

Via Online Posting

February 12, 2016

**SUBJECT: Bear Swamp Project (FERC Project No. 2669)
Agendas for the Study Consultation and
Flow Regime Working Group Meetings;
Notice of Availability of Study Consultation Meeting Information Package**

Dear Stakeholder:

Bear Swamp Power Company, LLC (BSPC), a limited liability company jointly owned indirectly by Brookfield Renewable Energy Group and Emera, Inc., is the Licensee, owner, and operator of the 610 megawatt Bear Swamp Project (Project). The Project is located along the Deerfield River in Berkshire and Franklin counties in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Project consists of the Bear Swamp Pumped Storage Development (PSD) and the Fife Brook Development. The On April 28, 1970, the Federal Power Commission (FPC), predecessor to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission), issued an original license for the Bear Swamp Project in accordance with the FPC's delegated authority under the Federal Power Act.¹ The license expires on March 31, 2020. Accordingly, BSPC is pursuing a new license for the Project from the Commission. In support of preparing an application for a new license, BSPC has elected to use the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) as defined in 18 C.F.R. Part 5 of the Commission's regulations.

By letter dated January 22, 2016, BSPC invited stakeholders to participate in an upcoming study consultation meeting on February 23, 2016. The purpose of the meeting is to consult with stakeholders regarding five studies identified in the Commission's October 30, 2015 Study Plan Determination (SPD) for the Project. The Commission's SPD directs BSPC to consult with stakeholders regarding specific aspects germane to the following five studies:

1. Instream Flow Assessment
2. State-listed Odonates Survey
3. Baseline Study of Freshwater Mussel Species
4. Whitewater Boating Flow Study
5. Angler Wading Study

As described in the January 22, 2016 invitation letter, BSPC has prepared the attached meeting agenda for the study consultation meeting (Attachment 1). At this time, BSPC is also making available an information package to support study consultation activities. The study information package is available from the Project's Public Relicensing Website at: [Study Information Package](#). The information package consists of aquatic mesohabitat maps that were developed based on the results of field studies and mapping conducted in September 2015. The aquatic

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 791(a), *et seq.*

mesohabitat maps provide information on mapped habitat and substrate types documented in the Project's Upper Reservoir, Lower Reservoir, and the 17-mile-long reach of the Deerfield River extending from Fife Brook Dam downstream to the upstream extent of Deerfield No. 4 Station. The mesohabitat maps also show the locations of proposed survey and study areas and other information relevant to the February 23, 2016 study consultation meeting, including the information summarized in Table 1. The selection of these locations is guided by the SPD, based on the findings of the mesohabitat mapping as well as standard practice and expert input.

TABLE 1
PROPOSED SURVEY AND STUDY AREAS PRESENTED ON MESOHABITAT MAPS

Study	Description
Instream Flow Assessment	Instream Flow Assessment Transects
State-listed Odonates Survey	Odonates Survey Transects
Baseline Study of Freshwater Mussel Species	Mussel Survey Sites
Whitewater Boating Flow Study	Whitewater Features*
Angler Wading Study	Popular Fishing Locations [†]

*Summarized primarily from Lessels and Sims (1993) and American Whitewater (2016a and 2016b).

[†] Summarized primarily from Dowd (1993) and Trout Unlimited (2006).

In addition to the proposed survey and study areas described in Table 1, BSPC has also provided other relevant information to facilitate consultation regarding the five studies described above. This additional information includes the location of existing Project recreation areas, tributary streams, and other pertinent features. BSPC has created both a high resolution study information package and an information package with a reduced file size that is faster to download and print. The reduced file size information package is available at: [Study Information Package \(Reduced File Size\)](#).

