



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

Fishway Construction Permit

DRAFT

Date: July 07, 2026

Permit #01-26

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 130 §1 and 19, and 322 CMR Sections 7.01 4(d) and 14(m), the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) grants the authority to the City of Haverhill as project proponent to remove the Little River Dam and reconstruct the stream channel to be suitable for diadromous fish passage. The dam is located just north of Winter Street (Route 97) and approximately 240 feet west of the intersection with Stevens Street.

Property Owner: City of Haverhill
500 Primrose Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
Attn: Dept. Of Public Works
978-374-2335; jpettis@cityofhaverhill.com

Project Engineer: Fuss & O'Neill
1550 Main Street, Suite 400
Springfield, MA 01103
Attn: Julianne Busa PhD, PM
413-333-5469; Julianne.Busa@fando.com

Construction: Lucianos Excavation, Inc
41 Taunton Green, Suite 102
Taunton, MA 02780

Description of work. The Little River Dam is a run-of-the-river dam located on the Little River, a tributary to the Merrimack River, in Haverhill, Massachusetts. It is a stone masonry dam with a granite block crest approximately 75 feet in length and it is located approximately 70 feet upstream of Winter Street (Route 97) and approximately 240 feet west of the intersection with Stevens Street. The dam is immediately adjacent to the Stevens Mill Building (aka Pentucket Mill), the foundation of which is integrated with the dam abutment. The impoundment has a normal pool of approximately 4 acres. The contributing watershed to Little River is approximately 28 square miles, with average slopes between 2 and 6 percent.

The proposed dam removal would provide river access improvements for fish and wildlife including diadromous river herring and American eel. The river width will be reduced to 24 +/- feet during base flow conditions from an approximate 75-foot width currently. This will provide approximately 40 to 50 feet of additional floodplain area (20 to 25 feet on average on either side of the river). At Cashman's Park, planned improvements include a fishing platform and canoe/kayak launch (the concept design proposes natural rock placement in the river to construct rock vanes or similar structures that would maintain sufficient depths for these activities and for the likely fish species).

The proposed removal of the Little River Dam includes demolition of 65 feet of the 75-foot long dam. The dam will be removed to a minimum of 2 feet below the proposed channel elevation. This will leave a portion of the lower part of the dam. Based on the results of a structural inspection, complete removal of the dam up to the Stevens Mill building will likely jeopardize the integrity of the foundation. Therefore, approximately 10 feet of the dam will remain on river left to continue to provide structural support to the building foundation. DMF has reviewed the project plans to confirm that water depth and velocity of the reconstructed stream channel will be suitable for river herring and American eel passage.

Requirements

Construction Time-of-Year (TOY). No in-water work is allowed during the spring migration period for rainbow smelt, river herring and American eel during March 1st to June 30th. During the summer and fall emigration period for eel of September 1st to November 15th streamflow must be maintained in the channel by either construction sequencing or a gravity fed downstream bypass around the in-water work area.

Pre-Construction Meeting. The project construction contractor will invite DMF to a preconstruction meeting to discuss project details and schedule

Erosion Control. Fuss & O'Neill prepared an Erosion Control Plan (ECP). DMF has reviewed the ECP and has no additional requirements.

Water Control. The contractor must prepare a water control plan to outline sediment containment methods and storm contingencies. The water control plan must be reviewed and approved by DMF.

As-Built Survey. A contractor as-built survey is required and should be submitted to DMF within one year of the project completion date. A brief narrative report describing the completed dam removal and weir construction and any project changes should accompany the submittal of the as-built survey.

Staff Gauge. Not applicable – removal of the dam will also coincide with lowering of the impoundment to pre-dam riverine conditions.

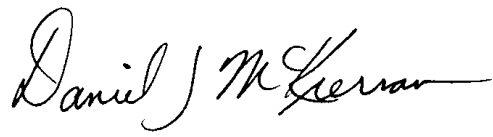
Fishway Operation and Maintenance Plan. Not applicable – no fishway structures proposed.

Construction Monitoring. LEI staff will provide construction monitoring. Additionally, DMF staff will visit the construction site weekly to inspect conditions. The contractor shall accommodate DMF staff and inquiries related to this permit.

Post-Construction Monitoring. No conditions for post-construction monitoring are required for this project.

Project Changes. A copy of the permit must be in the possession of LEI staff at the work site. Project changes prompted by on-site conditions or other reasons must be reviewed and approved by DMF.

Fish Passage Suitability. The owners of dams, mills and fishways in Massachusetts are responsible for providing safe and efficient passage of sea-run fish (M.G.L. Chapter 130 § 19). Any deficiencies in the constructed project that limit diadromous fish passage identified by DMF must be corrected in cooperation with the property owners within three years of the project's completion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a solid horizontal line.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director, DMF

Date: July 14, 2026

Cc: Robert Glenn, Greg Skomal Ph.D., and Brad Chase, DMF