

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED SPRINGBORN DAM REMOVAL PROJECT
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, is proposing to remove the Springborn Dam on the Scantic River in Enfield, Connecticut. The purpose of the proposed project is to restore unimpeded passage for migratory and resident fish in the Scantic River, mitigate flooding impacts, and eliminate the danger of dam failure and associated impacts to downstream communities and infrastructure.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulation [CFR] 1500-1508), and the implementing regulation (36 CFR 800). The EA analyzes the potential impacts of four alternatives on the human environment. These alternatives include a No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action (preferred alternative), and two additional action alternatives.

The Proposed Action involves full removal of the Dam and excavation, removal, and disposal of contaminated sediment upstream of the existing Dam. Under Alternative 1, the Dam would be repaired. Under Alternative 2, a portion of the Dam would be removed and some sediment would be removed. Under the No Action Alternative, the Dam would be left in place and historical spawning and rearing habitat would continue to be inaccessible to migratory fishes, and the Dam would continue to exacerbate flooding during storm events.

The Proposed Action will have negligible, and in some cases beneficial impacts on natural resources such as water and air quality, sediment chemistry, threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife resources, wetlands, and public recreation and safety. Adverse effects to cultural resources, including National Register-eligible or -listed cultural resources, will be addressed, pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 W.S.C. 470f), through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Service, the Connecticut State Historical Preservation Office, and consulting parties (36 CFR Part 800, and 33 CFR Part 325). There were no objections to the proposed action from the Mashantucket Pequot or the Mohegan Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

During the permitting process, 30-day public comment periods were held for the Army Corp of Engineers Programmatic General Permit and for the State of Connecticut Water Quality Permits. Additionally, a public information meeting was held at the Town of Enfield Library on November 13, 2014. This public involvement has resulted in wide-ranging support from residents, local environmental groups, and public officials.

Based on review and evaluation of the environmental effects as presented in the EA, the Service has determined that the Springborn Dam Removal Project is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The project will result

in a net ecological benefit to the Scantic River, and would complement ongoing interagency efforts to restore migratory fish to the Connecticut River watershed and the Atlantic Coast. Therefore, the Service has determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact be issued for the proposed project.

7/12/16
Date

Acting
for

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Thomas R. Chapman, Supervisor
New England Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Reference:

Environmental Assessment, dated 7/12, 2016