



Town of Goffstown

TOWN OFFICES

16 MAIN STREET • GOFFSTOWN, NH 03045

August 21, 2025

Sent via Email / Original via First Class USPS

Corey Clark, Chief Engineer

NH Department of Environmental Services, Water Division, Dam Bureau

29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95

Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: NHDES Request for Letter of Support for the Hadley Falls Dam Removal Project

Mr. Clark,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Goffstown River Advisory Committee in response to your August 8, 2025 request for a letter supporting the NHDES application seeking Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Program funding for the Hadley Falls Dam Removal and River Restoration Project.

The Goffstown River Advisory Committee is concerned that the project will have negative impacts on recreational benefits and the community's identity; however, the Committee is aware of the issues at Hadley Falls Dam and the need to address safety to reduce the risk of loss of life at this location. The Committee is also aware of the challenges NHDES faces with Kelley Falls Dam impacting Goffstown property owners, as well as the limited State funding available to NHDES to address necessary repairs and reconstruction of 276 state-owned dams throughout the state.

Unfortunately, the Goffstown River Advisory Committee cannot support your application for ARM funding at this time, due to many unanswered questions and local concerns.



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The Committee had the following questions and concerns about the Hadley Falls Dam Removal and River Restoration Project.

- The Committee understands the need address the stability of Hadley Falls Dam and reduce the risk of loss of life, but when measuring Comparative Positives & Negatives of Alternative 2 - Removal with River Restoration in the Hadley Falls Dam Alternatives Analysis (Prepared by: Gannett Fleming, Inc.), the report states: *“A drawback of this alternative is that although access to the newly restored floodplain within the former reservoir will be created, the recreational benefits of the former dam most likely outweigh this proposed public benefit.”*
 - Why has NHDES chosen to pursue Alternative 2, when the loss of recreational benefit outweighs the public benefit of dam removal and river restoration?
 - Alternative 3 - Removal with River Restoration and Public Recreation Areas addresses the recreational losses of the dam and the impact to the residents of Goffstown. Why isn't NHDES pursuing ARM grant funding for Alternative 3?
- The project will have a lasting impact on the community and the adjacent property owners.
 - How will the project address the loss of the dam impoundment, specifically the impact on the village aesthetic and community identity?
 - How will site access through Town owned property and private property be handled to allow the project construction? How will the construction impacts of the project (noise, vibration, dust) on surrounding property owners and businesses be ameliorated?
- The ARM Fund 2025 Grant Project Budget Template provided to the Committee includes \$80,000 to fund FEMA CLOMR (Conditional Letter of Map Revision) for the project. Would it be more appropriate for the project to include funds in the grant to pursue a FEMA LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) to update the Flood Hazard Boundary Map, Flood Insurance Rate Map, Flood Boundary and Floodway Map, and Flood Insurance Study Report in this area? Will the Town of Goffstown be left with the burden of pursuing a FEMA LOMR because of this project?



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- The project will impact the river course. This new river course may impact property boundaries along the river and may result in erosion issues in the future. How will NHDES support impacted property owners once the new river course is established?
- Additionally, the Committee has concerns about how this project aligns with the Kelley Falls Dam fish passage project. It is understood NHDES currently has a pending application with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for funding to complete the design and permitting for the fish ladder, trap and transport facility at Kelley Falls Dam. What assurances can NHDES make about the Kelley Falls Dam fish passage project and protection of property values on Namaske Lake?

The Goffstown River Advisory Committee will not be able to meet again before your application deadline, but the Goffstown Select Board will take up your request for a letter of support on Monday, August 25, 2025.

The Goffstown River Advisory Committee recognizes the importance of addressing the safety concerns at Hadley Falls Dam and appreciates the efforts of NHDES in seeking solutions. A collaborative approach would be beneficial in addressing the concerns raised by our community. Town officials can work together with NHDES to explore alternative solutions that balance safety, recreational benefits, and community identity. By engaging in open dialogue and joint planning, we can ensure that the project meets the needs of all stakeholders and achieves the best possible outcome for the residents of Goffstown.

If you have specific questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Derek M Horne

Derek M. Horne, Town Administrator

(603) 497-8990

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Cc: Members, Goffstown River Advisory Committee
Members, Goffstown Select Board