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**Angus, Briony (EEA)**

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**From:** EZiskowski@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, August 20, 2007 11:53 AM  
**To:** Angus, Briony (EEA)  
**Subject:** Russell Bio Mass

Letter to James Bumgardner  
Mass DEP Western Regional Office  
Spfld MA.01103

October 26 2006

I am writing to express my reservation regarding the proposed operation of a Biomass-burning power plant in Russell Massachusetts. I believe that this plant will exacerbate the negative effects of other activities, already occurring within the Westfield River watershed, and am very concerned about the cumulative impact on this Wild and Scenic river and on the watershed generally.

Specifically, the proposed removal of 900,00 gallons of water per day from the Westfield River, with 85% (800,000) gallons of that water evaporated and therefore entirely lost from the river, will compound the effect of these pre-existing negative conditions.

Riparian issues of concern.

1. The Westfield River watershed's rapid runoff due to its poor ability, with ongoing removal of sand and gravel deposits in upper watershed to degrade that ability.
  2. The number of present withdrawal permits and non permits ( withdrawal of less than 100,000 gallons per day) that are already in place.
  3. The inter-basin transfer withdrawal permits from Borden Brook and Cobble MT. Dam. (Springfield water Supply.) (Little River) Inter basin Transfer Act 313 CMR 4.00.
  4. The possibility of additional inter-basin transfers from Littleville Lake on the Middle Branch of the Westfield River (designated auxiliary water supply for City of Springfield).
  5. Increased demands on the river for dilution of the output from wastewater treatment plants particularly during the lower flows of the summer Months. City of Westfield's systems was recently expanded and additional links from the towns of Southwick and Southampton are expected.
- I have been working with people in the Fish and Wild Life organization and disheartened by the condition of the river. High phosphate concentrations have reduced the clarity of the water and have led to proliferation of algae. These conditions do not bode well for efforts to restore Atlantic salmon and other migratory fish to the river. (Noted 37 species located in the Westfield River), and continued deg ration of the river will certainly not help.

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