

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOEA No.: 14286
 MEPA Analyst: Beiona Angus
 Phone: 617-626-1029

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Connecticut River Bank Stabilization Projects		
Street: Turners Falls Pool of Connecticut River, Northfield, Gill and Montague, MA		
Municipality: Gill	Watershed: Connecticut River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Approximate: Bathory-Gallagher"Kaufhold" 42 37.350'N 72 29.036'W Gill, Upper Split River 2, 18 706368E 4721562N Gill, Upper Split River 1 Gill Split River, 18 705765E 4719865N	Latitude: Longitude: Approximate: Bathory-Gallagher"Kaufhold" 42 37.350'N 72 29.036'W Gill, Upper Split River 2, 18 706368E 4721562N Gill, Upper Split River 1 Gill Split River, 18 705765E 4719865N	
Estimated commencement date: 2009 to 2012	Estimated completion date: 2009 to 2012	
Approximate cost: \$1.5 million	Status of project design: 50% %complete	
Proponent: FirstLight Hydro Generating Co		
Street: c/o Northfield Mountain, 99 Millers Falls Road		
Municipality: Northfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01360
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Karro Frost		
Firm/Agency: New England Environmental, Inc.	Street: 9 Research Drive	
Municipality: Amherst	State: MA	Zip Code: 01002
Phone: 413-256-0202	Fax: 413-256-1092	E-mail: kfrost@neeinc.com

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. 8162) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. 8162) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

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Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): JUL 15 2008

MEPA

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?

Yes (Specify Army Corps of Engineers, Gill and Montague Conservation Commissions, MA DEP, NHESP) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

Notices of Intent will be filed with the applicable town conservation commissions and MA DEI A PGP will be filed with the ACOE. In the past, similar projects have not required a Chapter 9 permit or a 401 Water Quality Cert. The need for these permits will be based on the final design plan selected and pre-permitting discussions with MA DEP.

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	N/A			
New acres of land altered		5.5		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration (Riverfront Area)		250,000		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0	
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

MESA

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No **Land owned by Michael Bathory and Maryanne Gallagher has a conservation restriction but a release of this CR is not expected.**

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify **The area of work is illustrated as being within both estimated habitat of rare wildlife and priority habitat of rare species. NEE, on behalf of FirstLight Hydro Generating Co., has been working with NHESP to evaluate potential impacts to rare species in the project areas. Results of this work has been submitted to NHESP within a MESA application.**) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify: **Archaeological sites are located in the vicinity of each site. Plans for each site are designed to avoid the archaeological sites.**) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

This project is being proposed to address ongoing riverbank erosion in the Turners Falls Pool section of the Connecticut River. Bank erosion within this section of the Connecticut River has been caused by a combination of natural and human activities over many years, including spring floods, ice scour, boat wakes, agricultural practices and fluctuating water levels. During the Phase I work period of 1996 through 2000 Northeast Generation Services completed bioengineering bank stabilization projects on approximately 5,140 linear feet of Bank in five different locations within the Towns of Northfield and Gill. These projects were considered demonstration projects of bioengineering techniques for bank stabilization. The methods included the use of native plant materials and erosion control materials to stabilize the banks of the river. During Phase II, nine additional projects were proposed and constructed (2001 to 2007) in the towns of Northfield, Gill, Montague and Vernon, Vermont for a total of 6450 linear feet in Massachusetts, and 915 linear feet in Vermont. Additionally, two preventative maintenance projects (no machinery) were designed and permitted under the Phase II work, and will be constructed in 2008. Each of the preventative maintenance projects in Gill and Montague are approximately 1000 linear feet. The total Phase II bank stabilization work is 9,365 linear feet.

This ENF is being submitted for Phase III of this project to address the ongoing riverbank erosion that has been identified within the Connecticut River. Four sites in Gill, with a total of approximately 4975 linear feet are presently proposed to be built.

No off-site alternatives are being considered. Bank stabilization work in the Turners Falls Pool

section of the Connecticut River is mandated by the FERC license for the operation of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility. A no-build alternative will result in the continued riverbank erosion and sedimentation of the Connecticut River Turners Falls pool.

Soil bioengineering techniques are proposed for the bank stabilization at the sites included in this ENF. The methods to be utilized include the use of woody debris, biodegradable erosion control materials, stone, and native riparian vegetation. Each site has different characteristic design requirements, some sites have included the use of stone at the toe of the slope, erosion control materials, and native vegetation to stabilize the eroding riverbank and slopes.

LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section

I. Thresholds / Permits

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to **land** (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))
 Yes No; if yes, specify each threshold:

II. Impacts and Permits

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
Footprint of buildings	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Other altered areas (describe)			

approximately 4975 linear feet of bank along the Connecticut River. The area is undeveloped and the intent of the project is to restore and stabilize the eroding slopes. Also approximately 250,000 square feet of Riverfront Area.

Undeveloped areas

See above.

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
 Yes No; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use? None.

One of the project goals is to protect prime agricultural lands from erosion. Agricultural activities are adjacent to the eroded riverbanks, but the proposed bank stabilization will not result in the loss of farm land, it is intended to protect agricultural land from loss due to erosion.

C. Is any part of the project site currently or proposed to be in active forestry use?
 Yes No; if yes, please describe current and proposed forestry activities and indicate whether any part of the site is the subject of a DEM-approved forest management plan:

D. Does any part of the project involve conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No; if yes, describe:

E. Is any part of the project site currently subject to a conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No; if yes, does the project involve the release or modification of such restriction? Yes No; if yes, describe:

The Split River Farm is under APR

The Bathory-Gallagher parcel is under a Conservation Restriction held by the DCR. Final plans for stabilizing this parcel will be sent to the land owners and DCR for approval prior to construction.

F. Does the project require approval of a new urban redevelopment project or a fundamental change in an existing urban redevelopment project under M.G.L.c.121A? Yes No; if yes, describe: