



**Essex Company, LLC**  
670 N. Commercial Street, Suite 204  
Manchester, NH 03101

**Via eFiling**

April 28, 2025

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Lawrence Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2800)  
Filing of Initial Study Report

Dear Secretary Reese:

Essex Company, LLC (Essex) is the Licensee, owner, and operator of the Lawrence Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2800) (Project or Lawrence Project). The Lawrence Project is located on the Merrimack River in the City of Lawrence in Essex County, Massachusetts. The Project was licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) on December 4, 1978 (with an effective date of December 1, 1978), and the license expires on November 30, 2028. Accordingly, Essex is pursuing a new license for the Project pursuant to the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), as described at 18 CFR Part 5 of the Commission's regulations.

Essex has initiated studies and information gathering activities as provided in the Commission's May 10, 2024 Study Plan Determination (SPD) for the Project. In accordance with 18 C.F.R. § 5.15(c), Essex is hereby filing the Initial Study Report (ISR) with the Commission. With this filing, Essex is providing five study reports for review and comment, including the following:

- The Upstream American Eel Passage Assessment Study Report
- American Eel Upstream Passage Siting Study Report
- Diadromous Fish Behavior, Movement, and Project Interaction Study Report (Phase 1)
- The Freshwater Mussel Habitat Assessment and Survey Study Report
- Historically Significant Waterpower Equipment Study Report

Essex is also providing a Study Plan for review and comment for the Sturgeon Distribution and Project Interaction Study, the Downstream Juvenile Alosine Passage Assessment Study, and the Sturgeon Habitat Mapping and Assessment Study. Additionally, Essex is providing information for consultation on the Project Operations and Fish Stranding Study that details the location of the cameras below the dam and provides representative photographs taken to date.

As described in the ISR, data collection and/or analyses are scheduled or in progress for many studies, several of which include data collection into the 2025 study year. Accordingly, the ISR

describes Essex's overall progress in implementing the study plan and schedule, summarizes the types of data collected to-date, and describes any variances from the study plan and schedule approved by the Commission. The ISR also provides an anticipated schedule for study reporting as well as upcoming ILP milestones.

The ISR will be made available to resource agencies, Indian tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public on the Project's distribution list. Electronic copies of the ISR will be available on the Project's public relicensing website at <https://lawrencerelicensing.com/> or via FERC's online e-Library system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ellbrary.asp>, by searching Docket Number P-2800.

The Commission's regulations at 18 CFR § 5.15(c) require Essex to hold meetings with participants and FERC staff within 15 days of filing the ISR. **Accordingly, Essex will hold ISR Meetings from 9 AM to 4 PM on May 7-8, 2025.** The ISR Meetings will be held at the Elks Lodge at 652 Andover St, Lawrence, Massachusetts 01843. The meetings will be in-person.

To allow for adequate planning, Essex respectfully requests that those planning on attending the ISR Meeting RSVP by emailing Kelsey Iffert with HDR at [Kelsey.Iffert@hdrinc.com](mailto:Kelsey.Iffert@hdrinc.com) on or before May 2, 2025.

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.15(c)(3), Essex will file an ISR Meeting Summary with the Commission within 15 days of the ISR Meeting. Stakeholders may file a disagreement with the summary and/or any proposals to modify ongoing studies or for new studies with the Commission by June 25, 2025.

If there are any questions regarding the ISR or ISR Meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Kelsey Iffert at [Kelsey.Iffert@hdrinc.com](mailto:Kelsey.Iffert@hdrinc.com) or 315.706.5176.

Sincerely,

**Essex Company, LLC**



Kevin Webb  
Hydro Licensing Manager