

Project No. 5379-008

Project No. P-5379-008—New Hampshire
Hadley Falls Project
New Hampshire Department of
Environmental Services

Date: 07/16/2025

Shana M. Wiseman, Chief
Environmental and Project Review Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance

Re: Plan and Schedule to Surrender the Hadley Falls Hydroelectric Project

Dear Ms. Wiseman:

I am writing to provide an update regarding the surrender of the Hadley Falls Hydroelectric Project (P-5379-008) in Goffstown, New Hampshire.

Below is the current Plan and Schedule for filing a surrender application.

- On October 16, 2023, NHDES submitted an application to the NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant. This grant application included the request for \$6,479,694 to fund the design and construction to remove Hadley Falls Dam and to provide community improvements and fish passage at the site of Hadley Falls Dam once the dam is removed. NHDES was informed in mid-2024 that the removal of Hadley Falls Dam was not selected as a project to receive grant funds.
- Following that notification, NHDES worked with our engineering consultant for Hadley Falls Dam to prepare a technical memo evaluating five alternatives for addressing Hadley Falls Dam. In September 2024, NHDES received the memo outlining options that included complete removal, removal with river restoration, removal with river restoration and development of public recreation areas, removal and replacement with a new dam featuring fish passage, and removal and replacement without fish passage. Each alternative was assessed based on design parameters, permitting implications, constructability, FEMA floodplain analysis, cost estimates, and comparative positives and negatives. While replacement of the dam is not being pursued, it was included to provide a clear picture of costs associated with keeping or removing Hadley Falls Dam.
- In early 2025 NHDES determined that the most appropriate solution was to pursue removal of Hadley Falls Dam and to restore the Piscataquog River within the footprint of the former impoundment.

- On April 11, 2025, NHDES allocated additional funding to our engineering consultant for the characterization of sediment within the Hadley Falls Dam impoundment. With this approval the consultant will conduct a detailed sediment sampling plan that aims to screen for contaminants in the sediment behind the dam to inform future handling and disposal and will guide the appropriate course of action for sediment management when Hadley Falls Dam is removed.
- On May 30, 2025, NHDES applied for funding the removal of Hadley Falls Dam through the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Program hosted by the NHDES Land Management Resources Bureau. The ARM fund uses funds from In-Lieu Fee (ILF) mitigation payments to finance projects that replace, restore, or protect aquatic resources within the same watershed. NHDES applied for \$4,510,464 in funding to design and permit the removal of Hadley Falls Dam, remove Hadley Falls Dam, remove contaminated sediment as necessary, and restore the Piscataquog River in the former impoundment. For the 2025 grant round, pre-proposal reviews are ongoing, with full proposals due by September 5, 2025, and awards announced in early 2026.

To ensure NHDES is meeting FERC requirements for the surrender application, NHDES would like to submit a full design with the surrender application that addresses all outstanding deficiencies at the structure. Should NHDES not receive grant funding for the design and removal, NHDES will request funding through the State of New Hampshire legislative process in the spring of 2026 to prepare plans and specifications for the removal of Hadley Falls Dam and to complete the full removal. If NHDES is successful in that request, then design and removal would start in 2028.

Therefore, while NHDES does not have a specific date for filing a surrender application, NHDES is committed to the process and will include submitting the application as part of the future design process.

We trust that this plan and schedule are responsive, but please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Corey Clark, P.E.
Chief Engineer
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302


Signature

cc: Town of Goffstown, 16 Main Street, Goffstown, NH 03045