

August 28, 2017
Via Electronic Filing

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

Bear Swamp Project (FERC Project No. 2669-085)
Study Progress Report

Dear Secretary Bose:

Bear Swamp Power Company, LLC (BSPC) is pursuing a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) for the Bear Swamp Project (Project) (FERC No. 2669) utilizing the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP). On June 1, 2015, the Commission issued a process plan and schedule for the ILP which outlines pre-filing milestones and deadlines. The process plan and schedule was revised by the Commission by letter dated January 10, 2017. The plan requires the regular submittal of Study Progress Reports; this is the progress report for the period ending August 28, 2017.

BSPC has been developing technical study reports for the 19 studies approved in the Commission's October 30, 2015 Study Plan Determination (SPD) for the Project. As described in the Commission's January 10, 2017 letter accompanying the revised process plan and schedule, BSPC filed five of the technical study reports on October 31, 2016 as appendices to the Initial Study Report (ISR). In response to a November 10, 2016 letter from the Commission, BSPC also submitted a schedule on November 18, 2016 for filing individual study reports not included in the October ISR. As indicated in the schedule, BSPC filed a majority of the remaining technical study reports on March 31, 2017. The Commission directed BSPC to file progress reports on the status of each of the remaining 14 studies on February 28, 2017, and every 60 days thereafter until all outstanding studies are completed. This letter provides the fourth 60-day progress report on the studies as directed by the Commission.

Study 1: Water Quality Study – filed on March 31, 2017

- In accordance with the Commission's July 28, 2017 determination on requests for study modifications and new studies, BSPC filed the Quality Assurance Project Plan with the Commission on August 28, 2017 as an addendum to the Water Quality Study Report.

Study 2: Fish Assemblage Assessment – filed on March 31, 2017

Study 3: Aquatic Mesohabitat Assessment and Mapping – filed on October 31, 2016

Study 4: Baseline Study of Terrestrial Wildlife and Botanical Resources – filed on March 31, 2017

Study 5: Wetland, Riparian, and Littoral Habitat Study – filed on March 31, 2017

Study 6: Recreation Survey

- An online Visitor Use Survey was launched in May 2016 and was available at the Project's public relicensing website (www.bearswampproject.com). As provided in the SPD for the Project, BSPC collected visitor use data through the online Visitor Use Survey through April 2017. BSPC is currently

analyzing the Visitor Use Survey data for inclusion in the Recreation Survey Study Report.

- BSPC documented recreation use trends at Project recreation facilities with trail cameras through April 2017, pursuant to the SPD. BSPC is currently analyzing the photos taken with the trail cameras.
- BSPC is continuing to coordinate and conduct industry and law enforcement recreation resource interviews. To date, BSPC has interviewed whitewater outfitters, fishing guides, and local law enforcement representatives.
- Expected activities in the next 60 days include continued coordination of industry and law enforcement interviews, data processing, and technical study report preparation.
- Report preparation is continuing in accordance with the Commission's revised process plan and schedule; BSPC anticipates that the study will be filed by September 30, 2017.

Study 7: State-listed Rare Plants Baseline Data Collection Survey – filed on March 31, 2017

- In consultation with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), BSPC conducted additional, targeted state-listed rare plants surveys in June 2017.
- BSPC is currently reviewing the results of those surveys and will provide the NHESP with a supplemental letter report in the third quarter of 2017 describing any findings.
- BSPC uploaded the required data and forms to the NHESP's Vernal Pool and Rare Species database as in June 2017.

Study 8: Cultural Resources Survey – filed on April 7, 2017

- BSPC is continuing to consult with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and federally recognized Indian tribes to determine if additional cultural resources investigations are necessary in 2017.

Study 9: Operations Model

- BSPC held a Flow Regime Working Group (FRWG) Meeting on July 28, 2017, at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Greenfield, MA. During the meeting, BSPC presented the results of model scenarios required pursuant to the SPD and scenarios requested by stakeholders. Meeting presentations and a summary of the FRWG Meeting are available on the Project's public relicensing website at www.bearswampproject.com.
- During and subsequent to the FRWG Meeting, participants identified additional model scenarios. BSPC is conducting the additional model scenarios as defined in the FRWG Meeting summary.
- Report preparation is continuing in accordance with the Commission's revised process plan and schedule; BSPC anticipates that the study will be filed by September 30, 2017.

Study 10: Instream Flow Assessment – filed on March 31, 2017

- Based on the comments provided on the Instream Flow Assessment Study Report, BSPC prepared and distributed an Instream Flow Assessment Study Report Supplemental Analysis.
- The supplemental report integrates biological data to evaluate the study flows, and it discusses potential means of providing alternative minimum flows downstream from Fife Brook Dam.
- The Instream Flow Assessment Study Report Supplemental Analysis was filed with the Commission and made available to Project stakeholders on June 30, 2017.
- Per the Commission's July 28, 2017 determination on requests for study modifications and new studies, BSPC anticipates discussing the results of the Instream Flow Assessment Study Report Supplemental Analysis during the upcoming Study Report Meeting in October 2017.

