

**US Northeast Hydro Region** One Harbour Place, Suite 330 Portsmouth NH 03801

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March 22, 2017

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.'s March 22, 2017 Study Report Revisions and Supplemental Data
Project Nos. 1892-026, 1855-045, and 1904-073

Dear Secretary Bose:

TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. ("TransCanada") is the owner and licensee of the Wilder Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1892), the Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1855), and the Vernon Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1904). On October 31, 2012, TransCanada initiated the Integrated Licensing Process ("ILP") by filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or "Commission") its Notice of Intent to seek new licenses for each project, along with a separate Pre-Application Document for each project. The current licenses for these projects each expire on April 30, 2019.

With this filing, TransCanada submits final study reports for Study 9 – Instream Flow, and Study 24 – Dwarf Wedgemussel and Co-Occurring Mussels. An interim report for Study 9 was filed March 1, 2016. Study 24 consists of a Phase 1 report filed September 15, 2014, a Phase 2 report filed March 2, 2015, a Delphi Panel report filed May 16, 2016, and the Development of Habitat Suitability Criteria for Co-Occurring Mussels report being filed today, which constitutes the final portion of the study's reporting. It should be noted that analysis of habitat suitability for mussels is included in the Study 9 Final Report.

These reports are being filed in response to various stakeholder comments and consultation meetings as described in the study reports. The filing date of March 15, 2017 outlined on the revised Process Plan and Schedule issued February 22, 2017 was developed through

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conversations between FERC and TransCanada with the understanding that the actual filing date for these reports could shift, but that the Study Report Meeting date of March 30, 2017 would not change.

Study Reports filed separately as part of this filing are:

- i. Study 9 Instream Flow Final Study Report in pdf format, with Appendices A-E, Appendices F-J, and Appendices K-N filed separately in zipfile (pdf) format.
- ii. Study 24 Development of Habitat Suitability Criteria for Co-occurring Mussels Report in pdf format.

If there are any questions regarding the information provided in this filing or the process, please contact John Ragonese at 603-498-2851 or by emailing john\_ragonese@transcanada.com.

Sincerely,

John L. Ragonese

FERC License Manager

Attachments: Final study reports for Studies 9 and 24

cc: Interested Parties List (distribution through email notification of availability and download from TransCanada's relicensing web site <a href="https://www.transcanada-relicensing.com">www.transcanada-relicensing.com</a>).