

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20426
November 19, 2019

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2333-091 – Maine
Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project
Rumford Falls Hydro, LLC

VIA FERC Service

Reference: Scoping Document 1 for the Rumford Falls (P-2333-091) Hydroelectric Project

To the Parties Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is currently reviewing the Pre-Application Document (PAD) submitted by Rumford Falls Hydro, LLC, a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable, for relicensing the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333). The project is located on the Androscoggin River, in Oxford County, Maine.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Commission staff intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a new license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the EA is thorough and balanced.

We invite your participation in the scoping process and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA. We are also requesting that you identify any studies that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the EA for the project.

We will hold two scoping meetings for the project to receive input on the scope of the EA. A daytime meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on December 17, 2019, at the Rumford

Project No. 2333-091

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Municipal Building. An evening meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on December 17, 2019, at the same location.

We invite all interested agencies, Native-American tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or both of these meetings. Further information on our scoping meetings is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to Rumford Falls Hydro, LLC's distribution list and the Commission's official mailing list (see section 10.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify **Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 2333-091** on the first page.

Please review the SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 6.0, *Request for Information and Studies*. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the EA for this project, please contact Ryan Hansen at (202) 502-8074 or ryan.hansen@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the project may be obtained from our website, www.ferc.gov. The deadline for filing comments is January 25, 2020. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

RUMFORD FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2333-091)

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Washington, DC

November 2019

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333-091)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On September 27, 2019, Rumford Falls Hydro, LLC (Rumford Falls Hydro), filed a notice of intent and a pre-application document (NOI/PAD) for a new license for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2333-091 (Rumford Falls project or project). The project is located on the Androscoggin River in Oxford County, Maine (figure 1). A detailed description of the project is provided in section 3.0. The Rumford Falls project does not occupy federal lands.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,² the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of re-licensing the Rumford Falls project as proposed and consider reasonable alternatives to the licensee's proposed action. Currently, we intend to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the Rumford Falls project that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the licensee's proposed action and alternative.

Although our current intent is to prepare an EA, there is a possibility that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required. The scoping process will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r) (2018).

² National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42. U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f) (2006).

