

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT

(P.L. 92-500, Section 401)

In the matter of: Comtu Falls Corporation
RR 2 Box 2436
Brandon, VT 05733
Application for Amendment to Comtu
Falls Hydroelectric Facility Water
Quality Certification

The Water Quality Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department) has reviewed a request for amendment filed by letter dated December 1, 1988 from Comtu Falls Corporation (the applicant) and finds:

1. The applicant proposes to replace the existing 250 kw turbine/generator unit with a 400 kw unit. The second smaller 150 kw unit approved in a certification amendment issued October 11, 1983 will not be installed.
2. The existing Francis unit has a hydraulic capacity of 105 cfs to over 200 cfs. The new Kaplan unit has a capacity of 188 cfs at 30 feet of head and 83% efficiency and can operate with flows as low as 40 cfs. Flows will, therefore, have to exceed 44 cfs (turbine capacity plus spillage) in order for the system to be on line. The project reconfiguration with the smaller 150 kw unit was to have been able to generate down to 44 cfs also.

3. The only exterior work contemplated is the replacement of the existing draft tube with an elbow draft tube.

CONDITIONS

Based on its review and findings, the Department hereby amends the Comtu Falls Hydroelectric Facility Water Quality Certification by adding Conditions F and G and reaffirming the operative conditions of the original certification and the certification amendment of October 11, 1983:

- A. An instantaneous streamflow of no less than 0.5 inch of water shall be discharged over the full length of the dam crest at all times when available from inflow to the impoundment. When instantaneous inflows fall below 44 cfs, all inflows to the impoundment shall be passed over the dam. The facility shall be operated in a strict run-of-the-river mode, with instantaneous outflows equaling instantaneous inflows.

- B. The applicant shall not discharge petro chemicals, wet concrete, or debris to State waters during construction or operation of the facility. Any debris removed from the spillway or trash racks shall be properly disposed of off-site.

- C. Any significant changes to the project must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation for prior review and approval.
- D. Any impoundment desilting shall be carried out in accordance with the Agency of Natural Resources Desilting Policy.
- E. If, at any time in the future, the Department finds that operation of this facility causes substandard water quality in the Black River, the Department may require changes to the operational procedure as necessary in order to insure that the standards are not violated.
- F. When requested by the Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of plans for the restoration of Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River watershed, the applicant shall submit a plan for downstream passage of Atlantic salmon to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for approval. This plan shall include the design of the screens, trashracks or other such devices and the means for providing downstream

passage of fish at the dam. The project shall be modified and operated consistent with the approved passage plan within one year of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's request. The applicant shall file a copy of the approval letter and approved plan with the Department within two weeks of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's approval.

- G. A waiver of Condition A is allowed where the applicant must draw the pond to perform flashboards repair. Under such circumstances, the drawdown is not to exceed 6 inches below the dam crest, and the project must release a minimum instantaneous flow of 95 cfs (0.5 cfs/sq. mi.) during the refill period. No other type of drawdown is to occur without prior approval by the Department.

Dated at Waterbury, Vermont this 12th day of January,
1989.


Patrick Parenteau, Commissioner
Department of Environmental
Conservation