



Boott Hydropower, LLC
Subsidiary of Central Rivers Power US, LLC
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Via eFiling

November 1, 2021

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

**Re: Lowell Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2790-074);
Updated Study Report**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Boott Hydropower, LLC (Boott), a subsidiary of Central Rivers Power US, LLC, is the Licensee, owner, and operator of the 20-megawatt Lowell Hydroelectric Project (Project) (FERC No. 2790). Boott operates and maintains the Project under license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission). The Project's existing license expires on April 30, 2023. Boott is pursuing a new license for the Project using the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) as defined in 18 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 5.

On June 12, 2020 the Commission issued a *Revised Process Plan and Schedule and Determination on Requests for Study Modifications for the Lowell Hydroelectric Project* (Revised PPS). In accordance with the Revised PPS, on September 30, 2020, Boott filed the Revised Initial Study Report (ISR) containing the following studies: Downstream American Eel Passage Assessment; Juvenile Alosine Downstream Passage Assessment; Upstream and Downstream Adult Alosine Passage Assessment; Fish Assemblage Study; and the Recreation and Aesthetics Study. The Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 5.15(c)(2) and the Revised PPS require Boott hold a Revised ISR Meeting with relicensing participants and FERC staff within 15 days of filing the Revised ISR. Accordingly, Boott held the Revised ISR Meeting on October 15, 2020. Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.15 of the Commission's regulations, FERC issued a *Determination on Requests for Study Modifications for the Lowell Hydroelectric Project* (February 2021 Study Determination) on February 2, 2021.

On February 25, 2021, Boott filed a second Revised ISR containing the following studies: Fish Passage Survival Study; Three-Dimensional Computational Fluid Dynamics Modeling Study (3-D CFD); Instream Flow Habitat Assessment and Zone of Passage Study in the Bypassed Reach; Resources, Ownership, Boundaries, and Land Rights Study; Water Level and Flow Effects on

Historic Resources Study; Historically Significant Waterpower Equipment Study; and Operation Analysis of the Lowell Canal Study. Boott also filed an updated Recreation and Aesthetics Study report and additional information on the upstream fish ladder in accordance with the February 2021 Study Determination. Additionally, to address minor agency comments from the October 15, 2020 Revised ISR Meeting, Boott filed an updated Downstream American Eel Passage Assessment; Fish Assemblage Study; and Juvenile Alosine Downstream Passage Assessment.

On June 23, 2021, FERC issued a *Determination on Requests for Study Modifications for the Lowell Hydroelectric Project* (June 2021 Study letter). This letter recommended that Boott file an Updated Study Report for all completed studies, and to file the initial Whitewater Boating and Access Study. Notably, on January 19, 2021, Boott verbally informed the Commission that the Whitewater Boating and Access Study could not be completed in time to file an ISR in February 2021 due to lack of sufficient river flow. Additionally, Boott recently conducted in-person site reconnaissance of the bypassed reach during lower flows. During this site visit, Boott noted safety concerns related to debris in the bypassed reach, primarily rebar, that needs to be further evaluated and considered in the Safety Plan. In the Quarter 2 2021 Progress Report, Boott included photos of the rebar found in the bypassed reach, and a map showing the main area of concern that needs to be further evaluated with AW (American Whitewater). Boott is currently working with AW to evaluate safety concerns associated with rebar in the bypassed reach, as well as monitoring the National Weather Service's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service for the Merrimack River at Lowell to evaluate if predicted river flows are adequate to perform the study. Boott will continue to monitor flow forecasts and will execute the study as soon as possible.

In accordance with the June 2021 Study Letter, Boott is filing Updated Study Reports for the following studies: Downstream American Eel Passage Assessment; Juvenile Alosine Downstream Passage Assessment; Upstream and Downstream Adult Alosine Passage Assessment; Fish Passage Survival Study; Fish Assemblage Study; Instream Flow Habitat Assessment and Zone of Passage Study in the Bypassed Reach; Resources, Ownership, Boundaries, and Land Rights Study; Water Level and Flow Effects on Historic Resources Study; Historically Significant Waterpower Equipment Study; Recreation and Aesthetics Study; Operation Analysis of the Lowell Canal Study; and the 3-D CFD Study.¹

Boott will hold a Study Report Meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 16, 2021. Boott will hold this meeting by a video conference call and will provide the meeting information to the distribution list several days beforehand. To allow for adequate planning, Boott

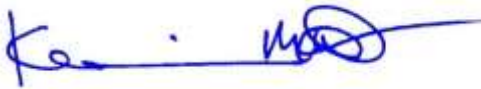
¹ Based on ongoing consultation with the Merrimack River Technical Committee, Boott anticipates minor additional changes to the 3-D CFD Study. Boott intends to submit the final 3-D CFD Report by December 31, 2021.

respectfully requests that those planning to attend RSVP by emailing Kelsey Scott with HDR at Kelsey.Scott@hdrinc.com on or before November 8, 2021.

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.15(c)(3) and the June 2021 Study letter, Boott will file a Study Report Meeting Summary with the Commission on or before December 1, 2021. Within 30 days of the filing of the Study Report Meeting Summary (i.e., December 31, 2021), stakeholders may file a disagreement with the summary and/or any proposals to modify ongoing studies with the Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (978) 935-6039 or kwebb@centralriverspower.com if you have any questions concerning this submittal.

Sincerely,
Boott Hydropower, LLC



Kevin M. Webb
Licensing Manager

cc: M. Stanley, CRP
C. Mooney, CRP
R. Malloy, CRP