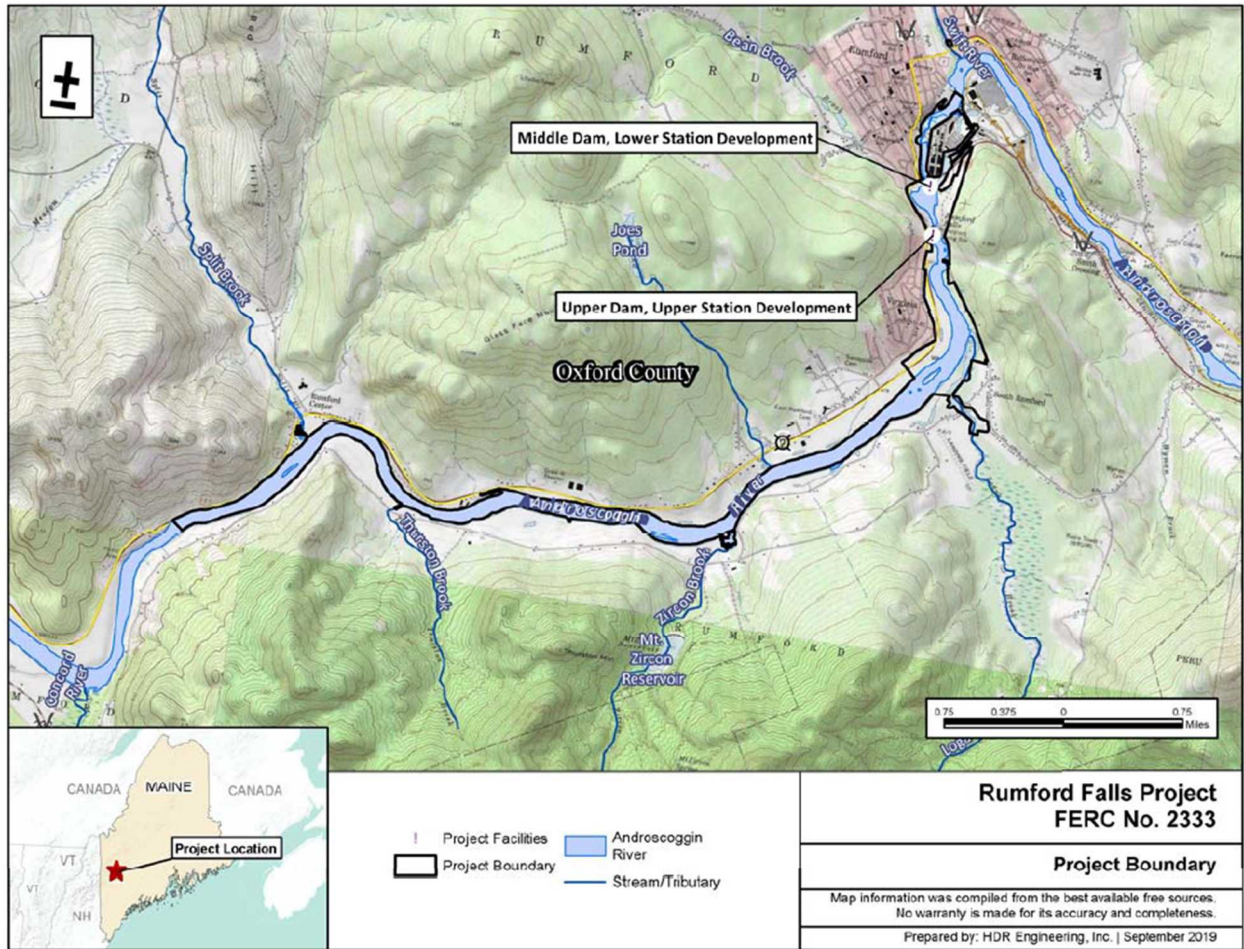


Figure 1: Location of the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (source: PAD).

2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the EA and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the EA; (2) a description of the licensee's proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues; (4) a proposed EA outline; and (5) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans that are applicable to the project.

2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. According to NEPA, the process should be conducted early in the planning stage of the project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Native-American tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the EA;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the EA;
- solicit, from participants, available information on the resources at issue; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

2.2 COMMENTS, SCOPING MEETINGS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW

During preparation of the EA, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Native-American tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during the public scoping process and study plan meetings, when we solicit oral and written comments regarding the scope of issues and analysis for the EA;
- in response to the Commission's notice that the project is ready for environmental analysis; and
- after issuance of the EA when we solicit written comments on the EA.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two public scoping meetings in the vicinity of the project. A daytime meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGOs, and Native-American tribes, and an evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Native-American tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and locations of the meetings are as follows:

Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Rumford Municipal Building
145 Congress St
Rumford, ME 04276
Phone: (207) 364-4576

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Rumford Municipal Building
145 Congress St
Rumford, ME 04276
Phone: (207) 364-4576

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 6.0. These meetings are posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx, along with other related information.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the relicensing of the Rumford Falls project. It is advised that participants review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Copies of the PAD are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-2333, to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made as to the level of analysis needed. If preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the EA.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue SD2 to address any substantive comments received. The SD2 will be issued for informational purposes only; no response will be required. The EA will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the applicant's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no-action alternative, the Rumford Falls project would continue to operate as required by the current project license (i.e., there would be no change to the existing environment). No new environmental protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures would be implemented. We use this alternative to establish baseline environmental conditions for comparison with other alternatives.

3.1.1 Project Facilities

The Rumford Falls project consists of two developments, the Upper Station and Lower Station Developments, which are located on a 7.6 mile stretch of the Androscoggin River in the town of Rumford, Oxford County, Maine. The FERC-licensed Shelburne Hydroelectric Project P-2300 and Riley-Jay-Livermore Hydroelectric project P-2375 are located approximately 35 river miles (RM) upstream of the Upper Station dam and 21 RM downstream of the Lower Station dam, respectively.

