



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands
WPA Emergency Certification Form
 Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

A. Emergency Information

Important:
 When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



Issuance From: Montague
Issuing Authority
 1. Site Location: Power Canal at Cabot Station, 15 Cabot St, Turners Falls 42.593722, -72.574167

2 Reason for Emergency:
 Reason for Emergency Beave Lodge Removal: public safety concerns that the beaver lodge may compromise the power dam's integrity

3. Applicant to perform work: First Light Power Services LLC

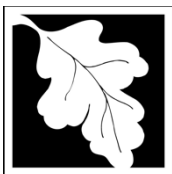
4. Public agency to perform work or public agency ordering the work to be performed:
Board of Health

5. Date of Site Visit: Start Date: End Date*:
6/22/2026 6/25/2026 7/25/2026

* no later than 30 days from start date or 60 days in the case of an Immediate Response Action approved by DEP to address an oil/hazardous material release.

6. Work to be allowed*:
 The work sequence will be: (1) Blocking off a segment of the bike path, after notifying DCR. (2) Temporary deconstruction of bike path's upstream fencing to allow access to the worksite. (3) Machine-assisted removal of the lodge material (careful excavation to avoid damage to the PCLD). Machine is likely to be a mini excavator, hand tools and work where possible. (4) Vegetation removal and cleanup of site area. (5) Inspection of the site for damage to the PCLD. (6) Repair work and site cleanup as necessary.

* May not include work beyond that necessary to abate the emergency.



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B. Signatures

Certified to be an Emergency by this Issuing Authority.

Montague

Signatures:

Maureen Pollock

 Signature

Maureen Pollock, Conservation Agent

 Printed Name

 Signature

 Printed Name

 Signature

 Printed Name

 Signature

 Printed Name

 Signature

 Printed Name

 Signature

 Printed Name

 Signature

 Printed Name

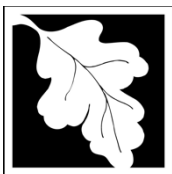
 Signature

 Printed Name

A copy of this form must be provided to the appropriate DEP Regional Office.

C. General Conditions

1. Failure to comply with all conditions stated herein, and with all related statutes and other regulatory measures, shall be deemed cause to revoke or modify this Emergency Certification or subject to enforcement action.
2. This Emergency Certification does not grant any property rights or any exclusive privileges; it does not authorize any injury to private property or invasion of property rights.
3. This Emergency Certification does not relieve the applicant or any other person of the necessity of complying with all other applicable federal, state, or local statutes, ordinances, bylaws, or regulations.
4. Any work conducted beyond that described above, and any work conducted beyond that necessary to abate the emergency, shall require the filing of a Notice of Intent.
5. The Agent or members of the Conservation Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection shall have the right to enter and inspect the area subject to this Emergency Certification at reasonable hours to evaluate compliance with this Certification, and may require the submittal of any data deemed necessary by the Conservation Commission or the Department for that evaluation.
6. This Emergency Certification shall apply to any contractor or any other person performing work authorized under this Certification.
7. No work may be authorized beyond 30 days from the date of this certification without written approval of the Department.



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D. Special Conditions

1. Any temporary disturbances shall be permanently stabilized

E. Appeals

The Department may, on its own motion or at the request of any person, review: an emergency certification issued by a conservation commission and any work permitted thereunder; a denial by a conservation commission of a request for emergency certification; or the failure by a conservation commission to act within 24 hours of a request for emergency certification. Such review shall not operate to stay the work permitted by the emergency certification unless the Department specifically so orders. The Department's review shall be conducted within seven days of: issuance by a conservation commission of the emergency certification; denial by a conservation commission of the emergency certification; or failure by a conservation commission to act within 24 hours of a request for emergency certification. If certification was improperly granted, or the work allowed thereunder is excessive or not required to protect the health and safety of citizens of the Commonwealth, the Department may revoke the emergency certification, condition the work permitted thereunder, or take such other action as it deems appropriate.

10-DAY EMERGENCY BEAVER OR MUSKRAT PERMIT

Name: Luke Detwiler, P.E.

