PAD Consultation Letter - December 8, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Natco Products Corporation (NATCO) operates the Arctic Dam Hydroelectric Project (the Project) located on the South Branch of the Pawtucket River in West Warwick, RI. NATCO has been operating this facility for about 33 years under an existing license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and is planning to renew their license to continue operation. The purpose of this letter is to initiate a dialogue with you or your organization with regard to the Project, and to solicit your assistance with gathering information on natural and cultural resources in the Project area. A description of the Project is attached.

Between now and the end of December 2017, NATCO will initiate the formal FERC licensing process for the Project by preparing and filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) and a Preliminary Application Document (PAD). The contents of the PAD are specified by federal regulations (18 CFR 5.5 and 5.6). In general, a PAD contains: a description of the proposed project, a description of the existing environment (including geology and soils; water resources; fisheries; botanical resources; wildlife resources; rare, threatened, and endangered species; recreation and land use; aesthetic resources; cultural resources; socio-economic resources; and Tribal resources), a preliminary list of issues and studies needed with respect to each resource, and a list of proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures.

The purpose of the PAD is to provide existing information relevant to the Project that is already in the applicant’s possession, or that the applicant can obtain with the exercise of due diligence. Following completion of the PAD, this existing, relevant, and reasonably available information is distributed to FERC, agencies, and tribes to enable them to identify issues and related information needs. This will help to develop study requests and study plans, and prepare documents analyzing the license application to be subsequently filed. The PAD is also a precursor to the environmental analysis section of the license application. The PAD is scheduled to be submitted by the end of December 2017.

Based on the above, NATCO is soliciting input from agencies and tribes for information to be included in the PAD and/or addressed as part of subsequent studies. We are looking for data, reports, reviews, or analyses that cover any of the topics identified above for the geographic area of the Project.

Please provide any information by January 31, 2018 to:

Mr. David Arpin, P.E. / RT Group, Inc.
70 Romano Vineyard Way, Suite 134
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Phone: (401) 438-3100
Email: darpin@rtg-eng.com
We may be following up with you by phone on this request in the near future so that we may answer your questions, and potentially schedule a meeting to discuss the project in further detail. At the time the PAD is submitted to FERC in December 2017, you will be receiving information on how to obtain an electronic copy with a letter instructing you on how to submit comments on the Project.

NATCO plans to continue informal consultations with agencies, tribes, and stakeholders throughout the coming months. In addition, there are opportunities for formal input throughout the FERC licensing process.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Burke
Chief Dam Safety Engineer
Natco Products Corporation
Project Description
Arctic Dam Hydroelectric Project
Natco Products Corporation

This Project Description is intended to provide a quick overview of project details, goals, and benefits.

Project Details

- Natco Products Corporation (NATCO) has been operating the Arctic Dam Hydroelectric Project (Figure 1 and Photo Nos. 1 through 4) under their existing FERC license for about 33 years and wishes to renew their license to continue generating power.

- The Project will provide an average of about 480,000 KWH’s of electricity annually to help meet part of the region’s power requirements, and support transmission grid operations essential to integrating a higher percentage of renewable power generation sources.

- The Project will provide NATCO a modest yearly income stream to help allow them to maintain and make improvements to the dam in order to allow for its continued and safe operation.

Goals and Objectives

Specific goals and objectives of the project identified by NATCO include:

Revenue Stream

- A primary goal for NATCO is to continue generating revenue that can be applied to their capital spending requirements in a manner that will help offset continued maintenance and improvements to the Project.

Hydroelectric Energy Generation That Does Not Consume Water or Impact the Stream Environment

- NATCO wishes to continue generating power that makes efficient use of the existing river and avoids any adverse environmental impacts on the stream system.

Regional and Statewide Project Benefits

The Proposed Project can provide other important benefits to the region and the State, including:

Support Rhode Island’s Energy Policy

- Rhode Island’s energy policy promotes maintaining a reliable, efficient, and affordable energy system that minimizes the environmental impacts of energy production and use. The Project is a “Run-of-the-River” type facility that utilizes existing infrastructure dating back to the late 1800s. Accordingly, it will have no adverse
environmental impacts and is an essential component of the State’s energy system with particular benefits for integrating increased amounts of renewable energy resources into the electrical transmission and distribution grid in a manner that minimizes emissions of greenhouse gases. The Project integrates renewable energy into the transmission grid; helping to defer the need for new fossil fuel-powered power plants and expansion of the transmission grid; reducing the use of electricity generated from fossil fuels to meet peak load requirements; reducing emissions; and providing ancillary services otherwise provided by fossil-fueled generating facilities, thus reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and criteria pollutants.

Contribute to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emission
- Efficient grid operations reduce waste (reducing GHG emissions) by allowing the integration of renewable energy generation sources that do not produce GHG emissions, and provides reduced GHG peak power generation by helping to displace traditional natural gas peak power generation.
Photo No. 1:
The Arctic Dam, looking southwest, photo taken on June 23, 2017.

Photo No. 2:
The Arctic Dam with the Arctic Mill behind, looking east, photo taken on March 11, 2014.
Photo No. 3:
The Arctic Dam and the Arctic Mill, looking northwest, photo taken from google earth.

Photo No. 4:
The Arctic Dam Hydroelectric Generator located inside the Arctic Mill, looking west, photo taken on March 11, 2014.