3.1.1.1 Upper Station

The Upper Station Development consists of a dam, forebay, impoundment, gatehouse, powerhouse, and water conveyance, generation, transmission, and appurtenant facilities. The concrete gravity Upper Dam consists of a 464-foot-long, 37-foot-high ogee type spillway section with a crest elevation of 598.74 feet NGVD 1929³ and width of 10 feet. The spillway section is topped with 32-inch-high, pin-supported wooden flashboards and a rubber Obermeyer spillway system.

When the flashboards are engaged, the dam impounds a reservoir that has a surface area of approximately 419 acres at a maximum pond elevation of 601.24 feet above mean sea level (msl) that provides approximately 2,900 acre-feet of gross storage. The dam comprises one side of the 2,300-foot-long, 150-foot-wide forebay; the other is comprised of a concrete wall.

³ National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929

A masonry gatehouse contains eight power-operated hoists and gates, two for each penstock, which regulate flow from the forebay to the penstocks. Flow through the gates is screened by 3-inch, open-spaced coarse trashracks that span the length of the gatehouse. The four riveted-plate steel penstocks are 100 feet long. Three of the penstocks have a diameter of 12 feet and the remaining penstock has a diameter of 13 feet.

The generating equipment for the project is housed in a masonry powerhouse located downstream of the gatehouse on the western bank of the Androscoggin River. The powerhouse consists of the 110-foot-long, 30-foot-wide, 92-foot-high Old Station and the 140-foot-long, 60-foot-wide, 76-foot-high New Station. The Old Station portion of the powerhouse contains one horizontal Francis turbine (Unit 4) with a capacity of 4.3 megawatts (MW) and the New Station portion of the powerhouse contains three vertical Francis turbines, two of which have a capacity of 8.1 MW (Units 1 and 2) and one of which has a capacity of 8.8 MW (Unit 3). The total installed capacity of the generators is 29.3 MW. The combined hydraulic capacity of the turbines is 4,550 cfs.

A concrete-lined tailrace at an elevation of 502.74 feet conveys flow from the powerhouse back to the Androscoggin River, creating a bypassed reach that is 650 feet long. Power from the powerhouse is transmitted to the Generation Step-up Unit (GSU) Substation through two 11.5-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines. Line 2 has a length of 4,500 feet and Line 3 has a length of 4,200 feet.⁴

3.1.1.2 Lower Station

The Lower Station Development consists of a dam, headgate structure, power canal, impoundment, gatehouse, powerhouse, and water conveyance, generation, transmission, and appurtenant facilities. The rock-filled, wood-crib, gravity-type Middle Dam is capped and reinforced with concrete and has a spillway with a length of 328.6 feet. The dam is approximately 20 feet tall and the top of the dam is fitted with 16-inch-high pin-type flashboards that increase the total crest elevation of the dam to 502.74 feet.

The dam impounds a reservoir that has a surface area of approximately 21 acres at a normal maximum pond elevation of 502.74 feet msl. When the flashboards on Middle Dam are engaged, the reservoir provides approximately 141 acre-feet of gross storage.

⁴ Although they are currently listed as primary lines under the current license, Transmission Line 1 is no longer utilized and Line 4 was abandoned by its owner, Catalyst Paper.

Middle Dam diverts flow from the Androscoggin River through a headgate structure into the 2,400-foot-long, 75 to 175-foot-wide, 8 to 16-foot-deep Middle Canal. The 120-foot-wide concrete masonry headgate structure, located adjacent to Middle Dam, is approximately 120-feet-wide and contains 10 headgates comprised of wood and steel, some of which are operated automatically and some of which are operated manually. A waste weir, located within Middle Canal and perpendicular to the headgate structure, diverts floating debris back into the Androscoggin River. The weir maintains an elevation of up to 502.6 feet in the canal and is fitted with 1-foot-high flashboards and a 120-foot-long spillway.

