

ORIGINAL

The River Residents Association

Dedicated to preserving a life worth living on a river worth loving

Montague ~ Gill ~ Northfield

Box 405 Montague MA 01351

707 548 4817

bleenanew@gmail.com

16 February 2013

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

RE: Turners Falls Project No. 1889-081
Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. 2485-063

Dear Commission,

I am a member of The River Residents Association. We are comprised of people who own camps, cottages, and homes along the river. There are 24 "licensed" sites on project lands, and, there are also private land owners, and members of private clubs that recreate on the Connecticut River within the Turners Falls/Northfield MA section of the river.

We are concerned for the future of this beautiful natural resource, as well as our existence along the rivers banks. We take exception to it being called the "lower reservoir" of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage project.

As many of us live on the river, we see things changing, sometimes on a daily basis.

Our major concern is the negative effects we see occurring from extreme erratic water level fluctuations.

The following are observations by people who live and recreate along the river. Many of us have spent decades here.

Observations included but not limited to -

- shifts in the shoreline and river bed
- erosion along the shores
- loss of recreation areas that allowed boat access, now have no shoreline, only steep banks to climb
- lack of adequate tenting facilities
- silt and sediment buildup
- sand bars that come and go
- algae growth in Barton Cove

2013 MAR 5
10:10-5 A 9:10
SECRETARY OF THE
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20426

Page 2 of 2 – River Residents Association

- damage to personal property at “low tides” – torque damage to docks, boats stranded rocks/stuck in mud
- wetland/cattail/marsh habitat changing/vanishing
- land mass loss to islands
- sand bank habitat and swallows gone
- beaches appear and disappear within hours
- backwaters/shallows/coves depths diminishing
- less heron, osprey and kingfisher sightings
- less dragonflies seen
- changes in fishing bounty
- Fish egg nests exposed at “low tides” drying out and dying
- Waterfowl breeding grounds unexpectedly become submerged and eggs rot or offspring drown

We believe everyone here wants to work together to ask the right questions and find effective solutions. We feel we, the river residents, are an integral part of this process.

Is there a way to create moderation, or eliminate altogether, dramatic water level fluctuations? Can it be, should it be, regulated differently? For the record, the Association strongly favors research into a “closed loop” system. It would be a true man-made reservoir that would no longer involve the river for the generation of electricity.

We have prepared a visual exhibit. We hope it will enlighten, and underscore some of the concerning observations we have stated.

We endeavor to continue to assist and promote an ongoing cooperative relationship with all parties interest in mind. We are dedicated to a life worth living on a river worth loving. We thank you for your time and respectfully submit this inquiry and photographs to the Commission.

Sincerely,

*Stanley & Jeri Johnson. 28 Oak St. Gill,
MA. 01354*

The River Residents Association
Montague ~ Gill ~ Northfield
Massachusetts



Fall 2012 - Erosion at Stone Wall - no vegetation



Summer 2005 - Waterfront on the "Horse Race"
Root Stump with vegetation - Stone Wall obscured by trees - Site # 14E



Summer 2010 - Cottage Waterfront
Root Stump (submerged) with hemlock tree
Site # 14E

2010 - Northfield Mountain is not operational from May to end of November. A planned outage into a detour, as sediment pushed up the works when they drained the upper reservoir. The dumped sediment from late May to early August to try to free up their works until an EPA cease & desist order prevented them from dumping further.



Summer 2010 - Root Stump Erosion, hemlock tree barely holding on
On the "Horse Race" - Montague MA



Summer 2009 - "Low Tide" day - Site #14E
Stone wall visible with some vegetation



The River Residents Association
Dedicated to a life worth living on a river worth loving



Summer 2012 - Root Stump Erosion, hemlock tree gone
On the "Horse Race" - Montague MA



August 2012 - Average Water Level
Site #14E Montague MA



July 2011 - Extreme "Low Tide" day MORNING
Silt deposits from 2010 when NHD. Pumped Storage flushed their reservoir



Summer 2008 - "Low Tide"
Site #14E Montague MA



July 2011 - Extreme "Low Tide" day AFTERNOON
Silt washes away as tide rises all day and boat traffic wakes increase



Site #14E - Montague MA



Connecticut River Watershed
Turners Falls/Northfield pool
Submitted to FERC at Scoping Meeting
30 January 2013
by
The River Residents Association
Box 405
Montague MA 01351

Connecticut River Watershed
Turners Falls Northfield pool
Submitted to FERC at Scoping Meeting
by
30 January 2013
The River Stewards Association
Box 405
Montague MA 01451

Summer 2011 - Damatic Low Tide - upstream from IT Rod & Gun Club
Montague MA - Cottage #7E waterfront

Summer 2011 - Average Summer Water Levels #7E



The River Residents Association
Dedicated to a life worth living on a river worth loving



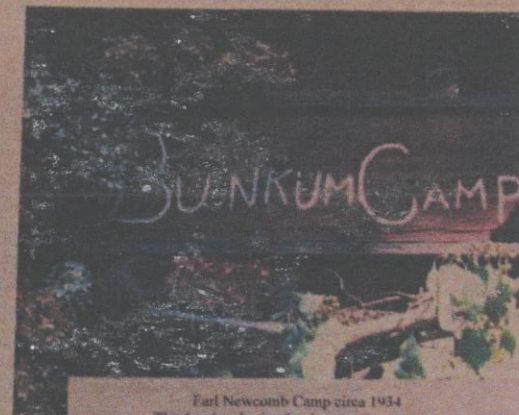
Connecticut River Watershed
Turners Falls/Northfield pool
Submitted to FERC at Scoping Meeting
by
The River Residents Association
Box 405
Montague MA 01351



This river
Is Our
Legacy!
From
Our
Grandparents
To
Our
Parents
To us
And on
Into the
Future
To Our
Grandchild
And their
Children's
Children...



