

Chris Parsons, Hadley, MA.
From: Chris Parsons Hadley, MA
Re: Relicensing of the Bellows Falls Dam

My name is Chris Parsons of Hadley, Massachusetts. For 13 generations my family has farmed land in the Northampton Meadows along the Connecticut River. In all the years that we have farmed along the river it has never come up as fast as it does today after a rainstorm. As a 13th generation farmer this is extremely concerning to me.

While the dam operator uses the dam to maintain a flow of water for their purposes, they need to consider others that have interests along the Connecticut River. In the months leading up to the flooding the river was at a low level and then after one rainstorm the river is out of its banks and on farmers' fields ruining their crops for the 2023 growing season.

I feel that this problem is only going to continue to get worse if the dam operator isn't held accountable for the events that led up to last summer's flooding. Last summer many farmers lost huge amounts of money due to the errors made by the dam operator. I can assure you that if this happens again many farmers won't be able to take the financial losses the flooding caused.

Since this is a public license measures need to be taken to ensure the flooding of last summer never occurs again due to the actions of the dam operator again. Everyday 3 times a day the public needs farmers to feed them and if this happens again the farmers won't be there to put locally produced food on everyone's table.

Thank you for your time,
Chris Parsons
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