



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

Connecticut  
still revolutionary

April 22, 2014

Ms. Jennifer Perry  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Use  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

RECEIVED  
APR 30 2014

Subject: Springborn Dam Removal  
504 Hazard Avenue  
Enfield, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Perry:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the referenced project in response to a Scoping Notice posted on the Environmental Monitor. SHPO understands that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) intends to remove the dam to eliminate public safety risk and reconnect habitat by restoring the free-flowing river. The Connecticut River Watershed Council submitted this project to our office for review on March 19, 2007 in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (see attached). After an exchange of information, SHPO concluded, "that the Springborn Dam possesses historic and industrial importance and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places."

In the correspondence from SHPO dated September 24, 2007, this office recommended that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act be drafted for the proposed undertaking. At that time, SHPO included specific mitigative measures to be included in the MOA. In consideration of the currently proposed removal action and still present historic components, SHPO reaffirms its prior recommendations and request for a MOA to include state-level documentation of Springborn Dam, publication of the results of this documentation in a scholarly journal, and archeological monitoring of the dam removal process.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. For additional information, please contact Catherine Labadia, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 256-2764 or [catherine.labadia@ct.gov](mailto:catherine.labadia@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Forrest  
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, OSA

State Historic Preservation Office

One Constitution Plaza | Hartford, CT 06103 | P: 860.256.2800 | [Cultureandtourism.org](http://Cultureandtourism.org)

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Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

September 24, 2007

Historic Preservation  
& Museum Division

Ms. Megan Hearne  
Connecticut River Watershed Council  
deKoven House Community Center  
27 Washington Street  
Middletown, CT 06457

Subject: Springborn Dam  
Enfield, CT

59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, Connecticut  
06106

(v) 860.566.3005  
(f) 860.566.5078

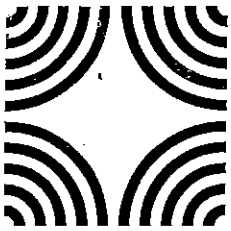
Dear Ms. Hearne:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed supplemental information provided by the Connecticut River Watershed Council concerning the above-named project. This office believes that the Springborn Dam possesses historic and industrial importance and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the proposed project will constitute an adverse effect upon the Springborn Dam. However, this office offers no objection to the proposed removal of this historic structure. In this regard, we recommend that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration draft a Memorandum of Agreement pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act for the proposed undertaking.

The State Historic Preservation Office strongly recommends that the professional implementation of the following mitigative measures be included within the Memorandum of Agreement:

- Prior to construction-related activities, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and/or the Connecticut River Watershed Council shall document the Springborn Dam, to the professional standards of the State Historic Preservation Office. Documentation shall consist of narrative text, photographs and/or high-quality digital images, an index of photographs, and a photographic site plan. Photographic documentation shall include ponded and dewatered conditions, including all exposed industrial features, and pertinent context-related perspectives of the adjacent mill complex. Final documentation shall be provided to the State Historic Preservation Office for permanent archiving and public accessibility.



Springborn Dam  
Enfield, CT  
Page 2

- o The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and/or the Connecticut River Watershed Council shall prepare and submit a brief history and description of the Springborn Dam, including project-related information, photographs and maps, to the *Society for Industrial Archeology New England Chapters Newsletter*.
- o The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and/or the Connecticut River Watershed Council shall retain an industrial archaeologist who meets National Park Service qualification standards to monitor and professionally document any industrial archaeological remains that may be exposed through project-related activities. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and/or the Connecticut River Watershed Council shall consult with the Office of State Archaeology at the University of Connecticut (Storrs) regarding the curation of industrial artifacts that may be recovered through the archaeological monitoring.

The State Historic Preservation Office appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed and commented upon the proposed undertaking.

This office looks forward to further coordination with all interested parties regarding the expeditious furtherance of the proposed undertaking as well as the professional management of Connecticut's cultural heritage.

For further assistance please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,



Karen Senich

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni/OSA  
Ms. Lisa Cavallaro/NOAA



**CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
*Protecting the Connecticut River Since 1952*

deKoven House Community Center - 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457  
(860) 704-0057 Fax: (860) 528-3588 E-mail: [crwc@earthlink.net](mailto:crwc@earthlink.net)

August 21, 2007

Dr. David A. Poirier  
Staff Archaeologist and Environmental Review Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: Springborn Dam  
Enfield, CT

Dear Dr. Poirier,

Connecticut River Watershed Council, Scantic River Watershed Association and American Rivers are currently investigating the feasibility of fully removing the Springborn Dam, owned by CT DEP, located on the Scantic River in Enfield, CT. I sent an initial request for determination in March and am now responding to your office's follow up questions received in April. Photographs of the dam and adjacent structure are attached.