January 2013
Looking NW from shore on Grill
Southern tip of Captain Kidd Island on the right



Earl Newcomb Camp circa 1934
This handmade sign has hung at the property
in honor of Earl's 1st wife, Bernadine "Bunny" (Cotton) Newcomb
Deceased 1953



Winter 2009 - Mule Swamp
Cyclist, G. Cob and his Pen
Montague MA



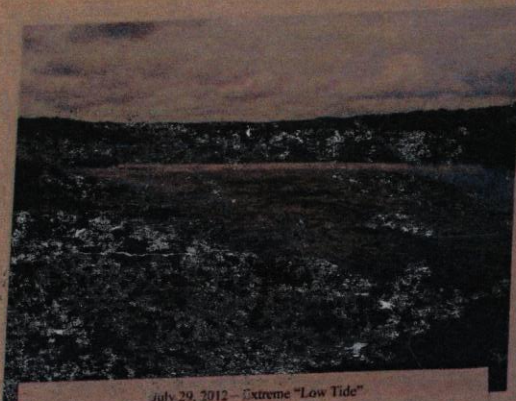
On the back of a memory stone
Earl Newcomb and Bernadine "Bunny" (Cotton) Newcomb
who was born 1904 and died 1953 after 50 years of marriage
Earl & Bernadine both died the summer of 2004



Summer 2012
6 and 7 year old resident water skiers
They all learned this summer



1934: Earl Newcomb Camp #14E
circa 1934



July 29, 2012 - Extreme "Low Tide"
Barton Cove, Gill MA
MA State Public Boat Ramp, Franklin County Boat Club
Barton Cove Camping & Recreation Area



The ByPass Channel - "THE DEAD REACH"
Looking south from the Greenfield/Montague Bridge by the canal
November 2012



The ByPass Channel - "THE DEAD REACH"
Looking south from the Greenfield/Montague Bridge by the canal
October 2012



July 29, 2012 - Extreme "Low Tide" - Barton Cove, Gill MA
Very limited boating access, warningly limited Emergency Rescue access.
T.V. Channel 22 news aired from Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club due to
extreme low water and poor access from all launching sites from
Gill/Montague MA Down up river to Vernon VT Dam



The ByPass Channel - "THE DEAD REACH"
Below the Montague/Gill Dam
Old paper mill buildings, Turners Falls Village MA
Looking north from the Montague/Greenfield Bridge by the canal
November 2012



The ByPass Channel - "THE DEAD REACH"
Looking north from the Greenfield/Montague Bridge by the canal
October 2012



January 2012 - Extreme "Low Tide"
Franklin County Boat Club, Barton's Cove, Gill MA



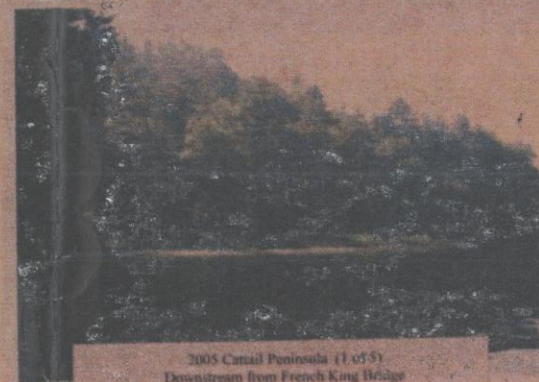
Connecticut River Watershed
Turners Falls/Northfield pool
Submitted to FERC at Scoping Meeting
30 January 2013
by
The River Residents Association
Box 405
Montague MA 01351



Summer 2011
Captain Kids Island beach area
Note the floating milk bottle stump marker
Northfield MA



Summer 2008
Shoreline at cow pastures south of Captain Kids Island
Gill MA



2005 Cattail Peninsula (1 of 5)
Downstream from French King Bridge
Gill MA



Summer 2008
Captain Kids Island beach area
Stump reference log
Northfield MA



2009
French King Brook



2005 Cattail Peninsula (2 of 5)
Gill MA



2007 - Cattail Peninsula and Sandbar
Gill MA



Summer 2012
Captain Kids Island Beach area
as 8 ft of beach depth when we tied our boats up to picnic.
d, we had to keep moving our chairs backwards away from the
rising water.
Northfield MA

Connecticut River Watershed
Turners Falls Northfield pool
Submitted to FERC Planning Meeting
30 January 2013

by
The River Residents Association
Box 405
Montague, MA 01351



2007 - Cattail Peninsula and sandbar
Downstream from French King Bridge
Gill MA



2011 - Cattail Peninsula - no more sandbar or b
Downstream from French King Bridge
Gill MA

Document Content(s)

13197628.tif.....1-9