The Lower Station gatehouse regulates flow from Middle Canal to the penstocks via two motorized gate hoist and headgates. A 2.6-inch, open-spaced trashrack that spans the length of the gatehouse screens debris from the flow that passes through the gates. The gatehouse also houses the transmitter responsible for control of the water level in the canal. Two 12-foot-diameter, 815-foot-long riveted-plate steel penstocks convey flow from the gatehouse to two 50.5-foot-tall, 36-foot-diameter steel surge tanks. Downstream of the surge tanks, the penstocks continue to convey flow another 77 feet to the powerhouse.

The 78-foot-long, 40-foot-wide masonry Lower Station powerhouse is located downstream of the headgate structure on the eastern bank of the Androscoggin River. The powerhouse contains two vertical Francis turbines (Units 1 and 2), each with a 7.6 MW capacity. The total installed capacity of the development is 15.2 MW. The combined hydraulic capacity of the turbines is 3,100 cfs.

A 25-foot-wide concrete-lined tailrace apron at an elevation of 423.2 feet conveys flow from the powerhouse back to the Androscoggin River, creating a bypassed reach that is 2,865 feet long. Power from the powerhouse is transmitted to the GSU Substation through two 600-foot-long, 11.5-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines.

3.1.1.3 Recreation Facilities

The following are project recreational facilities: a carry-in canoe facility at Carlton Bridge, Veteran's Park, an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail, and Rumford Falls Trail.

J. Eugene Boivin Park, located adjacent to the Middle Dam on the northwest bank of the Androscoggin River, is not a project facility and is maintained by the Town of Rumford. The park provides views of Rumford Falls and both the Upper and Middle Dams, as well as informal access to the Middle Station reservoir. There is also an area within the project boundary just downstream of the Upper Dam that was historically used

as a public viewing area of Rumford Falls, but is no longer maintained for this purpose by Rumford Falls Hydro or any other entity. However, four large spotlights affixed to the viewing area are turned on at night by Rumford Falls Hydro when flows reach 40,000 cfs to provide views of the falls from downstream. Wheeler Island, located approximately one mile upstream of the Upper Dam in the project impoundment, also appears to be used for camping and other recreational activities.

3.1.2 Project Operation

Inflow to the all the projects on the Androscoggin River is regulated by six large storage reservoirs at the headwaters of the Androscoggin River system that include Lake Umbagog, Rangeley Lake, Mooselookmeguntic Lake, Upper Richardson Lake, Lower Richardson Lake, and Aziscohos Lake. The Rumford Falls developments generally operate as run-of-river facilities, using flows as released from the storage projects. Rumford Falls Hydro proposes to continue to operate and maintain the Rumford Falls developments as required in the existing license.

3.1.2.1 Upper Station

The Upper Station Development operates in a run-of-river mode, such that the water surface elevation within the project impoundment is maintained within 1 foot of the normal full pond elevation of 601.24 feet msl. Rumford Falls Hydro provides a minimum flow of 1 cfs into the bypassed reach through leakage from the dam. If inflow exceeds the maximum hydraulic capacity of the turbines, excess flow is passed over the Obermeyer spillway. During periods of very high flow, typically following snow melt in the spring or heavy rains in autumn, Rumford Falls Hydro collapses the Obermeyer spillway and allows spill over the dam at crest level. The development has an average annual energy production value of approximately 182,407 megawatt-hours (MWh).

3.1.2.2 Lower Station

The Lower Station Development operates in a run-of-river mode, such that the water surface elevation within the project impoundment is maintained within 1 foot of the normal full pond elevation of 502.74 feet msl. Rumford Falls Hydro provides a minimum flow of 21 cfs into the bypassed reach through a series of 6-inch-diameter pipes installed in the dam. If inflow exceeds the maximum hydraulic capacity of the turbines, excess flow is passed over the crest of Middle Dam. During periods of very high flow, portions of the flashboards on the crest of Middle Dam may break away, reducing the water level in the impoundment to the crest elevation of the dam. Any flashboards that have broken away are replaced once the high flow condition subsides. The development

has an average annual energy production value of approximately 108,977 MWh.

