

UPPER VALLEY  
LAND TRUST

February 28, 2013

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

REF: Wilder Dam, Connecticut River , FERC NO. 1892-026  
REF: Bellows Falls Dam, FERC No. 1855-045  
TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc.

COMMENTS ON THE PRE-APPLICATION DOCUMENTS, ENDORSEMENT OF STUDY REQUESTS

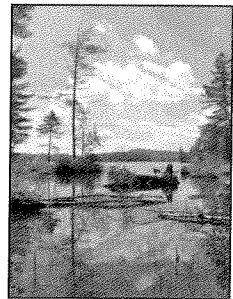
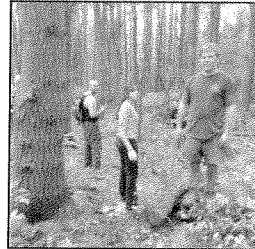
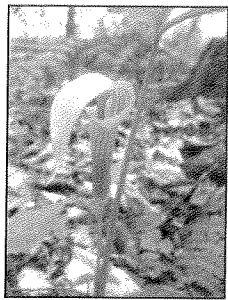
Dear Ms. Bose:

The Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT), a 501(c)3 land conservancy operating in the above-referenced project areas since 1985, strongly supports requests for studies of shoreline erosion and water quality as it relates to operations of the dams.

Shoreline erosion in the reservoir above the Wilder Dam, and along downstream reaches, is a critical issue affecting UVLT's land conservation mission. Millions of dollars of public (federal, state and local) and private funds have been invested in the purchase of permanent conservation easements to protect world class agricultural soils along the Connecticut River. When this land is lost to shoreline erosion, the investment is wasted. UVLT is working with numerous conservation partners to identify land management practices that might help to stem soil loss. It is also vitally important to collect information to determine whether dam operations are a factor and if so, whether changes in operations could help to save high quality farmland.

We understand several such study requests have recently been submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by our conservation partners, including the NH Department of Environmental Services, and other stakeholders impacted by shoreline erosion.

Connecticut River Valley farmland soil is an irreplaceable resource. Erosion negatively impacts floodplains and wetlands, degrades water quality and has significant economic and environmental costs. UVLT works in 45 towns in the Connecticut River watershed, including the Connecticut River towns of Ryegate, Newbury, Bradford, Fairlee, Thetford, Norwich, Hartford, Hartland, Windsor, Weathersfield and Springfield in Vermont, and Bath, Haverhill,



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19 Buck Road  
Hanover, NH 03755  
603.643.6626  
www.UVLT.org



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Piermont, Orford, Lyme, Hanover, Lebanon, Plainfield, Cornish, Claremont and Charlestown in New Hampshire. UVLT has conserved approximately 37 miles of frontage on the Connecticut River and maintains 8 canoe campsites along the River as a founding member organization of the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail.

In the past 27 years, UVLT has conserved over 43,000 acres of land in the watershed including productive working lands, wildlife habitat, water resources, scenic resources, and recreational opportunities. We believe that the requested erosion scoping studies will contribute positively to effective conservation strategies for riverfront lands and will protect the valuable conservation investments that have been made to date. Therefore, the UVLT Board of Trustees respectfully urges that this important research be conducted prior to relicensing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris S Nesbitt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christopher S. Nesbitt, Vice-Chair

For the Board of Trustees