The first dam at this site (village of Scitico within Enfield) was built in 1840 by Shakers. This dam was used to power a gristmill and then a sawmill. In 1901 the Gordon Brothers increased the height of the dam and built a mill in order to recycle waste wool to sell back to the carpet mills. "For power, they used the 20-foot waterfall to develop 260 horsepower, transmitted by a forest of belts and pulleys to the cards and pickers." (from The Challenge of Change edited by Ruth E. Bridge, 1977, published by Enfield Historical Society p.198)

After DeBell and Richardson moved their plastics development laboratory to the old Gordon Brothers building in 1948, "On August 18-19, 1955, a tremendous storm dumped 14 inches of rainfall on the Scantic watershed, and all of this poured through the Scantic Gap, smashed the dam, and knocked out four stories of the south wall of the old Gordon mill.... The company rebuilt and reinforced the structures, and converted the Stowe pond - a tangle of swamp, fallen timber, and debris - into a sylvan meadow and trout pond." (Bridge, pp. 199,200) This company specialized in plastics invention, manufacture and fabrication. Some of its noted patents were for fluorocarbon polymerization, shaped glass fibers, foam radar lenses for fighter plane navigation, and deep-drawn oriented thermoplastics sheet (cigarette packages). (Bridge, p.200).

*NOVA*  
*Worse/MAX*

HEADQUARTERS:  
FAX: (413) 772-2090

15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301-3511  
E-MAIL: [crwc@crocker.com](mailto:crwc@crocker.com)

PHONE: (413) 772-2020  
WEB: [www.criver.org](http://www.criver.org)



Currently the mill building adjacent to Springborn dam does not use the dam or impoundment at all. It houses STR Inc., a multi-national company that conducts quality assurance testing and compliance monitoring for a variety of industries.

My searches at the town hall and library revealed the following ownership history. The last several land records show the name of the corporation was changed several times due to mergers.

Shakers	1840
Wheeden	dates unknown
Preston Abbe	dates unknown
Leroy Spencer	until 1886
A period of disuse and disastrous fire	
Gordon Brothers	1901
A.W. Dolge & Co	late 1930's / early 1940s?
DeBell & Richardson	1948
Springborn Group	?
Rolynn Inc	1984
Springborn Laboratories	1987 (name change)
Springborn Testing & Research Inc	1996 (name change)
Specialized Technology Resource Inc	1998 to present (name change)

I request that your office review this additional information and determine whether any historic or archaeological review is necessary. If you would like any further information or have questions about the project, I can be reached at 860-704-0057 or [mhearne@ctriver.org](mailto:mhearne@ctriver.org).

