



US Northeast Hydro Region
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March 1, 2016

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 1, 2016 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. The current licenses for these projects each expire on April 30, 2019.

With this filing, TransCanada submits its March 1, 2016 Updated Study Report (USR) as required under 18 C.F.R. §5.15(f). This filing is made in accordance with the Revised Process Plan and Schedule for the ILP issued September 14, 2015 by the Commission.

This March 1, 2016 USR is being filed electronically and by overnight delivery as indicated below. The USR provides a summary status table with a schedule for completion of studies not yet completed; study reports for studies that have been completed or are being filed as "interim reports"; and supplementary information related to some study reports.

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This USR includes the following electronic documents:

1. Status Summary of all Studies
2. Study Reports:
 - i. Study 1 – Historical Riverbank Position and Erosion Study Report
 - ii. Study 4 – Hydraulic Modeling Study Report
 - iii. Study 6 – Water Quality Monitoring Study Report
 - iv. Study 9 – Instream Flow Study Interim Report
 - v. Study 10 – Fish Assemblage Study Report, and Appendices filed in zipfile format
 - vi. Study 11 – American Eel Survey Report, and Appendices filed in Excel format
 - vii. Study 12 – Tessellated Darter Study Report, and Appendices filed in Excel format
 - viii. Study 14 and 15 – Resident Fish Spawning Study Interim Report (combined report)
 - ix. Study 16 – Sea Lamprey Spawning Assessment Interim Study Report, and Appendices filed in Excel format
 - x. Study 18 – American Eel Upstream Passage Assessment Study Report
 - xi. Study 30 – Recreation Facility Inventory and Use & Needs Assessment Study Report
 - xii. Study 31 – Whitewater Boating Flow Assessment Study Report
 - xiii. Study 32 – Bellows Falls Aesthetic Flow Study Report
 - xiv. Supporting Geodatabase with new or revised ArcGIS Shapefiles for Studies 1, 6, 12, 14/15, 16, and 30, filed in a single zipfile containing study-specific zipfiles.
3. This USR also includes a physically filed DVD (original and two copies) of supplementary video for Study 31.

In accordance with 18 C.F.R. § 5.15(c)(2), 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. Based upon consultation with FERC staff, TransCanada will hold its study meetings from 9:00am – 4:30pm on Thursday March 17 and March 18, 2016 in the conference room at TransCanada's River Operations Center (ROC) at Wilder Dam in Wilder, Vermont. 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. The proposed meeting agenda is attached to this letter.

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

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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. Study Meeting Agenda and WebEx Information
2. March 1, 2016 Updated Study Report

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

Updated Study Report Meeting Agenda

Thursday March 17, 2016

- 9 am – Introductions
- 9:15 - Summary of progress on the following ILP Studies:

Study No.	Study Title
1	Historical Riverbank Position and Erosion Study (Report filed 03/01/2016)
2	Riverbank Transect Study (Report not yet filed)
3	Riverbank Erosion Study (Report not yet filed)
4	Hydraulic Modeling Study (Report filed 03/01/2016)
5	Operations Modeling Study (Report not yet filed)
6	Water Quality Study (Report filed 03/01/2016)
7	Aquatic Habitat Mapping Study (Report filed 03/02/2015) – nothing to report
8	Channel Morphology and Benthic Habitat Study (Preliminary report filed 03/02/2015)
Break ~ 10:45 – 11:00	
30	Recreation Facility Inventory and Use & Needs Assessment (Report filed 03/01/2016)
31	Whitewater Boating Flow Assessment (Report filed 03/01/2016)
32	Bellows Falls Aesthetic Flow Study (Report filed 03/01/2016)
25	Dragonfly and Damselfly Inventory and Assessment (Report not yet filed)
26	Cobblestone and Puritan Tiger Beetle Survey (Report not yet filed)
27	Floodplain, Wetland, Riparian, and Littoral Vegetation Habitats Study (Report filed 09/14/2015)
28	Fowler's Toad Survey (Report not yet filed)
29	Northeastern Bulrush Survey (Report not yet filed)
Lunch ~ 12:15 – 12:45 pm - brought in	
10	Fish Assemblage Study (Report filed 03/01/2016)
11	American Eel Survey (Report filed 03/01/2016)
12	Tessellated Darter Survey (Report filed 03/01/2016)
16	Sea Lamprey Spawning Assessment (Preliminary report filed 03/01/2016)
17	Upstream Passage of Riverine Fish Species Assessment (Report not yet filed)
Break ~ 2:00 – 2:15	

Study No.	Study Title
19	American Eel Downstream Passage Assessment (Report not yet filed)
20	American Eel Downstream Migration Timing Assessment (Report not yet filed)
21	American Shad Telemetry Study (Report not yet filed)
22	Downstream Migration of Juvenile American Shad – Vernon (Report not yet filed)
23	Fish Impingement, Entrainment and Survival Study (Report not yet filed)
33	Cultural and Historic Resources Study (some reports not yet filed)
Questions Schedule for March 18 meeting	

Friday March 18, 2016

- 9 am – Introductions
- 9:15 - Summary of progress and consultation on the following ILP Studies:

Study No.	Study Title
13	Tributary and Backwater Fish Access and Habitats Study (Preliminary report filed 09/14/2015)
18	American Eel Upstream Passage Assessment (Report filed 03/01/2016)
14 and 15	Resident Fish Spawning in Impoundments and Riverine Sections Study (Preliminary report filed 03/01/2016)
Break ~ 11:00 – 11:15	
9	Instream Flow Study (Preliminary report filed 03/01/2016)
24	Dwarf Wedgemussel and Co-occurring Mussel Study – Delphi Panel and HSCs (Phase I Study report filed 09/15/2014, Phase II report filed 03/02/2015)
Lunch ~ 12:30 – 1:00 pm - brought in	
Questions Meeting summary to be filed, comments on USR due Schedule for additional reporting	

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

WebEx Meeting Access Information

Hydro Relicensing Updated Study Report Mtg. 3-17-16

Thursday, March 17, 2016

9:00 am | Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00) | 8 hrs

Click on the “Join WebEx meeting” link below

[Join WebEx meeting](#)

Meeting number: 923 610 846

Meeting password: Abcde12345

Join by phone

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

001-800-514-3550 Mexico toll free

Access code: 923 610 846

Hydro Relicensing Updated Study Report Mtg. 3-18-16

Friday, March 18, 2016

9:00 am | Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00) | 8 hrs

Click on the “Join WebEx meeting” link below

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Meeting number: 926 078 254

Meeting password: Abcde12345

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Access code: 926 078 254