



US Northeast Hydro Region
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September 14, 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 Updated Study Report
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. On January 16, 2015 TransCanada requested an extension of one year for each of the current licenses. The Commission granted the one-year extensions in its July 22, 2015 Order. The current licenses for these projects each now expire on April 30, 2019. TransCanada is now awaiting a revised ILP Process Plan and Schedule from the Commission based upon this decision and updated application filing deadline of April 30, 2017.

With this filing, TransCanada submits its Updated Study Report ("USR") for the three projects, as required under 18 C.F.R. §5.15(f). This filing must be submitted within two years of the study plan approval in accordance with the approved Process Plan and Schedule for the ILP issued December 21, 2012 by the Commission. Because the USR due date (September 13, 2015) falls on a Sunday, this filing is being made on the next business day, September 14, 2015.

The USR is being filed electronically in four volumes as indicated below. The USR summarizes study activities through early September 2015 for all 33 studies including those

currently being implemented; identifies and provides a plan and schedule for all remaining work to be completed for each study; summarizes study results that have been finalized to date; and highlights any variances from the Revised Study Plan (“RSP”) and/or RSP revisions (as modified in the SPDs).

Volume I: Status Summary of all Studies

Volume II: 2015 Study Site Selection Reports:

- A. Study 6 – Water Quality Monitoring Study Revised Site Selection Report and Sampling and Analysis Plan, April 29, 2015.
- B. Study 10 – Fish Assemblage Study Revised Site Selection Report, February 3, 2015.
- C. Study 11 – American Eel Survey Revised Site Selection Report, February 3, 2015.
- D. Study 12 – Tessellated Darter Survey Revised Site Selection Report, February 3, 2015.
- E. Study 14 – Resident Fish Spawning in Impoundments Study Revised Site Selection Report, February 3, 2015.
- F. Study 15 – Resident Fish Spawning in Riverine Sections Study Revised Site Selection Report, February 3, 2015.
- G. Study 16 – Sea Lamprey Spawning Assessment Revised Site Selection Report, February 3, 2015.
- H. Study 25 – Dragonfly and Damselfly Inventory and Assessment Site Selection Report, April 28, 2015.
- I. 2015 Site Selection Reports Supporting Geodatabase, September 14, 2015 (zipfile of ArcGIS shapefiles and/or layers).
- J. Studies 10 and 12 Appendix A - Revised Substrate Calculations (Excel file), February 3, 2015.

Volume III: Study Reports:

- A. Study 13 – Tributary and Backwater Fish Access and Habitats Study Report, September 14, 2015.
- B. Study 27 – Floodplain, Wetland, Riparian, and Littoral Vegetation Habitats Study Report, September 14, 2015.
- C. Studies 13 and 27 Study Reports Supporting Geodatabase, September 14, 2015 (zipfile of ArcGIS shapefiles and/or layers).

Volume IV: Water Surface Elevation Data (Excel files):

- A. Study 7 – Revised Overwintered logger water surface elevation data - 2013/2014 (replaces file submitted March 2, 2015).
- B. Study 7 – Overwintered logger water surface elevation data - 2014/2015.
- C. Study 13 – Wilder Impoundment logger water surface elevation data, 2014.
- D. Study 13 – Wilder Riverine and Bellows Falls Impoundment logger water surface elevation data, 2014
- E. Study 13 – Bellows Falls Riverine, Vernon Impoundment, and Vernon Riverine logger water surface elevation data, 2014.

In accordance with 18 C.F.R. § 5.15(c)(2), within 15 days of filing the USR, TransCanada will hold a meeting to discuss its progress in implementing the study plan and schedule, and the data collected, including any variances from the study plan and schedule if necessary. TransCanada will hold its USR meeting from 9:00am – 4:30pm on Thursday October 1, 2015 in the Vermont Conference Room of the Fairfield Inn and Suites, 102 Ballardvale Drive, White River Junction, VT. A second day may be necessary to complete review of all the studies. If needed, it will be held on Friday October 2, 2015 in the conference room at TransCanada's River Operations Center (ROC) at Wilder Dam in Wilder, Vermont, from 9:00am – 4:30pm. At the ROC, please park in the area to the right of the access road before you reach the fence and building. Please wait for someone to open the gate as this is a NERC-secure facility.

WebEx sessions have been created for remote audio and video attendees. Please use the information on the WebEx Meeting Information pages attached to this letter.

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:

1. USR Meeting Information
2. Updated Study Report (Volumes I through IV electronically)

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

**WebEx Meeting Access Information
TC Updated Study Report Meeting #1**

WebEx Meeting Access Information

TC Updated Study Report Meeting #1

Date: Thursday October 1, 2015

Time: 9:00 am, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00) Meeting

Number: 920 868 997

Meeting Password: Abcde12345

To join the online meeting click: [Join WebEx meeting](#) or

Link <https://transcanada.webex.com/transcanada/j.php?MTID=m0a6b1a16edce94c3336dd23f08176728>

If a password is required, enter the meeting password: Abcde12345

Click "Join".

To join the audio conference only

Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada): 1-866-469-3239

Toll-free dialing restrictions: http://www.webex.com/pdf/tollfree_restrictions.pdf

Access code: 920 868 997

To add this October 1, 2015 meeting to your calendar program (for example Microsoft Outlook), click this link: [Add this meeting](#)

TC Updated Study Report Meeting #2

Date: Friday, October 2, 2015

Time: 9:00 am, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00) Meeting

Number: 928 473 386

Meeting Password: Abcde12345

To join the online meeting: [Join WebEx meeting](#) or

Link: <https://transcanada.webex.com/transcanada/j.php?MTID=m95a3856acfb799057ba3c5c6f83146ac>

If a password is required, enter the meeting password: Abcde12345

Click "Join".

To join the audio conference only

Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada): 1-866-469-3239

Toll-free dialing restrictions: http://www.webex.com/pdf/tollfree_restrictions.pdf

Access code: 928 473 386

To add this October 2, 2015 meeting to your calendar program (for example Microsoft Outlook), click this link: [Add this meeting](#)

For assistance go to <https://transcanada.webex.com/transcanada/mc> On the left navigation bar, click "Support"

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