Study 11: Fife Brook Flow Attenuation – filed on October 31, 2016

Study 12: Entrainment Evaluation

- BSPC is reviewing water velocity mapping data collected in October 2016 and completing an entrainment assessment. Report preparation is continuing in accordance with the Commission's revised process plan and schedule; BSPC anticipates that the study will be filed by September 30, 2017.

Study 13: State-listed Odonate Survey – filed on March 31, 2017

- In accordance with the Commission's July 28, 2017 determination on requests for study modifications and new studies, BSPC is pursuing consultation with the MADFW regarding potential surrogate species for the Ocellated Darner (*Boyeria graefiana*) that could be used for supplemental analyses. BSPC expects to file this supplemental information pursuant to the requirements of the Commission's July 28, 2017 determination.

Study 14: Freshwater Mussel Survey – filed on October 31, 2016

Study 15: Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey – filed on October 31, 2016

Study 16: Fife Brook Impoundment Access and Portage Feasibility Study – filed on March 31, 2017

Study 17: Angler Wading Study – filed on October 31, 2016

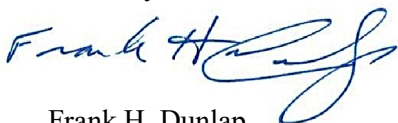
Study 18: Warning System Effectiveness Study – filed on March 31, 2017

Study 19: Whitewater Boating Flow Study – filed on March 31, 2017

- In accordance with the Commission's July 28, 2017 determination on requests for study modifications and new studies, BSPC is analyzing the survey data collected during the Whitewater Boating Flow Study to (1) summarize whitewater boating attributes of each flow for each boat type; (2) present the acceptable and optimal flow for each boat type; and (3) discuss results from other studies to identify any competing recreational uses and resource needs that may be adversely affected by scheduled releases. BSPC expects to file this information as an addendum report pursuant to the requirements of the Commission's July 28, 2017 determination.

If you have any question regarding this progress report, please contact either Steve Murphy at (315) 598-6130 or me at (207) 755-5603 or Frank.Dunlap@BrookfieldRenewable.com.

Sincerely,



Frank H. Dunlap
Licensing Specialist
Brookfield Renewable

Cc: Distribution List
S. Murphy (Brookfield)

**Bear Swamp Project (FERC No. 2669)
Stakeholder Distribution List**

Federal Agencies

Ms. Charlene Dwin Vaughn
Assistant Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Ste 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637

Ms. Kimberly Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st St NE
Washington, DC 20426

Mr. John Baummer
Project Manager
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - Office
of Energy Projects
888 1st St NE
Washington, DC 20426

Mr. John Bullard
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Mr. Harold Peterson
Bureau of Indian Affairs
US Department of the Interior
545 Marriott Dr, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

New England Headquarters
US Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Mr. Tom Chapman
Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094

Mr. Jesus Morales
Fisheries Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01036-9589

Ms. Wendy Weber
NE Regional Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01036-9589

Ms. Melissa Grader
US Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01036-9589

Hon. Richard E Neal
US House of Representatives
78 Center Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Mr. Kevin Mendik
NPS Hydro Program Coord
US National Park Service
15 State Street , 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Hon. Edward Markey
US Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Elizabeth Warren
US Senate
317 Hart Senant Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

State Agencies

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and
Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114-2104

Office of Dam Safety
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and
Recreation
John Augustas Hall
180 Beaman Street
West Boylston, MA 01583-1109

Mr. Michael Judge
Renewable Energy Division Director
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114-2533

**Bear Swamp Project (FERC No. 2669)
Stakeholder Distribution List**

Mr. Michael Gorski
Reg Dir - Western Reg Off
Massachusetts Department of Environmental
Protection
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Mr. Robert Kubit
Division of Watershed Management
Massachusetts Department of Environmental
Protection
8 New Bond Street
Worcester, MA 01606

Massachusetts Department of Environmental
Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108-4747

Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Mr. Brian Harrington
Massachusetts Dept of Environmental Protection
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Director
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581

Mr. Caleb Slater, Ph.D.
Andromous Fish Project Leader
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy &
Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Mr. Jonathan Patton
Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Hon. Gailanne M Cariddi
Massachusetts House of Representatives
MA State House
Room 155
Boston, MA 02133

Hon. Paul W Mark
Massachusetts House of Representatives
PO Box 114
Dalton, MA 01227

Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108-1518

Hon. Adam G Hinds
Massachusetts Senate
State House, Room 309
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Ms. Misty Anne Marold
Senior Review Biologist
Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program
Division of Fish and Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581

Local Governments

Ms. Kimberly Noake MacPhee
Land Use & Natural Resources Planning Program
Manager
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
12 Olive Street, Suite 2
Greenfield, MA 01301

Ms. Peggy Sloan
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
12 Olive Street, Suite 2
Greenfield, MA 01301

Ms. Kathy Reynolds
Town Clerk
Town of Charlemont
Town Hall
157 Main Street
Charlemont, MA 01339

**Bear Swamp Project (FERC No. 2669)
Stakeholder Distribution List**

Town Clerk
Town of Florida
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

Ms. Jennifer Morse
Town Clerk
Town of Rowe
321 Zoar Road
Rowe, MA 01367

Tribes

Mr. Doug Harris
Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation
Office
PO Box 268
Charlestown, RI 02813

Mr. Wallace A Miller
Acting President
Stockbridge Munsee Community, Wisconsin
N8476 Mo He Con Nuck Road
Bowler, WI 54416

Mr. Mark Andrews
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head
20 Black Brook Road
Aquinnah, MA 02535

Non-governmental Organizations

Mr. Robert Nasdor
NE Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
65 Blueberry Hill Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776

Mr. Kenneth Kimball, PhD
Director of Research
Appalachian Mountain Club
PO Box 296
Gorham, NH 03581-0296

Mr. Norman Sims, PhD
Appalachian Mountain Club
77 Back Ashuelot Road
Winchester, NH 03470

Ms. Andrea Donlon
MA River Steward
Connecticut River Conservancy
15 Bank Row
Greenfield, MA 01301

Mr. Andrew Fisk
Executive Director
Connecticut River Conservancy
15 Bank Row
Greenfield, MA 01301

Mr. Robert May
Deerfield River Watershed Association
PO Box 431
Montague, MA 01351

Mr. Brian Yellen
President
Deerfield River Watershed Association
15 Bank Row Suite A
Greenfield, MA 01301

Mr. Charles Olchowski
Massachusetts-Rhode Island Council of Trout
Unlimited
28 Smith Street
Greenfield, MA 01301-2018

Mr. Tom Christopher
New England FLOW
252 Fort Pond Inn Road
Lancaster, MA 01523

The Great Outdoors
78 Main Street
Charlemont, MA 01339

Mr. Kevin Parsons
Deerfield River Watershed Chapter
Trout Unlimited
PO Box 133
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Mr. Donald Pugh
Trout Unlimited
10 Old Stage Road
Wendell, MA 01379

Mr. Rich Holschuh
117 Fuller Drive
Brattleboro, VT 05301

**Bear Swamp Project (FERC No. 2669)
Stakeholder Distribution List**

Individuals

Mr. Dominic Capozzi
River Manager
Berkshire East Mountain Resort
66 Thunder Mountain Road
Charlemont, MA 01339

Mr. Frank Mooney
River Manager
CrabApple Whitewater, Inc.
PO Box 295
Charlemont, MA 01339

Deerfield River Portage
617 Hoosac Road
Conway, MA 01341

Ms. Kim Marsili
Chief Environmental Health and Safety Officer
Essential Power
15 Agawam Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089

FERC Hydro Compliance Director
FirstLight Hydro Generating Co.
Northfield Mountain Station
99 Millers Fall Road
Northfield, MA 01360

Hyytinen Hollow Tubes
7 Tea Street Ext
Charlemont, MA 01338

Mr. Mark P Mitsch, P.E.
Senior Associate
McMillen Jacobs Associates
One Wall Street, 5th Floor
Burlington, MA 01803

Mr. Matthew Cole
Great River Hydro, LLC
3A School Street
PO Box 9
Monroe Bridge, MA 01350

Mr. John Ragonese
FERC License Manager
Great River Hydro, LLC
One Harbour Place, Suite 330
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Mr. Bruce Lessels
Zoar Outdoor
PO Box 245
Charlemont, MA 01339

Licensee

Mr. Kevin Gamache
Supervisor Operations
Bear Swamp Pumped Storage Station
Brookfield Renewable
PO Box 461
Rowe, MA 01367

Mr. Frank Dunlap
Licensing Specialist
Brookfield Renewable
150 Main Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

Ms. Kelly Maloney
Manager of Compliance
Brookfield Renewable
150 Main Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

Mr. Steven P Murphy
Director, U.S. Licensing
Brookfield Renewable
33 West 1st Street South
Fulton, NY 13069

Mr. Thomas L. Mapletoft
Sr. Water Resource Manager
North America
Brookfield Renewable
150 Main Street
Lewiston, ME 04240