

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

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REGULATORY COMMISSION AND  
Secretary

LAUREN A. LISS  
Commissioner

David P. Boergers, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

September 29, 2000

RE: Woronoco Project  
FERC No. 2631  
Amended Water Quality Certificate

Dear Mr. Boergers,

Attached is an original and eight (8) copies of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's amended Water Quality Certification for the Woronoco Project, pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act and the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards at 314 CMR 4.00.

If you have any questions about the certification, please call Robert Kubit at 508/767-2854.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Golonka  
Watershed Chief  
Westfield River Basin

Attachment

001023.0144.3

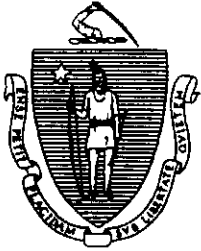
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**401 Water Quality Certification  
 AMENDMENT  
 Applicant: International Paper Company  
 Woronoco Project (FERC No. 2631)  
 BRPWW10**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) has received additional information regarding the application for Water Quality Certification, as referenced above and hereby amends the water quality certificate issued to the International Paper Company on August 30, 2000.

In accordance with the provisions of MGL c.21, §§ 26-53 and Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act as amended (33 U.S.C. §1251 *et seq.*), it has been determined there is reasonable assurance the project or activity will be conducted in a manner which will not violate applicable water quality standards.

The Woronoco Project is an automatically operated run-of-river project with an existing installed capacity of 2,700 kW. The project consists of two non-contiguous dam sections, an earthen dike with a sheet core, an intake structure, a 550 foot long penstock and a powerhouse containing three generating units with appurtenances. The project is proposed to be operated in a run-of-river mode with no alteration of the existing waterpower facility or new construction. It is understood turbine upgrade may occur in the future.

Based on information currently in the record, the MADEP grants a Water Quality Certification for this project subject to the following conditions to maintain water quality, to minimize impact on waters and wetlands, and to ensure compliance with appropriate state law:

1. The project shall be operated in accordance with the conditions contained in this certification and the provisions included in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) application and any modifications made thereto, to the extent such application provisions and modifications are consistent with this water quality certification. The operation of the hydrofacility shall be operated to maintain the designated uses of the Westfield River as outlined in the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00) and the maintenance of an integrated and diverse biological community in the Westfield River.
2. All activities shall be conducted in compliance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (including the Rivers Protection Act)(MGL Chapter 131, Section 40).

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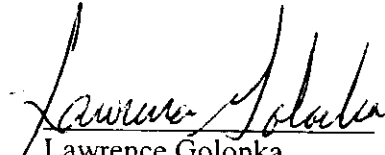
OCT 10 2000

An application for a Water Quality Certificate shall be submitted to and approved by the MADEP prior to any activity that will cause a discharge subject to Section 404.

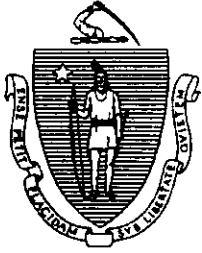
3. The applicant shall comply with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 91.
4. All maintenance and repair activities, including disposal of debris and removal of sediments in impounded areas, shall be conducted in a manner so as not to impair water quality.
5. Any change to the project that would have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this certification, including project operation, must be submitted to the MADEP for prior review and written approval where appropriate and authorized by law and only as related to the change proposed.
6. The MADEP may request, at any time during which this certification is in effect, that the FERC reopen the license to make modifications necessary to maintain compliance with the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards or other appropriate requirements of state law.
7. The MADEP reserves the right to add and alter terms and conditions of this certification when authorized by law and as appropriate to carry out its responsibilities during the life of the project with respect to water quality.
8. A plan should be submitted for maintaining a run-of-river mode of operation in consultation with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MADFW) and approved by the MADEP within six months of license issuance. The plan should address provisions for maintaining pond height at 229.0 feet, a means of recording (hourly) and reporting (yearly) pond elevation, and notification of the MADEP when the pond falls below 229.0 feet.
9. The project will be operated to maintain the elevation of the impoundment at its current high water elevation of 229.0 feet. The applicant will develop and implement a mussel and fish stranding protection plan during maintenance drawdowns within one year of license issuance in consultation with the MADFW and approval by the MADEP. The plan should address the possibility of performing maintenance without conducting a drawdown, limiting the number of drawdowns necessary and notification and justification to the MADEP when a drawdown is planned. No drawdown is permitted prior to the approval of the mussel and fish stranding protection plan without MADEP approval.
10. The applicant will provide upstream eel passage within one year of license issuance. Operation dates, fishway design and locations are to be determined in consultation with the MADFW and approved by the MADEP.
11. The applicant will evaluate the effectiveness of the downstream fishway designed to pass Atlantic salmon and resident fish during the first passage season following issuance of a new license for the project. The plan of study and study results need to be reviewed by the MADFW and approved by the MADEP.
12. Upon license issuance, the bypass reach will be provided a total minimum flow of 57 cfs or inflow, whichever is less. The total flow will provide 35 cfs to the south

channel and 22 cfs to the north channel. The bypass channel is to have a continuous flow from the downstream bypass gate. This flow and the south channel flow combine to 35 cfs. The applicant will consult with the MADFW and obtain approval from the MADEP regarding the timeframe, location and design of notches to be installed.

SIGNED:

  
Lawrence Golonka  
Watershed Chief  
Westfield River Basin

9-29-2000  
Date



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Commissioner

Mr. Ted Lewellyn, P.E.  
International Paper Company  
Paper Mill Road  
Millers Falls MA 01349

September 29, 2000

RE: Water Quality Certification  
AMENDMENT  
BRPWW10  
Major Project Certification  
Transmittal No.116384

AT: Woronoco Project  
FERC No. 2631

Dear Mr. Lewellyn,

Attached is the Department's amended Water Quality Certification for the Woronoco Project pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act and the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards at 314 CMR 4.00.

Any person aggrieved by the Certification may request an adjudicatory hearing within 30 days of issuance, pursuant to 310 CMR 1.01.

If you have any questions about the certification, please call Robert Kubit, at 508/767-2854.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence Golonka".

Lawrence Golonka  
Watershed Chief  
Westfield River Basin

Attachment

Cc: Jon Christensen/Kleinschmidt Associates  
Michael Chapman/International Paper Co.

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