Permit
No.: BV26-
000004

Address: 15 Cabot St
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Authorized Agent
Name (if
applicable): Luke Detwiler, P.E.

Complaint
Location: Beaver structure on the canal-side of the bicylce path. Easiest access from depot St. access to bike path. For reference, the structure is inline with a park bench, between wooden eversource power poles 11 and 12. The address provided above is not accurate the the complaint location. Lat/long can be pasted into Google Maps to get an accurate location: 42.593722, -72.574167

In accordance with and pursuant to provisions contained in chapter 131 of the Massachusetts General Laws section 40, 80A and 321 Code of Massachusetts Regulation 2.08 and 10.00 (Wetlands Protection Act), the permittee(s) above named may immediately remedy the threat to human health and safety by one or more of the following options:

- (a) the use of conibear or box or cage-type traps for the talcing of beaver or muskrat, subject to the regulations promulgated by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (see back)
- (b) the breaching of dams, dikes, bogs or berms, so-called*
- (c) employing any non-lethal management or water-flow devices*

*If the permittee chooses option(s) band/or c, he/she must appear before the local conservation commission to obtain an emergency certification regarding specifications for breach size and/or water flow device installation in accordance to M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40 (Wetlands Protection Act).

The Board of Health has determined that said beaver or muskrat problem poses a threat to public health or safety as stated in M.G.L. c.131, s.80A.

Specify: A beavery lodge is present at the complaint location specified above. FirstLight requests permission to remove this lodge, and if present, its inhabitants (none observed, suspect this structure is abandoned from 2025). Work would occur pursuant to MGL c 131 s 80A. FirstLight has a contractor available for the removal work, and can engage with a qualified professional to oversee the use of methods (a) through (c) listed below. If Montague has a preferred qualified proccessional/organization FirstLight will work directly with them.

The lodge is placed on the upstream side of FirstLight's Power Canal Left Dike (PCLD). The PCLD is a federally-regulated water-retaining structure. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) classifies the structure as a high-hazard structure, meaning that its failure would have immediate consequence to public safety and property. Wildlife intrusions, including structures erected by beavers, must be promptly removed to preserve the integrity of water retaining structures.

Construction and maintenance activities on water-retaining structures must be carried out with care to avoid damage, so FirstLight requests direct oversight/control of any removal activities.

Board of Health Official Name: Ashley Gough, MPH, RS

Board of Health Official Signature:



Date: 06/24/2026

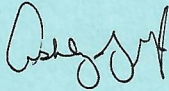
The above signature validates this permit for 10 consecutive days from the date shown for option (a) only. If the permittee chooses options (b) and/or (c), he/she must return to the Board of Health for a final signature after obtaining an emergency certification from the conservation commission.

Please attach the emergency certification to this permit and return to the Board of Health for final approval. (See Back)

This permit is valid for 10 consecutive days from the date of the final Board of Health signature.

Board of Health Official Name: Ashley Gough, MPH, RS

Board of Health Official Signature:



Date: 06/24/2026

This permit does not allow permittee(s) or their authorized agent to trespass on private property.

This permit or a copy thereof shall be carried on the person of any individual exercising the authority thereof and shall be shown upon request if challenged by any local or state law enforcement officer empowered to enforce the provisions of M.G.L. c. 131.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife trapping regulations

Permittee(s) may destroy problem furbearing mammals (named above) by means of a body gripping trap or by means of a box or cage type trap including Hancock or Bailey traps for catching beaver. The pan of Hancock and Bailey traps must be submerged in water. Problem furbearing mammals that are captured alive shall be disposed of by destruction in a humane manner. Body gripping traps with a jaw spread not less than 4 inches and not greater than 7 inches or body gripping traps with a jaw spread not less than 6 inches and not exceeding 10 inches for the trapping of beaver only, may be used if such traps are completely submerged in water. The placement of traps in reference to the proximity of the beaver lodge or beaver dam is unrestricted, but the disturbance or destruction of the beaver lodge or beaver dam is strictly prohibited unless otherwise authorized.

