



United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

4

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ER-78/932

NOV 2 1978

50-568
569

Mr. Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ballard:

This is in response to your request of September 25, 1978 for our review and comment of the proposed site and alternate sites for New England Power Plants, Units 1 & 2, former Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Charlestown, Rhode Island (STN 50-568 & 569).

We note that five of the eight alternate sites are located in close proximity to existing hydroelectric projects licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The four hydroelectric projects identified (Moore, Comerford, Bear Swamp, and Northfield Mountain) are all major projects having recreational development plans (Exhibit R's) as required by FERC licensing procedures. Since the Exhibit R requirement is not applicable to nuclear projects, we are concerned regarding impacts construction of a nuclear power plant would have on existing and proposed recreational facilities on these hydroelectric sites.

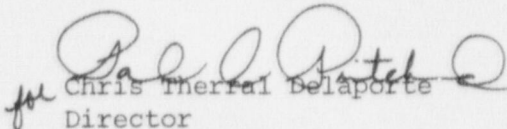
The proposed Charlestown, Rhode Island site and alternate Westerly, Rhode Island site are located near major State recreational areas - Woody Hill State Forest, Burlingame State Forest and Burlingame State Park. Development of Burlingame State Park has been financed in part with Federal assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) under project numbers 44-00019, 44-00026 and 44-00194. Consideration should be given to the impacts construction of a nuclear facility would have on recreational use of these areas and any other recreational areas in the vicinity of the proposed site or eight alternate sites.

781107 0123

COO2
ES
1/10

We appreciate the opportunity to provide the above comments and hope they will be helpful.

Sincerely,


for Chris Therral Belaporte
Director

cc: Bruce Blanchard
Director, Office of
Environmental Project Review