

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST INC.

Wilder Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1892-026)
Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1855-045)
Vernon Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1904-073)

June 17, 2016 Updated Study Report
Status Summary of all Studies

June 17, 2016

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INTRODUCTION

TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. (TransCanada) is the owner and licensee of the Wilder Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1892) (Wilder Project), the Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1855) (Bellows Falls Project), and the Vernon Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1904) (Vernon Project) on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont. The Wilder Project, the Bellows Falls Project, and the Vernon Project are collectively referred to herein as the “TransCanada Projects.” The FERC licenses for these projects expire on April 30, 2019.

Background on USR Filings

An Updated Study Report (USR) was filed on September 14, 2015 and the Updated Study Results Meeting was held on October 1 and 2, 2015. A meeting summary was filed on October 14, 2015. Written comments on the USR were received and TransCanada filed a response to those comments on December 14, 2015. The Director issued a Study Plan Determination (SPD) on January 15, 2016 withholding staff determinations on stakeholder-requested study modifications to ILP Studies 3, 5, 13, 14, 15, and 18 pending completion of those studies.

Also on September 14, 2015 the Director issued a Revised Process Plan and Schedule for the Connecticut River Projects that identified March 1, 2016 as a “target” filing deadline for Updated Study Reports on studies yet to be completed. Any remaining study reports that could not be filed by March 1, 2016 would be identified along with a respective filing date.

A second USR was filed on March 1, 2016 and the associated Updated Study Results Meeting was held on March 17 and 18, 2016. A meeting summary was filed on March 31, 2016. Written comments on the second USR were received from numerous stakeholders and TransCanada intend filed a response to those comments on June 14, 2016.

On May 5, 2016 the Director issued a Revised Process Plan and Schedule for the Connecticut River Projects that identified May 15, 2016 (a Sunday, May 16 being the next business day) as the filing deadline for Updated Study Reports on most studies not completed by the March 1, 2016 filing; and August 1, 2016 as the filing deadline for the remaining studies that are not yet complete. Due to the need to conduct additional analysis of hydraulic and operations model data not all reports listed in the Commission’s current schedule for filing by May 15, 2015 were ready to be filed. Commission staff was consulted and TransCanada proposed a target date of June 17, 2016 for completion and distribution of those reports in order to provide the reports to stakeholders for review and consultation prior to the final study report filing deadline of August 1, 2016. Four of the 10 study reports anticipated to be filed by the target date of June 17, 2016 are in review and will be filed as soon as possible but no later than August 1, 2016. Those studies and their status are included in the USR status summary table that follows.

June 17, 2016 Updated Study Report

This June 17, 2016 (fourth) Updated Study Report (USR) includes:

1. Final ILP Study Reports filed separately:
 - i. Study 4 – Hydraulic Modeling Study – Revised Final Report (addresses stakeholder comments)
 - ii. Study 13 – Tributary and Backwater Area Fish Access and Habitats Study, Appendices B and C filed separately as Excel spreadsheets
 - iii. Study 20 – American Eel Downstream Migration Timing Assessment
 - iv. Study 25 – Dragonfly and Damselfly Inventory and Assessment, Appendix D filed separately as an Excel spreadsheet
 - v. Study 26 – Cobblestone and Puritan Tiger Beetle Survey (Public and Privileged versions)
 - vi. Study 28 – Fowler’s Toad Survey (Public and Privileged versions)
 - vii. Study 29 – Northeastern Bulrush Survey (Public and Privileged version)
 - viii. Supporting Geodatabase with ArcGIS Shapefiles for Study 29 (Privileged)
2. Status Summary of all ILP Studies (herein).

Updated Study Results Meeting – to be announced.

Status Summary of All ILP Studies

The table below summarizes the current status of all 33 ILP studies and provides an anticipated schedule for completion for each study.

Study No.	Study Title	Status as of 06/17/2016	Next Steps and Remaining Activities	Anticipated Filing Deadline
1	Historical Riverbank Position and Erosion Study	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	None	n/a
2	Riverbank Transect Study	In progress	Completion of data analysis, incorporate Operations Model output into analysis, finalize and file report	08/01/2016
3	Riverbank Erosion Study	In progress	Completion of data analysis, incorporate Operations Model output into analysis, finalize and file report	08/01/2016
4	Hydraulic Modeling Study	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016 Revised Report being filed in this USR June 17, 2016	None	Presently
5	Operations Modeling Study	In progress	Generate model output for studies that remain in progress, analyze sub-hourly effects as needed, and analyze alternative operating scenarios proposed.	08/01/2016 Final report with alternatives analysis pending consultation on resource studies