3.1.3 Proposed Environmental Measures

Rumford Falls Hydro proposes to continue to operate the Rumford Falls project with the environmental protection, mitigation and enhancement (PM&E) measures described below.

Aquatic Resources

- Continue to operate the project in a run-of-river mode such that the water surface elevation within the project impoundment is maintained within one foot of full pond elevation of 601.24 feet (USGS datum) at the Upper Dam impoundment and 502.74 feet at the Middle Dam impoundment.
- Continue to provide 1 cfs or inflow, whichever is less, to the upper bypassed reach and 21 cfs or inflow, whichever is less, to the lower bypassed reach.

Recreation

- Continue to provide for public uses and access to project lands and waters.

3.2 DAM SAFETY

It is important to note that dam safety constraints may exist and should be taken into consideration in the development of proposals and alternatives considered in the pending proceeding. For example, proposed modifications to the dam structure, such as the addition of flashboards or fish passage facilities, could impact the integrity of the dam structure. As the proposal and alternatives are developed, the applicant must evaluate the effects and ensure that the project would meet the Commission's dam safety criteria found in Part 12 of the Commission's regulations and the Engineering Guidelines (<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/safety/guidelines/eng-guide.asp>).

3.3 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by the Commission, the agencies, Native-American tribes, NGOs, and the public.

3.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

At present, we propose to eliminate the following alternatives from detailed study in the EA.

3.4.1 Federal Government Takeover

In accordance with § 16.14 of the Commission's regulations, a federal department or agency may file a recommendation that the United States exercise its right to take over a hydroelectric power project with a license that is subject to sections 14 and 15 of the FPA.⁵ We do not consider federal takeover to be a reasonable alternative. Federal takeover of the project would require congressional approval. While that fact alone would not preclude further consideration of this alternative, there is currently no evidence showing that federal takeover should be recommended to Congress. No party has suggested that federal takeover would be appropriate, and no federal agency has expressed interest in operating the project.

3.4.2 Non-power License

A non-power license is a temporary license the Commission would terminate whenever it determines that another governmental agency is authorized and willing to assume regulatory authority and supervision over the lands and facilities covered by the non-power license. At this time, no governmental agency has suggested a willingness or ability to take over the project. No party has sought a non-power license, and we have no basis for concluding that the Rumford Falls Project should no longer be used to produce power. Thus, we do not consider a non-power license a reasonable alternative to relicensing the project.

⁵ 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a)-825(r).

3.4.3 Project Decommissioning

As the Commission has previously held, decommissioning is not a reasonable alternative to relicensing in most cases.⁶ Decommissioning can be accomplished in different ways depending on the project, its environment, and the particular resource needs.⁷ For these reasons, the Commission does not speculate about possible decommissioning measures at the time of relicensing, but rather waits until an applicant actually proposes to decommission a project, or a participant in a relicensing proceeding demonstrates that there are serious resource concerns that cannot be addressed with appropriate license measures and that make decommissioning a reasonable alternative.⁸ Rumford Falls Hydro does not propose decommissioning, nor does the record to date demonstrate there are serious resource concerns that cannot be mitigated if the project is relicensed; as such, there is no reason, at this time, to include decommissioning as a reasonable alternative to be evaluated and studied as part of staff's NEPA analysis.

4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES

4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (50 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

⁶ See, e.g., *Eagle Crest Energy Co.*, 153 FERC ¶ 61,058, at P 67 (2015); *Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County*, 112 FERC ¶ 61,055, at P 82 (2005); *Midwest Hydro, Inc.*, 111 FERC ¶ 61,327, at PP 35-38 (2005).

⁷ In the unlikely event that the Commission denies relicensing a project or a licensee decides to surrender an existing project, the Commission must approve a surrender "upon such conditions with respect to the disposition of such works as may be determined by the Commission." 18 C.F.R. § 6.2 (2019). This can include simply shutting down the power operations, removing all or parts of the project (including the dam), or restoring the site to its pre-project condition.

4.1.1 Resources That Could Be Cumulatively Affected

Based on our review of the license applications and preliminary staff analysis, we have not identified any resources that may be cumulatively affected by the proposed operation and maintenance of the Rumford Falls project.

