

Kurt Heidinger, Westhampton, MA.
Dear FERC,

As concerns the relicensing process for FERC No.1889, I am writing to request studies be undertaken and reported for Aesthetic Resources and Socioeconomic Resources.

I write as Director of the non-profit Biocitizen School of Environmental Philosophy and Practice (biocitizen.org) which provides educational services within the field of environmental philosophy, including operating a school that teaches this subject in both traditional indoor classroom settings and outdoors at local, national and international sites. To ensure its educational services are of the highest quality, and reach as large an audience as possible, Biocitizen conducts scholarly research, develops curricula and syllabi, trains teachers, and performs public outreach through a website, the giving of lectures and presentations, and through the creation and dissemination of educational materials in print and other media.

Biocitizen uses the CT River from Turners Falls to Rainbow Beach, Northampton to teach environmental philosophy and practice.

Last year, two things occurred as a result of the operation of FERC No.1889 that impacted our operations in June and July 2012. 1st, we encountered a population of homeless people who made it impossible for us to teach; we posted a blog that details what happened:
<http://biocitizen.org/the-homeless-men-living-by-the-side-of-the-river> . Firstlight removed these people, and encouraged us to return to use the area between Poet's Tower and the Rt. 2a bridge as an educational resource. Firstlight acknowledges the CT River as an educational resource and the public record, and relicensing studies, reports and analyses, should reflect this fact.

A good report would collect data on how from Turners Falls to Rainbow Beach, Northampton is a valuable educational resource, used by many schools and nonprofits, for many years.

Use of the Ct River from Turners Falls to Rainbow Beach, Northampton as an educational resource should be reported on too in terms of the positive economic value of using it as such.

The second thing that occurred as a result of the operation of FERC No.1889 that impacted our operations was the amount of dead fish floating in the river and desiccating on the river banks.

The impact was educational, because students were depressed to see so many dead fish and wanted to know why the fish ladders were not performing well, as the attendants at the dam said they were. It left our instructors having to explain why so many fish were dying. Just at that time the EPA announced it was giving up on the Atlantic Salmon recovery program, which really hit students hard because they had to try to understand how the charismatic species which symbolizes the life of the river itself was now extinct. The presentations they witnessed at the Holyoke Dam and the Turners Falls dam made them believe the Salmon and other anadromous species were on their way to recovery, and when they realized that wasn't happening, they felt taken advantage of, even cynically lied to.

A good study of the impact that FERC No.1889 has upon the Ct River must discuss how the educational resource is negatively impacted when fish recovery plans fail.

Moreover, since the anadromous fish and birds that feed upon them are considered beautiful by researchers, teachers and students, the mass death and extinction of the fish must be assessed as an impact upon the river's aesthetic resources. The sight of hundreds of dead shad upriver of the 2a bridge (from Greenfield to Turners Falls) is very ugly and depressing.

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The ugliness that is caused by the failure of the fish ladder system and the recovery program to care for anadromous fish has educational, aesthetic and economic impacts that are real. Because of this, I am writing to request studies be undertaken and reported for Aesthetic Resources and Socioeconomic Resources.

thank you,
Kurt Heidinger