In addition to providing an agenda for the February 23, 2016 study consultation meeting, BSPC is also providing the attached agenda for the upcoming February 24, 2016 Flow Regime Working Group Meeting (Attachment 2). As described in the approved study plan, the Flow Regime Working Group will serve as a forum to discuss the Operations Model, model scenario development, findings, and on-going efforts by BSPC. The objectives of the February 24, 2016 Flow Regime Working Group Meeting are to (a) provide the Flow Regime Working Group with an overview of the CHEOPS model, including the model framework, capabilities, input, and output, (b) demonstrate the abilities and output of the CHEOPS model using example input data, and (c) initiate discussions of scenario runs.

As a reminder, both the study consultation and Flow Regime Working Group meetings will be held at the Hampton Inn located at 184 Shelburne Road, Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301. The study consultation meeting is scheduled from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM on February 23, 2016, and the Flow Regime Working Group Meeting is scheduled from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM on February 24, 2016. If you have not done so already, BSPC respectfully requests that stakeholders who plan to participate respond on or before February 15, 2016. Please provide an

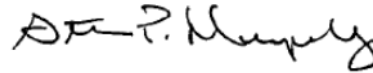
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email address in your response so that BSPC can contact you if weather conditions require the meeting to be rescheduled.

On behalf of BSPC, I look forward to meeting with stakeholders in February 2016. If you have questions regarding the upcoming meetings, agendas, or the information package, please contact me at (315) 598-6130 or via email at Steven.Murphy@brookfieldrenewable.com.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Murphy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven P. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "M".

Manager, Licensing
Brookfield Renewable Energy Group

Attachments

References Cited

American Whitewater. 2016a. Deerfield, Massachusetts, US (3): Monroe Bridge to Bear Swamp (The Dryway). [Online] URL: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/681>. Accessed February 2016.

_____. 2016b. Deerfield, Massachusetts, US (4): Bear Swamp to Zoar Gap (Fife Brook Section). [Online] URL: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/682>. Accessed February 2016.

Dowd, J. 1993. A Deerfield River Fishing Guide. In *The Deerfield River Guidebook*. By B. Lessels, N. Sims, and J. Dowd. New England Cartographics, North Amherst, Massachusetts.

Lessels, B. and N. Sims. 1993. Deerfield River Whitewater Guides. In *The Deerfield River Guidebook*. By B. Lessels, N. Sims, and J. Dowd. New England Cartographics, North Amherst, Massachusetts.

Trout Unlimited (TU). 2006. *An Angler's Guide to Trout Fishing in Massachusetts*. The Massachusetts-Rhode Island Council of Trout Unlimited, Lower Newton Falls, MA.

ATTACHMENT 1
STUDY CONSULTATION MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 23, 2016

FEBRUARY 23, 2016 STUDY CONSULTATION MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 23, 2016	Schedule
Introduction and Meeting Logistics	9:00 AM – 9:05 AM
Overview, Meeting Objectives, and Agenda	9:05 AM – 9:30 AM
Mesohabitat Maps	9:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Instream Flow Assessment	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
<i>Break</i>	11:00 AM – 11:15 AM
Angler Wading Study	11:15 AM – 12:00 PM
<i>Lunch Break (Lunch on your own)</i>	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Whitewater Boating Flow Study	1:00 PM – 1:45 PM
Baseline Study of Freshwater Mussels	1:45 PM – 2:30 PM
<i>Break</i>	2:30 PM – 2:45 PM
State-listed Odonates Survey	2:45 PM – 3:30 PM
Discussion and Next Steps	3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

ATTACHMENT 2
FLOW REGIME WORKING GROUP MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 24, 2016

FEBRUARY 24, 2016 FLOW REGIME WORKING GROUP MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, February 24, 2016	Schedule
Introduction and Meeting Logistics	9:00 AM – 9:05 AM
Overview, Meeting Objectives, and Agenda	9:05 AM – 9:30 AM
CHEOPS Overview	9:30 AM – 10:45 AM
<i>Break</i>	10:45 AM – 11:00 AM
Demonstration Model and Scenario Discussions	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM