

Tara Bamford, East Thetford, VT.
VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Comments on TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.'s Updated Study
Results for Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1855-045

April 29, 2016

Dear Secretary Bose,

Under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Act, the Connecticut River Joint Commissions Subcommittees have a responsibility to consider and comment on any federal, state, or local governmental plans to approve, license, fund or construct facilities that would alter the resource values and characteristics for which the river or segment is designated. (RSA 483-8a) The resource values upon which the river designation was based included: geologic, wildlife, plant and fish resources; water quality; scenic values; water withdrawals; wastewater discharges; hydroelectric resources; historic and archaeological resources; community resources; and recreational resources. The CRJC Mount Ascutney Subcommittee fulfills this role for the segment of Connecticut River on which the Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project is located. I provide staff support to this Subcommittee including meeting minutes.

On March 8, the CRJC Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee met and discussed the Updated Study Results for the Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project. The Subcommittee members present voted unanimously to request, in light of the ongoing issues around riverbank erosion and siltation, that FERC in issuing the new permit for this facility, consider the following three permit conditions:

1. Require the owner to establish a mitigation fund for riverbank restoration and stabilization projects to protect public and private property.
2. Require that the operational model be optimized to manage ramping in a manner that will minimize riverbank erosion.
3. Requiring a revenue sharing arrangement in return for the use of these public waters for private profit.

Thank you for considering the comments of the CRJC Mount Ascutney Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Tara E. Bamford

On behalf of the CRJC Mount Ascutney Subcommittee

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