

March 4, 2016

**TO: Stakeholder Distribution List**

**SUBJECT: Bear Swamp Project (FERC Project No. 2669)  
Aquatic Mesohabitat Supplemental Data**

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. 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

The Commission's October 30, 2015 Study Plan Determination (SPD) for the Project directed 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

Accordingly, by letter dated January 22, 2016, BSPC invited stakeholders to participate in a study consultation meeting that was held on February 23, 2016 and which offered stakeholders the forum and opportunity to provide input and feedback on the five studies referenced above. In advance of the meeting on February 12, 2016, BSPC provided stakeholders with highly detailed aquatic mesohabitat maps of the Deerfield River, including the upstream extent of the Project's Lower Reservoir, the river reach extending from Fife Brook Dam downstream to the confluence with the Cold River, and the river reach extending from the Cold River downstream to the Deerfield Station No. 4 backwater. The aquatic mesohabitat maps were developed based on the results of field studies and mapping conducted in September 2015 and provided thorough and comprehensive information on mapped habitat and substrate types. The aquatic mesohabitat maps also presented the locations of proposed survey and study areas and other information

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<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. § 791(a), *et seq.*

relevant to the specific aspects of the five studies which were the subject of the February 23, 2016 study consultation meeting.

During the meeting, stakeholders requested that BSPC provide supplemental tabular data regarding mapped aquatic mesohabitats. Accordingly, BSPC is making available to stakeholders a Microsoft Excel® workbook that presents tabular attribute data for each mapped mesohabitat polygon, including aquatic habitat category, average thalweg depth, average wetted width, thalweg spot velocity, dominant substrate, subdominant substrate, and acreage. The polygons have been keyed to a 2-sheet, large format map that is also being made available to stakeholders at this time.

The tabular data and accompanying map are intended to assist stakeholders' review of proposed freshwater mussel survey sites, odonate survey transects, and the proposed location of ten transects associated with the Instream Flow Assessment. The workbook provides attributes both individually and in a consolidated format for the upstream extent of the Project's Lower Reservoir, the river reach extending from Fife Brook Dam downstream to the confluence with the Cold River, and the river reach extending from the Cold River downstream to the Deerfield Station No. 4 backwater. BSPC has also summarized aquatic mesohabitat and dominant substrate acreage and percentage data discussed during the February 23, 2016 meeting in the workbook.

The Excel workbook and 2-sheet, large format mesohabitat map with numbered polygons are available under the "Documents" tab on the Project's public relicensing website ([www.bearswamproject.com](http://www.bearswamproject.com)). BSPC is providing these files to assist stakeholders' in providing feedback and input regarding the location of proposed freshwater mussel survey sites, odonate survey transects, and the ten instream flow transects as shown on the mesohabitat maps. These files are not a final or formal report, and BSPC is providing these files to stakeholders for the sole purpose of this specific consultation. Stakeholders' use of the files for purposes other than in connection with this specific consultation, or stakeholders', revision, modification or alteration in any manner shall be at each stakeholder's sole risk, and files and information maintained by BSPC will remain the governing, controlling versions.

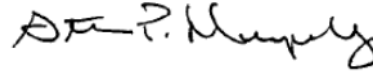
BSPC maintains that the mesohabitat maps and underlying data are highly detailed and sufficient to inform BSPC's selection of the 17 freshwater mussel survey sites, nine odonate survey transects, the ten instream flow transects presented on the mesohabitat maps. With this, BSPC is providing stakeholders with the same attribute information used by BSPC to select survey sites and transects, and in accordance with the SPD, BSPC is not performing additional data analysis with respect to its' selection of these survey and transect locations. As such, BSPC respectfully requests your reply regarding these specific survey and transect locations, to the undersigned, within two weeks of the date of this letter (on or before Friday, March 18, 2016). Once BSPC has reviewed stakeholder feedback, BSPC will provide stakeholders with BSPC's response to complete this consultation required by the SPD.

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If you have questions, please contact me at the phone number or email address above.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Murphy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.P. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

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Cc: F. Dunlap (Brookfield)

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