Sincerely,

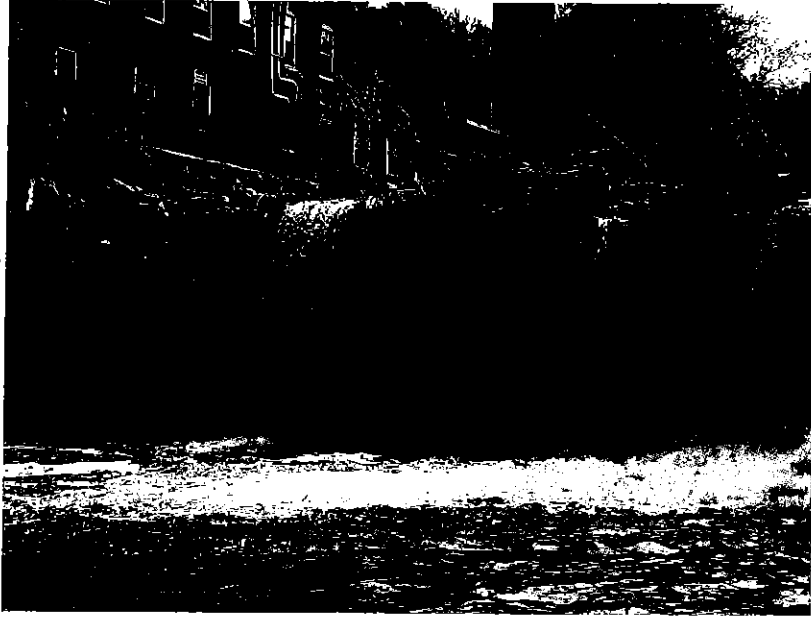


Megan Hearne  
River Steward

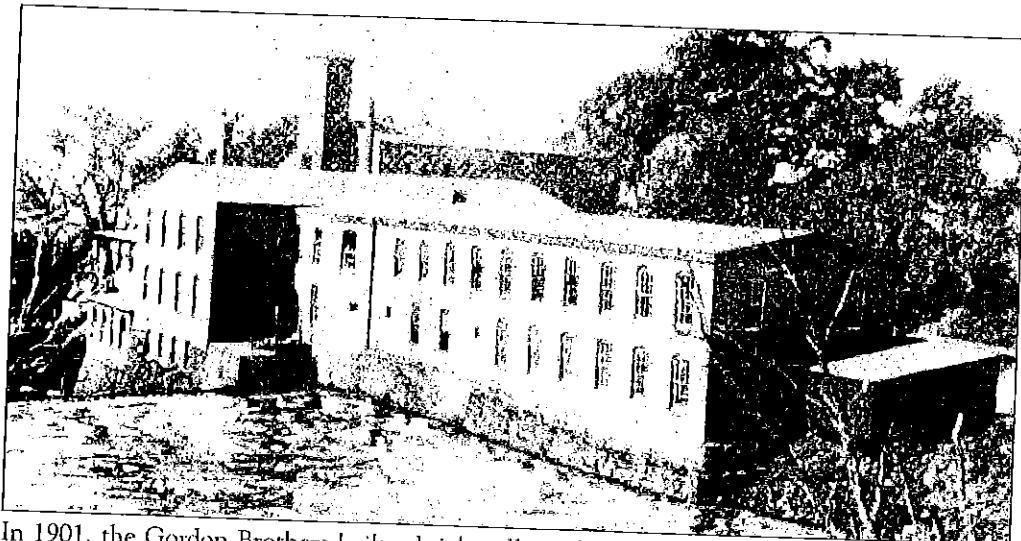
Attachments:

2 photographs of Springborn Dam and the adjacent mill building  
Copy of book page showing 1901 photograph of same building

cc: Lisa Cavallaro, NOAA



from... Images of America, Enfield CT  
by Michael K. Miller 1998

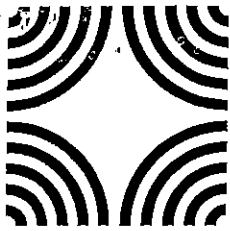


In 1901, the Gordon Brothers built a brick mill on the Scantic River in Scitico, where they operated what would today be classified as a recycling business. Rags and cloth scraps were processed at the mill to extract their wool content. The scraps were treated with acid to destroy any cotton content, and the wool was carded. The result was a very good grade of wool that could be sold back at profit to the same mills from which the scrap was purchased. The Gordon Brothers also owned most of the nearby housing and charged their employees between \$1.40 and \$2.50 per week for rent. They showed unusual concern for their employees' well-being and actually waived the rent for days when the employees were unable to work due to illness. (EHS Collection.)



Water power was one of the natural resources that attracted settlers to Hazardville and Scitico. Pine Point Lake in Hazardville was made by the Enfield Shakers to supply water for a sawmill. The Pine Point name came from the 150 acres of pine trees planted there by a Shaker named Omar Pease. Most of the trees were lost in the 1938 hurricane. After the Shakers left Enfield, the lake became a popular recreation area. (MAP Collection.)

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism



April 24, 2007

Historic Preservation  
& Museum Division

Ms. Megan Hearne  
Connecticut River Watershed Council  
deKoven House Community Center  
27 Washington Street  
Middletown, CT 06457

59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, Connecticut  
06106

Subject: Springborn Dam  
Enfield, CT

(v) 860.566.3005  
(f) 860.566.5078

Dear Ms. Hearne:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above-named project. This office respectfully requests that the following information be provided for further review:

- o Photographs and/or digital images, and date of construction, for the Springborn dam.
- o Corporate history of the adjacent industrial/manufacturing complex, including information regarding its historic association with and use of hydropower from the Springborn Dam.

Upon submission of the requested material, the State Historic Preservation Office will provide substantive comments vis-a-vis the National Historic Preservation Act.

We look forward to working with all interested parties in the expeditious furtherance of the proposed project as well as in the professional management of Connecticut's cultural heritage.

For further information please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

Karen Senich  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer





## CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

*Protecting the Connecticut River Since 1952*

deKoven House Community Center - 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457  
(860) 704-0057 Fax: (860) 528-3588 E-mail: [crwc@earthlink.net](mailto:crwc@earthlink.net)

March 19, 2007

Dr. David A. Poirier  
Staff Archaeologist and Environmental Review Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Dr. Poirier:

Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), the Scantic River Watershed Association and American Rivers are currently investigating the feasibility of fully removing the Springborn dam, owned by CT DEP, located on the Scantic River in Enfield, CT (see enclosed map). The goals of the project are to: 1) restore the river to its free-flowing natural condition, 2) improve migratory fish passage, and 3) improve recreational opportunities. The dam is situated on bedrock and does not hold back a significant impoundment.

I am requesting that your office review the enclosed map and determine whether any historic or archaeological review is necessary. If you would like any further information or have questions about the project, I can be reached at 860-704-0057 or [mhearne@ctriver.org](mailto:mhearne@ctriver.org).

Sincerely,

Megan Hearne

River Steward

