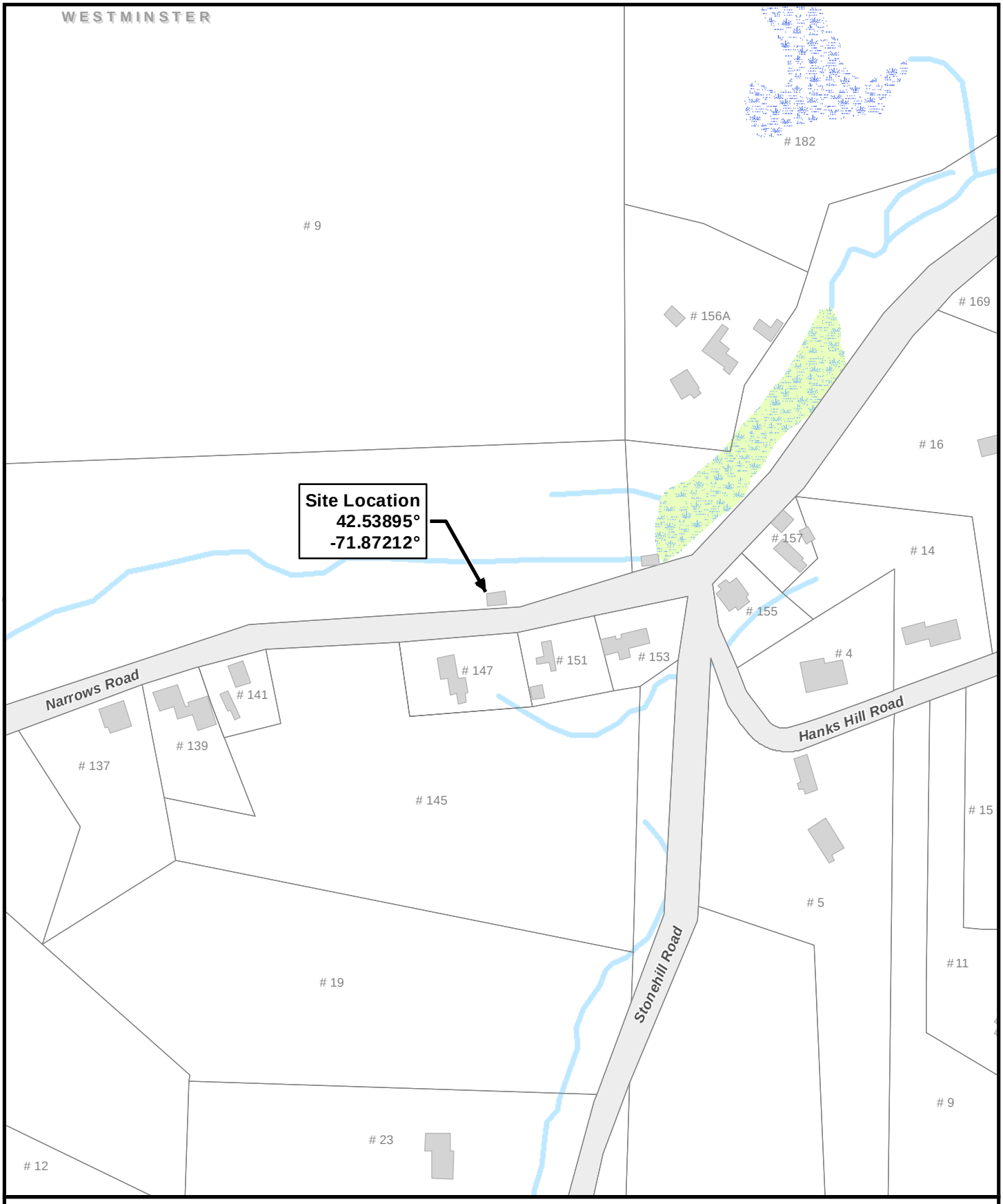


FIGURE 2
NARROWS ROAD PRV STATION
CITY OF FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSSETS
Westminster, MA

PARCEL LOCUS MAP

Buildings
Parcel
Marsh/Bog
Wooded marsh

200 0 200
Scale In Feet

N

Weston & Sampson

Path: \\gisdatasrv\GIS\DataStore\Client\Fitchburg MA\Project\Fitchburg Narrows Hydroelectric Grant\Site Plan.mxd User: ozerekoz Saved: 11/28/2017 2:59:35 PM Opened: 11/28/2017 2:59:47 PM

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts Docket No. CD18-3-000

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF A QUALIFYING CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY AND SOLICITING COMMENTS AND MOTIONS TO INTERVENE

(December 7, 2017)

On December 1, 2017, the City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, filed a notice of intent to construct a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, pursuant to section 30 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by section 4 of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013 (HREA). The proposed Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve (PRV) Station Project would have an installed capacity of up to 10 kilowatts (kW), and would be located along an existing municipal water supply line within the Narrows Road PRV station near the City of Fitchburg, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

Applicant Contact: Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., 100 International Drive, Suite 152, Portsmouth, NH 03801, Phone No. (603) 431-3937.

FERC Contact: Christopher Chaney, Phone No. (202) 502-6778, email: Christopher.Chaney@ferc.gov.

Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility Description: The proposed project would consist of: (1) one pump as turbine unit with a nameplate capacity of 10 kW located within the existing Narrows Road PRV station; and (2) appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would have an estimated annual generating capacity of about 65,000 kilowatt-hours.