4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. We identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the PAD and the Commission's record for the Rumford Falls project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains those issues raised to date that could have substantial effects. After the scoping process is complete, we will review the list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the EA.

4.2.1 Geologic and Soils Resources

- Effects of project operation on shoreline erosion at the Upper Dam impoundment.

4.2.2 Aquatic Resources

Water Quantity and Quality

- Effects of project operation on water quality, especially dissolved oxygen concentration and temperature, in the project area.

Fisheries

- Effects of project operation on aquatic habitat, including habitat distribution and suitability in the project-affected areas.
- Effects of project operation on essential fish habitat (EFH) for Atlantic

⁸ See generally *Project Decommissioning at Relicensing*; Policy Statement, FERC Stats. & Regs., Regulations Preambles (1991-1996), ¶ 31,011 (1994); see also *City of Tacoma, Washington*, 110 FERC ¶ 61,140 (2005) (finding that unless and until the Commission has a specific decommissioning proposal, any further environmental analysis of the effects of project decommissioning would be both premature and speculative).

salmon.

- Effects of project operation on fish impingement, entrainment, and survival in the Androscoggin River.

4.2.3 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of project transmission line-related electrocution and collision hazards on birds.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on riparian, littoral, and forested/shrub wetland habitats and associated wildlife.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on nesting bald eagles, and state-designated significant wildlife habitats including deer wintering areas and inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat.

4.2.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of project operation and maintenance on the federally threatened northern long-eared bat and the federally endangered Atlantic salmon Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment.

4.2.5 Recreation and Land Use

- Effects of project operation on recreational use in the project area, including the adequacy of existing recreational access and facilities in meeting recreation needs.
- The need to and feasibility of rehabilitating and reopening the viewing area of Rumford Falls at the upper development and the Rumford Falls Trail.

4.2.6 Cultural Resources

- Effects of project operation and maintenance activities on properties that are included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

4.2.7 Aesthetic Resources

- Effects of project operation on aesthetic resources in the project area.

4.2.8 Developmental Resources

- Effects of proposed or recommended environmental measures on project generation and economics.

5.0 PROPOSED STUDIES

Depending upon the findings of studies completed by Rumford Falls Hydro and the recommendations of the consulted entities, Rumford Falls Hydro will consider, and may propose certain other measures to enhance environmental resources affected by the project as part of the proposed action. Detailed information on Rumford Falls Hydro's initial study proposal can be found in the PAD. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and Rumford Falls Hydro.

Water Quality

- Coordinate with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and other stakeholders to identify the potential need for water quality information and obtain the necessary data to support issuance of a water quality certificate.

Recreation

- Conduct a recreational facility inventory of the existing formal project recreation sites, considering available access, site ownership and management, the numbers and types of recreation facilities and amenities, site conditions, and recreational use capacity.

6.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND STUDIES

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies, Native-American tribes, NGOs, and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative

effects associated with relicensing the Rumford Falls project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;
- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed relicensing of the Rumford Falls project;
- existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- information that would help characterize the existing environmental conditions and habitats;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs), along with any implementation schedules);
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Native-American tribes, NGOs, and the public;
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration; and
- study requests by federal and state agencies, local agencies, Native-American tribes, NGOs, and the public that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the EA/EIS for the project.

All requests for studies filed with the Commission must meet the criteria found in Appendix A, *Study Plan Criteria*.

The requested information, comments, and study requests should be submitted to the Commission no later than January 25, 2020. All filings must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Rumford Falls (P-2333-091) Hydroelectric Project**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, please send a paper copy to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov.

Any questions concerning the scoping meetings or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Ryan Hansen at (202) 502-8074 or ryan.hansen@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Rumford Falls project may be obtained from the Commission's website, www.ferc.gov.

