The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

December 22, 2025

NH DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - DAM BUREAU
COREY CLARK
29 HAZEN DRIVE, PO BOX 95
CONCORD NH 033020095

Re: Approved Application – Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Program (RSA 482-A)
NHDES File Number: 2025-02558/USACE File Number: NAE-2025-01896
Project Name: Hadley Falls Dam Removal, Goffstown

Dear Mr. Clark:

Congratulations! On November 20, 2025, the Site Selection Committee (Committee) recommended funding the Hadley Falls Dam Removal project (project) in Goffstown through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Program. On December 9, 2025, the New Hampshire Wetlands Council (Council) voted to accept the recommendation and approved $4,510,464 of funding to contribute to the project. Per the enclosed Initial Evaluation Letter, the US Army Corps of Engineers also approved this funding.

The application for the Hadley Falls Dam Removal is a prime example of the type of project the ARM Fund Program strives to fund. Outlined below are the Committee findings and contingencies in support of the project followed by the requirements for securing the ARM award:

1. Removal of the defunct high-hazard, state-owned Hadley Falls Dam will restore 69.5 miles of aquatic connectivity within the Piscataquog River watershed, in combination with a proposal to improve fish passage downstream, between Kelley's Falls Dam (Manchester) and Gregg's Falls Dam (Goffstown. The 69.5 miles includes the 15.5 miles below Hadley Falls Dam to Kelley's Falls Dam and the 54 miles above Hadley Falls Dam to barriers in the upstream network.

2. The project will restore and enhance 3.3 acres of wetland and 2,887 linear feet of stream habitat within the former 20-acre impoundment through passive and active restoration techniques.

3. Proposed restoration activities include the removal of the concrete spillway, remnants of a timber crib structure, active channel reconstruction for approximately 647 linear feet and restoration of 1.2 acres of floodplain wetland through native plantings, invasive species management and monitoring to ensure stream stability and riparian buffer reestablishment. Passive restoration will result in approximately 2.1 acres of enhanced wetland and reestablished vegetated buffers and 2,240 linear feet of stream enhancement.

4. The project partially overlaps with wildlife habitat classified as Tier 1, Highest Ranked in the State, by the NH State Wildlife Action Plan.

5. Restoration activities will build upon existing landscape connectivity efforts in the region and result in significant wildlife habitat and connectivity benefits including restoring habitat for diadromous and catadromous fish species in the Merrimack River watershed and access to prime spawning and rearing habitat

for shad, alewife, and blueback herring within the Piscataquog River watershed. American eel and sea lamprey will also benefit from the restoration of fish passage at Kelley's Falls Dam. Connectivity will also benefit state- and federally-listed and species of greatest conservation need freshwater mussel species such as Dwarf wedge mussels, brook floaters and alewife floaters which rely on host fish in order to reproduce successfully as well as American eel and sea lamprey from the restoration of fish passage at Kelley's Falls Dam.

6. The project will restore, enhance, and protect similar functions and values to what was lost in the Merrimack River watershed by the permitted impacts that generated the funds, including improved water quality, natural sediment transport/nutrient flow, flood resiliency and increased storage capacity, shoreland stabilization, habitat connectivity, and recreation (consumptive & non-consumptive).

7. The project must address the following contingencies for funding recommended by the Committee:
    a. The recommendation for funding is contingent upon applicants' willingness to modify the plans during the design phase and adaptively manage the site during construction to maximize habitat for aquatic wildlife.

    b. The Committee requests the submittal of 60% design plans, in advance of permitting, and the willingness to incorporate its technical recommendations to optimize the restoration outcome.

    c. The recommendation for funding is contingent upon the grantee continuing its good faith effort to secure permanent protection for all restoration areas to ensure that the award generates wetland credits for the ARM Program. NHDES and US Army Corps must approve the existing restrictions (i.e. flowage rights deeds) and/or the proposed conservation instrument.

    d. The Committee requests early and continuous coordination with NHFG during the design planning phase to minimize potential impacts to protected freshwater mussels. Please provide the results of the sediment analysis to NHFG and be advised that coordination with NHFG may result in the recommendation for wildlife surveys and/or plans for species relocation. Please provide 60% design plans to NHFG to receive input on maximizing the design for other protected wildlife species.

    e. The recommendation for funding is contingent upon the completion of performance monitoring annually for a minimum of five (5) years post-construction to evaluate whether ecological performance standards are being achieved. Funding is contingent on implementing remedial measures at the site, if deemed necessary, to meet restoration goals.

8. The ARM Fund Grant Process Overview provides a timeline for securing the award, federal mitigation plan development, and project implantation. Additional details for the next steps of the grant process are outlined below. The timeline, roles and responsibilities for the grant agreement and federal mitigation plan will be further refined during the ARM Award Kick-off Meeting. To assist ARM with scheduling kick-off meetings, please respond by January 9th to the Doodle Poll available at: https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/e03Wlxyd

9. The first step to secure your award is to enter into an interagency memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the NHDES ARM Fund Program, subject to approval by the NH Governor and Executive Council (G&C). **ARM funds cannot be disbursed until a MOU is approved by G&C.** ARM will provide you with draft an MOU, including an exhibits section that outlines the scope of services and final budget for eligible costs, for review,

comment, and signature.

10. Per the enclosed USACE Initial Evaluation Letter, **ARM-funded projects require development and approval of a federal Mitigation Plan.** ARM will work with the applicant to develop this plan using application information and additional details as the project scope develops. The federal mitigation plan must be submitted to the federal interagency review team prior to filing a NH Wetlands application and must be approved by project implementation. **In the enclosed Initial Evaluation Letter, please see the "General Comments" and the specific comments for your project that will need to be addressed in the federal Mitigation Plan.**

11. All state and federal permits and approvals must be obtained prior to construction. Please ensure the wetlands application boldly references the NHDES and USACE File Numbers (NHDES File Number: 2025-02558/USACE File Number: NAE-2025-01896) and identifies project funding through an ARM grant. **Note that the required approvals include consultation for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).**

Please contact the ARM Fund Program at des.arm@des.nh.gov if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Sincerely,

Emily Nichols
ARM Fund Program Manager
Land Resources Management, Water Division

Enclosure: USACE Initial Evaluation Letter (December 4, 2025)

cc: Goffstown Conservation Commission
Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee
Erin Davis, USACE
NHDES Rivers Program