

TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONTACTS:

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Exeter River Great Dam Removal Feasibility and Impact Assessment Study Public Meeting Scheduled for May 23, 2012 at the Town Hall

On Wednesday, May 23, 2012, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., the Exeter River Study Committee will host a public meeting at the Exeter Town Hall. The Consultants, Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) of Bedford, NH will share results of the study's progress to date. Following the study's completion, Exeter Citizens will be asked to make a decision to either remove the Exeter River Great Dam or modify it to meet current state mandated safety standards. Citizens are encouraged to attend, learn about study results to date. Citizens will have an opportunity to ask questions about the study's report as well as to provide comments and information to inform the Study Committee and VHB. Also available at that time will be a Responsiveness Summary Report that addresses questions and concerns citizens raised at previous public meetings related to this study. The final results of the study are expected to be released at a public meeting in late fall of 2012.

The study's components reflect the concerns and questions raised by citizens who participated in the April 2010 public meeting as well as those specific components that are required by law. The study has included a review of recent river and water supply studies, base mapping of the dam area, sediment sampling and analysis, stream flow and hydraulics, ice conditions survey, FEMA floodway analysis, private and municipal well changes that could result under various dam removal options, impacts on fish and wildlife, impacts on wetlands, impacts on the dam site and abutters and a detailed analysis of potential impacts on Cultural Resources. The Cultural Resource Assessment evaluates potential impacts of dam removal or modification on historic, architectural and archeological resources, bridge and other infrastructure impacts, recreational usage, water withdrawal, and water quality among others.

To date, the study has been funded by the Town through Town Warrants passed in 2010 and 2008, through partnerships with the Environmental Protection Agency and New Hampshire DES (under a 319 Grant) and a Gulf of Maine Council Grant in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and The New Hampshire Coastal Program.

The Exeter River Study Committee Chair, Dr. Lionel Ingram, and its Working Group (Co-Chairs, Dr. Mimi Becker, Exeter and Deborah Loiselle, N.H. DES) will assist the Town's Project Manager, Paul Vlasich PE and VHB's Project Manager, Peter Walker, and his staff to ensure that the goals of the meeting are met so that interested citizens are informed and have opportunities to participate in the meeting. This is the second of three public meetings planned for the study.

As study information becomes available it will be posted along with existing Exeter River Study information on the Town's Website at: <http://town.exeter.nh.us/dpw/ExeterRvStudy.cfm>.