Study No.	Study Title	Status as of 06/17/2016	Next Steps and Remaining Activities	Anticipated Filing Deadline
6	Water Quality Study	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	Revise report to address stakeholder comments	08/01/2016
7	Aquatic Habitat Mapping Study	Initial Report filed 09/15/2014 Final Report filed 03/02/2015	None	n/a
8	Channel Morphology and Benthic Habitat Study	Initial report filed 03/02/2015 Revised report filed 05/16/16	Address stakeholder feedback (due by 07/14/2016)	Response to Stakeholders 08/1/2016
9	Instream Flow Study	Interim Report filed 03/01/2016	Stakeholder feedback on consultation on habitat time series, dual flow analysis, and incorporating DWM HSC's. Report addendum to follow feedback.	08/01/2016 FERC current schedule Pending stakeholder feedback
10	Fish Assemblage Study	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	Revise report to address stakeholder comments	08/01/2016 (or sooner)
11	American Eel Survey	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	None	n/a
12	Tessellated Darter Survey	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	Revise report to address stakeholder comments	08/01/2016 (or sooner)
13	Tributary and Backwater Fish Access and Habitats Study	[Preliminary] Report filed 09/14/2015 Report being filed in this USR 06/14/2016	Pending comments and stakeholder feedback	Presently

Study No.	Study Title	Status as of 06/17/2016	Next Steps and Remaining Activities	Anticipated Filing Deadline
14 and 15	Resident Fish Spawning in Impoundments Study and Resident Fish Spawning in Riverine Sections Study	Consolidated Interim Report filed 03/01/2016.	Further analysis and final report based upon hydraulic and operations model output	08/01/2016 (or sooner)
16	Sea Lamprey Spawning Assessment	Interim Report filed 03/01/2016	Further analysis and final report based upon hydraulic and operations model output	08/01/2016 (or sooner)
17	Upstream Passage of Riverine Fish Species Assessment	Report Filed 05/16/16	Address stakeholder feedback (due by 07/14/2016)	Response to Stakeholders 08/13/2016
18	American Eel Upstream Passage Assessment	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	Consult with stakeholders on approach to conduct additional study at Vernon in 2016	Fall/Winter 2016
19	American Eel Downstream Passage Assessment	Report Filed 05/16/16	Address stakeholder feedback (due by 07/14/2016)	Response to Stakeholders 08/13/2016
20	American Eel Downstream Migration Timing Assessment	Report being filed in this USR June 17, 2016	Pending comments and stakeholder feedback	Presently
21	American Shad Telemetry Study - Vernon	In progress	Pending comments and stakeholder feedback	08/01/2016 (or sooner)
22	Downstream Migration of Juvenile American Shad - Vernon	Report Filed 05/16/16	Address stakeholder feedback (due by 07/14/2016)	Response to Stakeholders 08/13/2016
23	Fish Impingement, Entrainment, and Survival Study	Report Filed 05/16/16	Address stakeholder feedback (due by 07/14/2016)	Response to Stakeholders 08/13/2016

Study No.	Study Title	Status as of 06/17/2016	Next Steps and Remaining Activities	Anticipated Filing Deadline
24	Dwarf Wedgemussel and Co-occurring Mussel Study	Delphi panel report filed 05/16/2016 Phase 1 and Phase 2 study reports were filed 09/15/2014 and 03/02/2015, respectively	Habitat Suitability Index (or Curve) finalization; stakeholder consultation, and modeling, and final report.	HSC finalization and modeling pending stakeholder feedback 08/01/2016 Final Report
25	Dragonfly and Damselfly Inventory and Assessment	Report being filed in this USR June 17, 2016	Pending comments and stakeholder feedback	Presently
26	Cobblestone and Puritan Tiger Beetle Survey	Report being filed in this USR June 17, 2016	Pending comments and stakeholder feedback	Presently
27	Floodplain, Wetland, Riparian, and Littoral Vegetation Habitats Study	Preliminary Report filed 09/14/2015	Complete analysis based upon hydraulic and operations model output and final report	08/01/2016 (or sooner)
28	Fowler's Toad Survey	Report being filed in this USR June 17, 2016	Pending comments and stakeholder feedback	Presently
29	Northeastern Bulrush Survey	Report being filed in this USR June 17, 2016	Pending comments and stakeholder feedback	Presently
30	Recreation Facility Inventory and Use & Needs Assessment	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	None	n/a
31	Whitewater Boating Flow Assessment - Bellows Falls and Sumner Falls	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	None	n/a
32	Bellows Falls Aesthetic Flow Study	Report filed 03/01/2016 Response to comments filed 06/14/2016	Assess additional low flows, analysis, revise report	08/01/2016 (or sooner)

Study No.	Study Title	Status as of 06/17/2016	Next Steps and Remaining Activities	Anticipated Filing Deadline
33	Cultural and Historic Resources Study	<p>In progress</p> <p>Traditional Cultural Properties Report filed 05/16/2016.</p> <p>Phase IB Archaeological Identification Surveys – Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Projects filed March 23, 2016</p>	<p>Pending comments and stakeholder feedback on TCP Report and Phase 1B surveys</p> <p>Phase II Archaeological Site Evaluation Surveys – Wilder and Vernon Projects.</p>	<p>08/01/2016 Phase II Survey Report (or sooner)</p>