7.0 EA PREPARATION SCHEDULE

At this time, we anticipate preparing a single EA. The EA will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the Rumford Falls project. The EA will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as environmental protection and enhancement measures that should be part of any license issued by the Commission. All recipients will then have 30 days to review the EA and file comments with the Commission. The major milestones, with pre-filing target dates are as follows:

Major MilestoneTarget Date

Scoping Meetings

December 2019

License Application Filed

September 2022

A copy of Rumford Falls Hydro's process plan, which has a complete list of relicensing milestones for the project, including those for developing the license application, is attached as Appendix B to this SD1.

8.0 PROPOSED EA OUTLINE

The preliminary outline for the EA for the Rumford Falls project is as follows:

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9.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal and state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. The staff has preliminarily identified and reviewed the plans listed below that may be relevant to the Rumford Falls project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform the Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the Rumford Falls project:

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1999. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. (Report No. 35). April 1999.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). (Report No. 36). April 2000.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Technical Addendum 1 to Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. February 9, 2000.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2008. Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel. Arlington, Virginia. October 2008.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2009. Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. May 2009.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2010. Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. February 2010.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2013. Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel. Arlington, Virginia. August 2013.

- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2014. Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel. Arlington, Virginia. October 2014.
- Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry. Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2014-2019. Augusta, Maine.
- Maine Department of Conservation. 1982. Maine Rivers Study-final report. Augusta, Maine. May 1982.
- Maine State Planning Office. 1987. Maine Comprehensive Rivers Management Plan Vols 1-3. Augusta, Maine. May 1987.
- Maine State Planning Office. 1992. Maine Comprehensive Rivers Management Plan. Volume 4. Augusta, Maine. December 1992.
- National Marine Fisheries Service. 2018. Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Salmon. Hadley, Massachusetts. January 2019.
- National Park Service. 1993. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1989. Atlantic salmon restoration in New England: Final environmental impact statement 1989-2021. Department of the Interior, Newton Corner, Massachusetts. May 1989.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American waterfowl management plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

10.0 MAILING LISTS

The list below is the Commission's official mailing list for the Rumford Falls project included in this scoping document. If you want to receive future mailings for this proceeding and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to efiling@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written and

emailed requests to be added to the mailing lists must clearly identify the following on the first page, as appropriate: **Rumford Falls (P-2333-091) Hydroelectric Project**. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this project or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

John T Eddins Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 401 F Street N.W. Suite 308 Washington, DC 20001-2637	Commissioner Oxford County 26 Western Ave South Paris, ME 04281-1431
Kevin Richard Colburn National Stewardship Director American Whitewater 1035 Van Buren Street Missoula, MO 59802	Pleasant Point Reservation Tribal Building Office Route No. 190 Perry, ME 04667
Kenneth D. Kimball Director of Research Appalachian Mountain Club PO Box 296 Gorham, NH 03581-0296	Town of Rumford 145 Congress Street Rumford, Maine 04276
Randy J Dorman Licensing Specialist Brookfield Renewable Power Inc. 150 Main Street Lewiston, ME 04240	Stephen W Brooke Trout Unlimited PO Box 53 Hallowell, ME 04347-0053
Kyle Murphy Compliance Specialist Brookfield Renewable Power Inc. 150 Main Street Lewiston, ME 04240	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Divisional Office, Regulatory 696 Virginia Rd Concord, MA 01742-2718
Maine Audubon Society Executive Director 20 Gilsland Farm Rd Falmouth, ME 04105-2100	Jay Clement U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 675 Western Avenue Manchester, ME 04351

<p>Kathy Davis Howatt Hydropower Coordinator Maine Department of Environmental Protection 17 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0017</p>	<p>U.S. Bureau of Land Management Field Manager 626 E Wisconsin Ave, Ste 200 Milwaukee, WI 53202-4618</p>
<p>John Perry Environmental Coordinator Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 284 State Street Augusta, ME 04333-0041</p>	<p>Michael C. Connor Esq U.S. Bureau Reclamation U.S. Department of Interior 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC 20240-0001</p>
<p>Gail Wippelhauser Marine Resources Scientist Maine Department of Marine Resources 21 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333</p>	<p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Director Water Quality Control Branch (WQB) 5 Post Office Sq, Ste 100 Boston, MA 02109-3946</p>
<p>Kathleen Leyden Dir., Maine Coastal Program Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Cons. & Forestry Dept. of Agr., Conserv. & Forestry 93 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0038</p>	<p>Sean P McDermott Fisheries Biologist NOAA 55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930-2237</p>