A qualifying conduit hydropower facility is one that is determined or deemed to meet all of the criteria shown in the table below.

Table 1: Criteria for Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility

Statutory Provision	*Description*	*Satisfies (Y/N)*
FPA 30(a)(3)(A), as amended by HREA	The conduit the facility uses is a tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance that is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity.	Y

Statutory Provision	*Description*	*Satisfies (Y/N)*
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(i), as amended by HREA	The facility is constructed, operated, or maintained for the generation of electric power and uses for such generation only the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(ii), as amended by HREA	The facility has an installed capacity that does not exceed 5 megawatts.	Y
FPA 30(a)(3)(C)(iii), as amended by HREA	On or before August 9, 2013, the facility is not licensed, or exempted from the licensing requirements of Part I of the FPA.	Y

Preliminary Determination: The proposed addition of the hydroelectric project along the existing municipal water supply line will not alter its primary purpose. Therefore, based upon the above information and criteria, Commission staff preliminarily determines that the proposal satisfies the requirements for a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, which is not required to be licensed or exempted from licensing.

Comments and Motions to Intervene: Deadline for filing comments contesting whether the facility meets the qualifying criteria is **45 days** from the issuance date of this notice.

Deadline for filing motions to intervene is **30 days** from the issuance date of this notice.

Anyone may submit comments or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210 and 385.214. Any motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular proceeding.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents: All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the "COMMENTS CONTESTING QUALIFICATION FOR A CONDUIT HYDROPOWER FACILITY" or "MOTION TO INTERVENE," as applicable; (2) state in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of sections 385.2001 through 385.2005 of the Commission's regulations.[1] All comments contesting Commission staff's preliminary determination that the facility meets the qualifying criteria must set forth their evidentiary basis.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and comments using the Commission's eFiling system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-

[1] 18 CFR 385.2001–2005 (2017).

filing/efiling.asp. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Locations of Notice of Intent: Copies of the notice of intent can be obtained directly from the applicant or such copies can be viewed and reproduced at the Commission in its Public Reference Room, Room 2A, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The filing may also be viewed on the web at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (*i.e.*, CD18-3) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, call toll-free 1-866-208-3676 or e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
15 State Street – 8th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

January 3, 2018

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Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

RE: COMMENTS
Preliminary Determination of a Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility
Soliciting Comments and Motions to Intervene
Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station Project, FERC No. CD18-3-000
Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Dear Secretary Bose:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the Notice of Preliminary Determination of a Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility and Soliciting Comments and Motions to Intervene for the proposed Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station Project, FERC No. CD18-3-000. The project is located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. The Department has no comment on this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this application. Please contact me at (617) 223-8565 if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Raddant
Regional Environmental Officer

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Docket No. CD18-3-000 –
Massachusetts
Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve
Station Project
City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts

January 23, 2018

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
100 International Drive, Suite 152
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Subject: Determination that the Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station Project Meets the Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility Criteria

Dear Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.:

On December 1, 2017, on behalf of the City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, you filed a notice of intent, pursuant to section 30(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. § 823a (2012), as amended by Section 4 of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, Pub. L. 113-23, § 4a, 127 Stat. 493 (2013), to construct a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, the Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station Project, to be located near the City of Fitchburg, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

On December 7, 2017, Commission staff issued a public notice that preliminarily determined the project met the statutory criteria for a qualifying conduit hydropower facility, and thus was not required to be licensed under Part I of the FPA. The notice established a 45-day period for entities to contest whether the project met the criteria. On January 3, 2018, the U.S. Department of Interior filed a letter stating it has no comments. No other comments or interventions were filed in response to the notice. Accordingly, this letter constitutes a written determination that the Narrows Road Pressure Reduction Valve Station Project meets the qualifying criteria under FPA section 30(a), and is not required to be licensed under Part I of the FPA. Qualifying conduit hydropower facilities remain subject to other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Christopher Chaney at (202) 502-6778 or Christopher.Chaney@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kelly Houff
Chief, Engineering Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

Sworn Statement and Waiver Form

All applications for LIHI Certification must include the following sworn statement before they can be reviewed by LIHI:

SWORN STATEMENT

As an Authorized Representative of the City of Fitchburg, MA, the Undersigned attests that the material presented in the application is true and complete.

The Undersigned acknowledges that the primary goal of the Low Impact Hydropower Institute's certification program is public benefit, and that the LIHI Governing Board and its agents are not responsible for financial or other private consequences of its certification decisions.

The Undersigned further acknowledges that if LIHI Certification of the applying facility is granted, the LIHI Certification Mark License Agreement must be executed prior to marketing the electricity product as LIHI Certified®.

The Undersigned further agrees to hold the Low Impact Hydropower Institute, the Governing Board and its agents harmless for any decision rendered on this or other applications, from any consequences of disclosing or publishing any submitted certification application materials to the public, or on any other action pursuant to the Low Impact Hydropower Institute's certification program.

FOR PRE-OPERATIONAL CERTIFICATIONS:

The Undersigned acknowledges that LIHI may suspend or revoke the LIHI Certification should the impacts of the facility, once operational, fail to comply with the LIHI program requirements.

Company Name: Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.

Authorized Representative:

Name: Andrew Hamel

Title: Engineer

Authorized Signature: 

Date: 01/27/2021