Permittee(s) taking problem furbearing mammals, on the property of another, by means of a trap shall possess a valid Massachusetts trapping license and traps shall be registered according to M.G.L. c. 131, s. 80.

Said problem furbearing mammals (named above), their carcasses or parts thereof may be retained by the permittee, sold, bartered, or exchanged for consideration during the open regulated harvest season for that species. Sealing of beaver pelts is required. Disposition of all carcasses obtained from the incidental capture of furbearing mammals not authorized by this permit must be surrendered to the District Wildlife Manager of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife having jurisdiction in the town where the furbearing mammal was taken.



From: [Ashley Gough - Health Director](#)
To: [Maureen Pollock](#)
Subject: Fw: Beaver permit
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 3:38:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Here is the permission sent from Mass Wildlife. I also just got an email from First Light with details on how they will remove the lodge which I will forward next.

Thanks,

Ashley Gough

Director of Public Health
Town of Montague

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
(413) 863-3200 ext. 205 Fax: (413) 863-3225
healthdir@montague-ma.gov

From: Wattles, Dave (FWE) <dave.wattles@mass.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 2:39 PM
To: Ashley Gough - Health Director <healthdir@montague-ma.gov>
Subject: RE: Beaver permit

Hi Ashley

I agree with the assessment that the beaver lodge is not currently active. As per our conversation, MGL Ch 131 S 80A does not grant BoH and ConComms authority to permit removal of beaver lodges, that authority rests with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Given the public safety concerns that the lodge may compromise the dam's integrity, we grant First Light permission to remove the lodge. Due to the apparent lack of beaver presence trapping prior to removal is not required. However, if beaver are detected upon removal we recommend they are trapped immediately to prevent them from rebuilding the lodge in the dam. Please consider this email permission to remove the lodge in conjunction with conditions set on the work by the Conservation Commission.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Dave

Dave Wattles

Black Bear & Furbearer Biologist
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581
p: (508) 389-6359 | c: (508) 802-2099 | e: dave.wattles@mass.gov
<https://www.mass.gov/bears>

<https://www.mass.gov/coyotes>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/electric-fence-guide-to-prevent-bear-damage/download>

mass.gov/masswildlife | facebook.com/masswildlife

From: Ashley Gough - Health Director <healthdir@montague-ma.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 1:42 PM

To: Wattles, Dave (FWE) <dave.wattles@mass.gov>

Subject: Beaver permit

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Dave,

I am forwarding you the location details regarding the beaver permit we spoke about over the phone. The application itself is also attached with some additional location details (landmarks, etc.). This is for First Light's Power Canal Left Dike (PCLD) which is classified by FERC as a High-hazard structure.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or need any additional details.

Thank you,

Ashley Gough

Director of Public Health

Town of Montague

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 ext. 205 Fax: (413) 863-3225

healthdir@montague-ma.gov

From: Luke Detwiler <Luke.Detwiler@firstlight.energy>

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2026 12:46 PM

To: Ashley Gough - Health Director <healthdir@montague-ma.gov>

Cc: Alan Douglass <Alan.Douglass@firstlight.energy>; Andy Brydges <Andy.Brydges@firstlight.energy>

Subject: RE: Beaver permit

Ashley,

I've attached a completed 10-day permit form and a few geo-located photos of the structure in question.

It is located at:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/e81CXhdj87T4U1mGA>, or
42.593722, -72.574167

Easiest walking access from Depot Street.

I have a contractor lined up to carefully removal of the structure, but want to plan for trapping/humane removal of beavers if needed. As stated in the application, I don't suspect that this beaver structure is inhabited.

We will not begin any work until we have the proper permit(s), and have consulted with the proper authorities. If you know of a qualified person that is available to supervise beaver removal, I'd appreciate the connection. We can subcontract them if needed.

Any questions, give me a call. Happy to meet you onsite if needed!



Luke Detwiler | Engineer III
FirstLight Power Services LLC
Massachusetts Hydro Division
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360
Phone: 508.742.5925





