

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION  
(P.L. 92-500, Section 401)

In the matter of: Comtu Falls Corporation  
P.O. Box 466  
Cavendish, Vermont 05142  
Application for reactivation of hydroelectric  
facility at Comtu Falls in Springfield

The Water Quality Division of the Vermont Department of Water Resources and Environmental Engineering (the Department) has examined the information submitted by the applicant and makes the following findings:

1. Having purchased the site of the former Jato Manufacturing Company in Springfield, Vermont, Comtu Falls Corporation (the applicant) has reactivated the hydroelectric generating station at the existing dam at Comtu Falls on the Black River in the Town of Springfield, about 4½ miles upstream of the confluence of the Black River with the Connecticut River.

2. The facility consists of a 250 KW turbine generator unit with 65 feet of penstock. It was last operated in the mid 1960's by the Fellows Corporation. Minimal rehabilitation was necessary in order to reactivate the facility. Two (2.0) feet of flashboards have been installed. Historically, flashboards have been used at the site. The turbine operates under 30 feet of head.

3. The project will be operated run-of-the-river (instantaneous outflows will equal instantaneous inflows to the impoundment). The applicant shall pass no less than 0.5 inch over the full length of the dam crest at all times when available from inflow to the impoundment. That flow is estimated at 3 to 4 cfs. Based on the gage at North Springfield, 23 cfs has been estimated as the 7Q10 flow. The applicant intends to discontinue operation when the river flow drops below the minimum flow (109 cfs) necessary to run the turbine while spilling 0.5 inch of water over the dam. The facility will not be operated from storage. Because of backwater from Slack Dam, which is located about 150 yards downstream, there will be no dewatered section between

the tailrace and the dam.

4. The project discharge will meet dissolved oxygen standards as all flows will be spilled during periods of low flow. The 7Q10 value for the site has been estimated at 23 cfs based on the Black River gaging station (#115300) at North Springfield.

5. Use of flashboards should not significantly effect dissolved oxygen levels in the Black River. The additional extent of backwater has been estimated at only 38 feet. Extensive rapids are still available between the head of the Comtu Falls pool and the Gilman Dam.

CONCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS

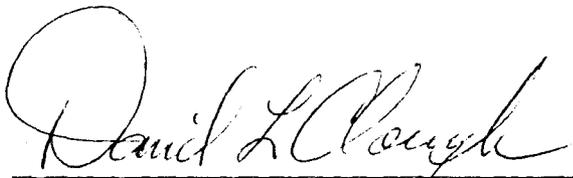
Based on its review, the Department certifies that the discharge from the facility will not violate Vermont Water Quality Standards, provided that the following conditions and limitations are met:

A. An instantaneous stream flow 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 109 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 equalling 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 Water Resources and Environmental Engineering for prior review and approval.

D. Any impoundment desilting shall be carried out in accordance with the Agency of Environmental Conservation Desilting Policy, a copy of which is attached.

*for*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
John R. Ponsetto, Commissioner  
Department of Water Resources  
and Environmental Engineering

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this  
23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 1982.

JRC/rh  
Attachment