

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426
September 18, 2013

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 1892-026 – New Hampshire / Vermont
Project No. 1855-045 – New Hampshire / Vermont
Project No. 1904-073 – New Hampshire / Vermont
TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.

Mr. John Ragonese
Relicensing Project Manager
TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.
4 Park Street, Suite 402
Concord NH 03301

Reference: Notification of October 15, 2013 Technical Meeting

Dear Mr. Ragonese:

On September 13, 2013, the Commission issued its study plan determination for the relicensing of the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon hydroelectric projects. However, on August 27, 2013, Entergy announced its plan to discontinue operations of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (Vermont Yankee) in 2014. Vermont Yankee withdraws its cooling water from and discharges it back to TransCanada Hydro Northeast's (TransCanada) Vernon reservoir. As such, our study plan determination did not address any studies pertaining to aquatic resources because implementation of these studies may produce unusable data if conducted while Vermont Yankee is still operating.¹ Instead, we proposed to hold a technical meeting to obtain more information on the proposed Vermont Yankee decommissioning and hear from TransCanada and stakeholders on any necessary adjustments to the proposed and requested study designs and/or schedules. The time and location of the technical meeting is as follows:

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 9:00 AM
Location: Marlboro College Graduate School, Room 2 East
28 Vernon Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
Grad School Common Area, 1st Floor
(802) 258-9200

¹ Appendix A includes a list of the 21 differed studies.

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During the technical meeting we will work with TransCanada and stakeholders to: (1) identify aquatic resource studies not affected by operations of Vermont Yankee, that may be implemented in 2014; (2) identify aquatic resource studies' likely affected by operations of Vermont Yankee; and (3) identify any aquatic resource studies that may need modification due to the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. A stenographer will record the technical meeting, and meeting transcripts will be placed into the Commission's public records for the proceedings.

If you have any questions regarding the technical meeting please call me at: (202) 502-8434 or email me at: Kenneth.Hogan@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Hogan
Project Coordinator
West Branch

Enclosures: Appendix A – List of Proposed and requested studies that we have identified as potentially affected by the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee

cc: Mailing List
Public Files

APPENDIX A

LIST OF PROPOSED AND REQUESTED STUDIES THAT WE HAVE IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE DECOMMISSIONING OF VERMONT YANKEE

Study	Recommending Entities
6 -- Water Quality Monitoring and Continuous Temperature Monitoring	TransCanada
7 -- Aquatic Habitat Mapping	TransCanada
8 -- Channel Morphology and Benthic Habitat Study	TransCanada
9 -- Instream Flow Study	TransCanada
10 -- Fish Assemblage Study	TransCanada
11 -- American Eel Survey	TransCanada
12 -- Tessellated Darter Survey	TransCanada
13 -- Tributary and Backwater Area Fish Access and Habitats Study	TransCanada
14 -- Resident Fish Spawning in Impoundments Study	TransCanada
15 -- Resident Fish Spawning in Riverine Sections Study	TransCanada
16 -- Sea Lamprey Spawning Assessment	TransCanada
17 -- Upstream Passage of Riverine Fish Species Assessment	TransCanada
18 -- American Eel Upstream Passage Assessment	TransCanada
19 -- American Eel Downstream Passage Assessment	TransCanada
20 -- American Eel Downstream Migration Timing Assessment	TransCanada
21 -- American Shad Telemetry Study – Vernon	TransCanada
22 -- Downstream Migration of Juvenile American Shad - Vernon	TransCanada
23 -- Fish Impingement, Entrainment, and Survival Study	TransCanada
24 - Dwarf Wedgemussel (<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>) and Co-Occurring Mussel Study	TransCanada
25 -- Dragonfly and Damselfly Inventory and Assessment	TransCanada
New -- Vernon Hydroacoustic Study	FWS, NHFGD, VANR

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