



Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee

32 Circle View Drive, Newbury, NH 03255 | Email: mooseseer@tds.net
www.PiscataquogRiver.org

September 24, 2026

Corey Clark, Chief Engineer
NHDES Dam Bureau
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Proposed Hadley Falls drawdown

Mr. Clark,

Given the proposed late-season drawdown of the Hadley Falls Dam on the Piscataquog River, the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) respectfully provides the following comments and questions to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Dam Bureau. We understand that the proposal is to reduce the water level about 0.5 to 1 foot each day, starting October 19, till the water level is down to approximately what it would be if the dam were removed. The water level will be kept there for about two weeks to allow for testing of the effect of the proposed dam removal on groundwater levels upstream at the Goffstown Village Water Precinct properties. The water level will then be increased to about 1 to 1.5 feet lower than normal level for the winter.

1) **Rare, Threatened, and Sensitive Species**

Given the known presence of wood turtles and brook floater mussels within the Piscataquog River watershed, PRLAC recommends that the NHDES Dam Bureau coordinate the October drawdown with the appropriate staff at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department responsible for rare, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern species. PRLAC requests that consideration be given to potential impacts to these and other aquatic and riparian species during the drawdown.

2) **Archaeological and Historic Resources**

PRLAC recommends that the NHDES Dam Bureau coordinate with the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources to ensure that any potentially significant archaeological or historic resources exposed during the drawdown are appropriately identified, evaluated, and protected.

3) **Potential Release of Contaminants**

What measures has the NHDES Dam Bureau considered to evaluate and minimize the potential release or mobilization of contaminants that may be present within accumulated sediments during the drawdown? Has NHDES Dam Bureau completed their review of toxic or contaminated sediment and when will a report be available for public review?

4) **Sediment Mobilization**

What measures will be taken to minimize excessive or unintended sediment transport downstream



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during the drawdown? PRLAC would also appreciate information regarding any planned monitoring of turbidity, sediment movement, or downstream water quality.

5) **Post-Drawdown Water Level**

What is the purpose of restoring the impoundment to a water surface elevation approximately 1 to 1.5 feet below its current level following the drawdown? PRLAC recommends that NHDES consider restoring the impoundment to its pre-drawdown water surface elevation for the winter unless there is a demonstrated environmental, operational, or public-safety reason for maintaining the lower level.

6) **Flooding, Streambank Erosion, and Sediment Transport**

What contingency measures does the NHDES Dam Bureau have in place to address streambank erosion, sediment transport, or other impacts should an unexpected high-water or flooding event occur during the drawdown period?

7) **Waterfowl Hunting and River Access**

PRLAC understands that waterfowl hunting occurs along portions of the Piscataquog River upstream of the Hadley Falls Dam. During the drawdown, portions of the river may become difficult or impossible to navigate by boat, potentially affecting access for waterfowl hunting and other recreational activities. Has NHDES Dam Bureau evaluated these potential access impacts, and how will the public be informed about changes in navigability and river access during the drawdown?

Sincerely,

John Magee

Chair, PRLAC
mooseseer@tds.net

Cc: PRLAC members; Tracie Sales, NHDES; Emily Nichols, NHDES, Jim Craig, Goffstown Select Board; Allison DeCesere, Goffstown Select Board; Jean Walker, Goffstown Conservation Commission; Derek Horne, Goffstown Town Administrator