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March 2, 2015

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 Study Reports for Three ILP Studies
Project Nos. 1892-026, 1855-045, and 1904-073**

CLASSIFICATION: PRIVILEGED - Report contains privileged material

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). The current licenses for these projects each expire on April 30, 2018. 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.

With this filing, TransCanada submits Study Reports for three (3) aquatic studies as indicated in FERC’s February 21, 2014 Study Plan Determination (SPD). Appendix A of the SPD amended the proposed schedules for fifteen aquatic studies potentially affected by the closure of Vermont Yankee¹.

¹ On August 27, 2013, Entergy announced plans to decommission its Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (Vermont Yankee) during the fourth quarter of 2014, and the plant stopped operating in December 2014. Vermont Yankee withdrew its cooling water from and discharges it back to TransCanada’s reservoir for the Vernon Project. Operation of Vermont Yankee has influenced Connecticut River water temperatures within the Vernon reservoir and downstream since the plant went into operation in 1972. Because the baseline environmental condition will change after 2014, TransCanada’s proposed aquatic studies may have produced data not reflective of baseline conditions if

The SPD identified the following four studies for filing Final Study Reports by March 1, 2015. The status of each is indicated below.

Study 7 - Aquatic Habitat Mapping Study conducted in 2013. Study 7 is complete at this time and was previously provided to stakeholders.

Study 8 - Channel Morphology and Benthic Habitat Study conducted in 2014. Project effects evaluation pending. Riverbank Transect Study and Riverbank Erosion Study, (Studies 2 and 3 respectively) are ongoing at this time. Hydraulic Modeling and Operations modeling (Study 4 and 5 respectively) is in development. Project effect analysis requires application consideration of these four studies.

Study 13 - Tributary and Backwater Fish Access and Habitats Study conducted in 2014. Study report will be filed by March 31, 2015, absent the project effects evaluation. Hydraulic Modeling and Operations modeling (Study 4 and 5 respectively) is in development and project effect analysis requires application of these tools.

Study 24 - Dwarf Wedgemussel and Co-occurring Mussel Study, Phase 1 conducted in 2014, Phase 2 initiated in 2014. Phase 1 report filed with the Initial Study Report on September 15, 2014. Phase 2 Progress report provided herewith. Development of Habitat Suitability Curves (HSC) remains the subject of ongoing consultation with the aquatics working group. A consultation conference call is scheduled for March 5, 2015 and the outcome of this consultation will help to define the process for developing such. Project effects evaluation remains pending development of HSC and both Hydraulic and Operations models (Study 4 and 5 respectively).

This filing of study material provides an opportunity for stakeholders to review and comment in advance of the September 13, 2015 filing deadline² for TransCanada's Updated Study Report (USR). Final material, addressing any comments, will be re-submitted in the USR and available for review and comment under the provisions of the ILP.

they were conducted while Vermont Yankee was still operating. Because of this unusual circumstance FERC issued two study plan determinations, one on September 13, 2013, for non-aquatic studies not impacted by the closure of Vermont Yankee and a second on February 21, 2014, for aquatic studies.

² The two-year anniversary of FERC's September 13, 2013 Study Plan Determination (§5.15(f)).

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The following study material is filed electronically with this letter:

Study 7	Aquatic Habitat Mapping Final Study Report, March 2, 2015	<i>TCStudy7AquaticHabitatMappingFinalReport20150302.pdf</i>
	Four (4) attachments consisting of water level logger data in zipped Excel files	<i>TCStudy72013BFRiverineAndVernHoboData20150302.zip</i> <i>TCStudy7_2013to102014OverwinteredHobo20150302.zip</i> <i>TCStudy7_2013WilderImpoundmentHobo20150302.zip</i> <i>TCStudy7_2013WLDRRiverineAndBFHobo20150302.zip</i>
Study 8	Channel Morphology and Benthic Habitat Study Report, March 2, 2015.	<i>TCStudy8StudyReport20150302.pdf</i>
Study 24	PUBLIC VERSION: ILP Study 24 Dwarf Wedgemussel and Co-Occurring Mussel Study, Phase 2 Progress Report, March 2, 2015	<i>PUBLICTCStudy24Phase2ProgressReport20150302.pdf</i>
	PRIVILEGED VERSION: ILP Study 24 Dwarf Wedgemussel and Co-Occurring Mussel Study, Phase 2 Progress Report and Geodatabase, March 2, 2015	<i>PRIVILEGEDTCStudy24Phase2ProgressReport20150302.pdf</i> <i>PRIVILEGEDTCStudy24Phase2Geodata20150302.zip</i>

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: Study Reports (Studies 7, 8, and 24, and associated attachments)

cc: Interested Parties List (distribution through email notification of availability and download from TransCanada's relicensing web site www.transcanada-relicensing.com).