



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Courtney Dohoney
Ecology and Environment, Inc.
1501 Lee Highway, Suite 306
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Ms. Dohoney:

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (Department) has reviewed the “Fisheries Work Plan for the Northern Pass Transmission Project” by Normandeau Environmental Consultants, dated November 7, 2012 and sent to John Magee, NHFG; Anthony Tur, USFWS; Michael Johnson, NMFS; with a cc to Carol Henderson, NHFG; Stacy Lemieux, USFS; Brian Bosse, PSNH. The Department offers the following comments and questions.

- 1) “Stream crossing” should be defined. It is not clear if “stream crossing” refers to something different than the right-of-way.
- 2) In “aquatic habitat are identified as being potentially effected due to construction”, “effected” should be “affected”.
- 3) We suggest that you add that underlined below into the following sentence: “Where possible, a stream length of 35 times the mean stream width (at normal base flow), or a length equal to three complete riffle pool sequences, whichever is greater in length, will be sampled by electrofishing at each ROW site.”
- 4) The Department requests that you do multiple pass electrofishing at each site, with a minimum number of three electrofishing passes. This will provide the data necessary to determine any potential impacts to fish communities along the ROW.
- 5) Water temperature should be recorded, including the time temperature is measured, to tenths of a degree C, both on the upstream and downstream sides of the ROW, at the time of the fish surveys using a calibrated digital thermometer, and at the same locations using automated temperature loggers that record hourly from May 15 – September 15. Ultimately, the temperature data will be used for two purposes: 1) to establish a general understanding of the summer thermal regime at each site and 2) to determine if the existing ROW influences the water temperature of the stream.
- 6) The Rosgen (e.g., C2, B2, E5, etc) stream type should be visually estimated at each stream crossing, in the ROW and the control site for that crossing.
- 7) Regarding, “Photography will be used to document all individuals identified as (or suspected to be) a RTE species for additional confirmation during quality control procedures. All live fish will be returned to the water immediately after measurements are taken. In the case of a mortality of a suspected RTE species, the specimen will be preserved for laboratory confirmation.”, will you photograph them out of water and before they are preserved? In what solution will you preserve a mortality?

- 8) We request that, prior to any fish surveys or any other surveys of the stream along the route, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department be contacted to confirm the list of survey sites. The Department may at that time reduce or increase the number of sites for fish surveys and/or aquatic habitat surveys where the powerlines currently are proposed to cross streams. It would be best to conduct these surveys in each stream crossed by the proposed powerline corridor.
- 9) Regarding the report: will the report contain tables of the data collected? Will it include the electronic data of fish and habitat? The Department prefers that the electronic data be sent to the Department.

Sincerely,

Carol Henderson
Environmental Review Coordinator

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