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**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 8:42 AM

**To:** Price, David <[DAVID.A.PRICE@des.nh.gov](mailto:DAVID.A.PRICE@des.nh.gov)>; SEC: Admin <[admin@sec.nh.gov](mailto:admin@sec.nh.gov)>

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**Subject:** SRP Vegetation and Invasive Species Assessment

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Hi Dave,

Please find attached a report that details the SRP vegetation assessment and invasive species assessment as required under conditions 29, 31 and 84 in the SRP DES permit conditions (SEC 2015-4). Construction was completed at the end of June, 2020, approximately 1 year ago. The prolonged drought last summer and this spring reduced seed germination and vegetation recolonization, but recent rains have resulted in promising growth to the point where the site is stable and the vegetation cover is adequate in most areas.

**Condition 29:** The attached report indicates the project meets the 80% vegetation requirements in Condition 29, with the exception of several upland work areas. In those locations the vegetation cover remains relatively sparse, but the sites are stable, mostly due to wood chips and straw mulch left from construction. Over the course of the year, our stormwater monitoring has found no issues in the post-construction phase, and we expect that stability will only improve as the work areas continue to re-vegetate.

**Condition 31:** The report shows that the wetlands have reached 75% cover by wetland vegetation as required in this condition.

**Condition 84:** Fifteen invasive plant species were found during the assessment. No areas have dense stands of invasive species; glossy buckthorn, purple loosestrife, and multiflora rose were most prevalent. The paired plots used to assess invasive species show that the percent cover of invasives is low overall, and that the relative percent cover in the work areas is less than or similar to the adjacent vegetation in the ROW.

Eversource is seeking your concurrence that the SRP is in compliance with these 3 conditions, if not to the letter of each condition, then with its intent. If you would like to inspect the ROW, we would be happy to set up a site visit.

Please note I have retired, although I am still working on a few projects (including SRP) for the next several months. I am checking email regularly, so do not hesitate to contact me, or Kurt Nelson, if you have questions.

Sarah

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