APPENDIX A
STUDY PLAN CRITERIA
18 CFR Section 5.9(b)

Any information or study request must contain the following:

1. Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;
2. If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;
3. If the requester is not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;
4. Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;
5. Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;
6. Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge; and
7. Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

APPENDIX B
RUMFORD FALLS PROJECT PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE

Shaded milestones are unnecessary if there are no study disputes. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the following business day. Early filings or issuances will not result in changes to these deadlines.

Responsible Party	Pre-Filing Milestone	Date	FERC Regulation
Licensees	Issue Public Notice for NOI/PAD	9/27/19	5.3(d)(2)
Licensees	File NOI/PAD	9/27/19	5.5, 5.6
FERC	Tribal Meetings, if needed	TBD	5.7
FERC	Issue Notice of Commencement of Proceeding and Scoping Document 1	11/19/19	5.8
FERC	Scoping Meetings	12/17/19	5.8(b)(viii)
All Stakeholders	File Comments on PAD/Scoping Document 1 and Study Requests	1/25/20	5.9
FERC	Issue Scoping Document 2 (if necessary)	3/10/20	5.10
Licensees	File Proposed Study Plan	3/10/20	5.11(a)
All Stakeholders	Proposed Study Plan Meeting	4/9/20	5.11(e)
All Stakeholders	File Comments on Proposed Study Plan	6/8/20	5.12
Licensees	File Revised Study Plan	7/8/20	5.13(a)
All Stakeholders	File Comments on Revised Study Plan	7/23/20	5.13(b)
FERC	Issue Director's Study Plan Determination	8/7/20	5.13(c)
Mandatory Conditioning Agencies	File Any Study Disputes	8/27/20	5.14(a)
Dispute Panel	Select Third Dispute Resolution Panel Member	9/11/20	5.14(d)
Dispute Panel	Convene Dispute Resolution Panel	9/16/20	5.14(d)(3)
Licensees	File Comments on Study Disputes	9/21/20	5.14(i)

Responsible Party	Pre-Filing Milestone	Date	FERC Regulation
Dispute Panel	Dispute Resolution Panel Technical Conference	9/26/20	5.14(j)
Dispute Panel	Issue Dispute Resolution Panel Findings	10/16/20	5.14(k)
FERC	Issue Director's Study Dispute Determination	11/5/20	5.14(l)
Licensees	First Study Season	Spr/Sum 21	5.15(a)
Licensees	File Initial Study Report	8/7/21	5.15(c)(1)
All Stakeholders	Initial Study Report Meeting	8/22/21	5.15(c)(2)
Licensees	File Initial Study Report Meeting Summary	9/6/21	5.15(c)(3)
All Stakeholders	File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plan	10/6/21	5.15(c)(4)
All Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements/Amendment Requests	11/5/21	5.15(c)(5)
FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments	12/5/21	5.15(c)(6)
Licensees	Second Study Season	Spr/Sum 22	5.15(a)
Licensees	File Updated Study Report	8/7/22	5.15(f)
All Stakeholders	Updated Study Report Meeting	8/22/22	5.15(f)
Licensees	File Updated Study Report Meeting Summary	9/6/22	5.15(f)
All Stakeholders	File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plan	10/6/22	5.15(f)
All Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements/Amendment Requests	11/5/22	5.15(f)
FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments	12/5/22	5.15(f)
Licensees	File Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application)	5/3/22	5.16(a)-(c)
All Stakeholders	File Comments on Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application)	8/1/22	5.16(e)

Responsible Party	Pre-Filing Milestone	Date	FERC Regulation
Licensees	File Final License Application	9/30/22	5.17
Licensees	Issue Public Notice of Final License Application Filing	10/14/22	5.17(d)(2)

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