

July 1, 2026

Via Electronic Filing

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Dashville Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15397)
 Sturgeon Pool Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15396)
 First Study Progress Report**

Dear Secretary Reese:

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation (Central Hudson), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fortis Inc., herein files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the First Study Progress Report for the licensing of the Dashville Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15397) and the Sturgeon Pool Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15396). The Projects are located on the Wallkill River in Ulster County, New York.

The Projects have been in operation since the early 1920s. On February 6, 2025, FERC issued an Order Finding Licensing of Hydroelectric Project Required, that determined the Projects to be subject to FERC's jurisdiction. Subsequently, Central Hudson is pursuing separate original FERC licenses for the two individual Projects through FERC's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP). On March 11, 2026, Central Hudson filed a Revised Study Plan (RSP) for the Projects, and the FERC issued the Study Plan Determination (SPD) on April 22, 2026.

Pursuant to the RSP, Central Hudson herein submits the First Study Progress Report for the period from May 1, 2026 through July 1, 2026 for the Projects. The enclosed table (report) provides the status of each of the required studies, including notes related to the approved methodologies, where applicable.

Concurrent with this filing, Central Hudson is providing a copy of this letter to all parties listed in the attached distribution list. A copy of filing can be downloaded from FERC's eLibrary system at <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp> by conducting a search using the docket numbers P-15397 and/or P-15396.

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Dashville Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15397)
Sturgeon Pool Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15396)
First Study Progress Report
July 1, 2026
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Katie Raine of HDR at (207) 239-2789 or katie.raine@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Yager". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ben Yager
Engineer
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Enclosure: First Study Progress Report

cc: Distribution List

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Sturgeon Pool Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15396)

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FIRST STUDY PROGRESS REPORT

Dashville Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15397)
Sturgeon Pool Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15396)
First Study Progress Report
(May 1, 2026 through July 1, 2026)

No.	Study	Status and Methodology Notes
1	Water Quality Study – Continuous Water Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring, Instantaneous Water Quality Monitoring, Reservoir Profile Data	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD: - Continuous water quality monitoring equipment was deployed by June 1, 2026 at eight locations. The approximate depth at each location is provided in Attachment 1. - On a biweekly basis, Central Hudson is downloading the continuous water quality data and collecting instantaneous water quality data, reservoir profile data, and water samples for lab analysis for nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a. - Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the Initial Study Report (ISR).
2	Macroinvertebrate Study	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD: - A Scientific Collection Permit was obtained from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). - The macroinvertebrate sampling is planned for mid-summer 2026. - Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR.
3	Aquatic Mesohabitat Assessment	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD: - The desktop analysis and field survey were completed in June 2026. - Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR.
4	Freshwater Mussel Study	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD: - A Scientific Collection Permit was obtained from NYSDEC. - The mussel survey is planned for summer 2026. - Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR.
5	Fish Community Survey	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD: - A Scientific Collection Permit was obtained from NYSDEC. - Nighttime eel observations and eel pot deployment commenced on May 6, 2026 and are being conducted weekly. - The spring fish community survey was completed in early June 2026. - The fall fish community survey is scheduled for the fall of 2026. - Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR.
6	Fish Entrainment and Impingement Study	Consistent with the RSP and SPD, the study is anticipated to be completed in 2026 with data provided in the ISR.
7	Downstream Wallkill River and Rondout Creek Evaluation	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD: - Level loggers were deployed in the Wallkill River downstream of the Sturgeon Pool Project as well as in Rondout Creek in May 2026. - Central Hudson will collect the data required by FERC to develop a discharge rating curve relative to water elevation downstream of the Sturgeon Pool Project. - The study is anticipated to be completed in May 2027. Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR, as applicable.

Dashville Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15397)
Sturgeon Pool Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 15396)
First Study Progress Report
(May 1, 2026 through July 1, 2026)

No.	Study	Status and Methodology Notes
8	Sturgeon Pool Bypassed Reach Flow Evaluation	Consistent with the RSP and SPD: • During the summer 2026, Central Hudson will consult with the resource agencies on the target species and study flows to be evaluated. • Central Hudson anticipates the field study activities will be conducted in the fall of 2026. • Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR.
9	Project Operations Study	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD, the study is anticipated to be completed in May 2027. Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR, as applicable.
10	Recreational Resources Inventory, Use, and Needs Assessment	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD: • The inventory and condition assessment was completed in May 2026. • User spot counts and surveys were initiated on May 12, 2026. Spot counts and surveys were performed on two weekdays and two weekend days in May and June with an additional event during Memorial Day weekend. • An online survey was developed (largely consistent with the in-person survey). Signs providing the QR Code to the online survey were posted at each of the study recreation sites by May 15, 2026. A link to the online survey was distributed to contacts on the licensing distribution list on May 26, 2026. • Central Hudson is in the process of coordinating the operations of the Dashville Dam to allow for obtaining the required photos of the dam during various operating conditions for each season. • Central Hudson is in the process of convening the Recreation Study Working Group. • Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR.
11	Cultural Resources Study	Pursuant to the RSP and SPD: • The desktop component of the study was initiated, and the field component of the study is anticipated to be conducted during the summer or fall of 2026. • Data collected in 2026 will be provided in the ISR.

ATTACHMENT 1
Approximate Water Quality Monitoring Equipment Depths

Monitoring Station ID	Location Description	Approximate Depth of Monitoring Equipment
P1	Dashville reservoir/upstream Wallkill River	6 feet deep <i>(Mid-depth in the water column)</i>
P2	Dashville intake	23 feet deep <i>(Depth of intake)</i>
P3	Dashville tailwater/Sturgeon Pool reservoir on river right	4 feet deep <i>(Mid-depth in the water column)</i>
P4	Sturgeon Pool reservoir	27 feet deep <i>(Mid-depth in the water column)</i>
P5	Sturgeon Pool intake	30.5 feet deep <i>(Depth of intake)</i>
P6	Sturgeon Pool tailwater	2.5 feet deep ¹ <i>(Mid-depth in the water column)</i>
P7	Sturgeon Pool bypassed reach at the toe of the dam	2.5 feet deep <i>(Mid-depth in the water column)</i>
P8	Wallkill River downstream of Sturgeon Pool Project	4 feet deep <i>(Mid-depth in the water column)</i>

¹ Due to changing water elevations when generating, Monitoring Station P6 was set based on the Sturgeon Pool Project not generating (i.e., lowest water elevations in the Sturgeon Pool tailwater).