

October 30, 2020

VIA E-FILING

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333)
First Quarterly Study Progress Report**

Dear Secretary Bose:

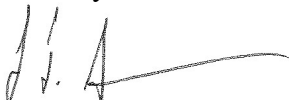
Rumford Falls Hydro LLC (RFH), a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable, herein submits to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) the first quarterly study progress report for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (Project) in accordance with 18 CFR §5.15(b). The Project is a two-development hydroelectric facility on the Androscoggin River in the Town of Rumford, Oxford County, Maine. The FERC license for the Project expires on September 30, 2024, and RFH is pursuing a new license for the Project through the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP).

Consistent with the ILP and 18 CFR §5.13, RFH filed the Revised Study Plan (RSP) with the Commission on July 7, 2020. The Commission issued a Study Plan Determination (SPD) on August 6, 2020. Consistent with the RSP and associated SPD, RFH will be conducting a total of eight studies. Per 18 CFR §5.15(b), the enclosed table provides the status of these studies as well as any modifications to the approved study methodology identified to date. The available results from these studies will be presented in the Initial Study Report, which will be filed with the FERC on August 7, 2021. RFH will file a second quarterly study progress report in February 2021.

In addition to filing a copy of this letter with the Commission, RFH is distributing this letter to those listed on the enclosed distribution list. This submittal is also available in FERC's eLibrary system at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp> under docket number P-2333.

If there are any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please contact me by phone (207) 755-5613 or at luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com.

Sincerely,



Luke Anderson
Manger, Licensing
Brookfield Renewable

cc: Distribution List
Enclosures (1)

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333
First Quarterly Study Progress Report
Distribution List

Federal Agencies

John T. Eddins
Program Analyst
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Project Review
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637
Email: jeddins@achp.gov

Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Paul Ford
Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 1
99 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

John Spain
Regional Engineer
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - New York
Regional Office
19 W 34th Street, Suite 400
New York, NY 10001
Email: john.spain@ferc.gov

Matt Buhyoff
Atlantic Salmon Recovery Coordinator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
17 Godfrey Dr.
Orono, ME 04473
Email: matt.buhyoff@noaa.gov

Don Dow
Hydro/Fish Passage Engineer
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
17 Godfrey Dr.
Orono, ME 04473
Email: donald.dow@noaa.gov

Jon Hare
Director, Northeast Region
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026
Email: jon.hare@noaa.gov

William McDavitt
Environmental Specialist
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
HCD, 55 Great Republic Dr.
Gloucester, MA 01930
Email: william.mcdavitt@noaa.gov

Sean McDermott
Hydropower Program Coordinator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298
Email: sean.mcdermott@noaa.gov

Scott Acone
Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Rd
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Jay Clement
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
675 Western Avenue
Manchester, ME 04351
Email: jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil

Richard Kristoff
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District/Regulatory Branch
696 Virginia Rd
Concord, MA 01742-2718
Email: Richard.C.Kristoff@usace.army.mil

Major General Jeffrey L. Milhorn
Division Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Atlantic Division
Fort Hamilton Military Community / 302 General
Lee Avenue
Fort Hamilton, NY 11252-6700

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Headquarters
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333
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Distribution List

Harold Peterson
Natural Resources Officer
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
545 Marriott Drive Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214
Email: Harold.Peterson@bia.gov

Karen Mouritsen
State Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States Office
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153
Email: castatedirector@blm.gov

William Perry Pendley
Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Headquarters
1849 C Street NWMIB 5655
Washington, DC 20240

Brenda W. Burman
Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Headquarters
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Email: bburman@usbr.gov

Secretary Wilbur L. Ross
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230
Email: WLRoss@doc.gov

David Bernhardt
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Andrew Raddant
Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Department of Interior
15 State Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02109
Email: andrew_raddant@ios.doi.gov

Ralph Abele
Chief, Water Quality Branch (CWQ)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code: OEP06-02
Boston, MA 02109
Email: abele.ralph@epa.gov

Dennis Deziel
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1: New England
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912
Email: Deziel.dennis@Epa.gov

Ken Moraff
Director, Office of Ecosystem Protection
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code: OEP06-02
Boston, MA 02109-3912
Email: moraff.ken@epa.gov

Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code: 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Email: wheeler.andrew@epa.gov

Tom Chapman
Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301
Email: tom_chapman@fws.gov

Anna Harris
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Maine Field Office
4 Fundy Road #R
Falmouth, ME 04105
Email: Anna_Harris@fws.gov

Aurelia Skipwith
Director
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Main Interior
1849 C Street NW, Room 3331
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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Distribution List

Bryan Sojkowski
Civil Engineer
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Northeast Region
300 Westgate Center Dr.
Hadley, MA 01035
Email: bryan_sojkowski@fws.gov

Wendi Weber
Regional Director
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Dr
Northeast Regional Office
Hadley, MA 01035-9587
Email: wendi_weber@fws.gov

Vicki Christiansen
Interim Chief
U.S. Forest Service
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building
201 14th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024
Email: vcchristiansen@fs.fed.us

Mark Prout
Forest Fish Biologist
U.S. Forest Service
71 White Mountain Dr
White Mountain National Forest
Campton, NH 03223
Email: mprout@fs.fed.us

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
Eastern Region - 9
626 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Richard Kiah
Section Chief
U.S. Geological Survey
361 Commerce Way
Pembroke, NH 03275
Email: rkiah@usgs.gov

Jim Reilly
Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192
Email: jfreilly@usgs.gov

Nicholas Stasulis
Data Section Chief
U.S. Geological Survey
New England Water Science Center
196 Whitten Rd.
Augusta, ME 04333
Email: nstasuli@usgs.gov

Mike Tupper
Regional Director, Northeast Region
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192
Email: mtupper@usgs.gov

Kevin Mendik
Hydro Program Coordinator
U.S. National Park Service
15 State Street, 10th floor
Boston, MA 02109
Email: kevin_mendik@nps.gov

David Vela
Director
U.S. National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Gay Vietzke
Regional Director, Northeast Region
U.S. National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

State Agencies

Kathy Davis Howatt
Hydropower Coordinator
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017
Email: Kathy.Howatt@maine.gov

Jim Pellerin
Regional Biologist
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Region A
15 Game Farm Road
Gray, ME 04039
Email: James.Pellerin@maine.gov

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333
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Distribution List

John Perry
Environmental Coordinator
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
284 State Street
41 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333-0041
Email: john.perry@maine.gov

Paul Christman
Maine Department of Marine Resources
21 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0021
Email: paul.christman@maine.gov

Casey Clark
Maine Department of Marine Resources
21 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0021
Email: casey.clark@maine.gov

Gail Wippelhauser
Marine Resources Scientist
Maine Department of Marine Resources
21 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Email: Gail.Wippelhauser@maine.gov

Megan M. Rideout
Review & Compliance/CLG Coordinator
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street
65 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Email: Megan.M.Rideout@maine.gov

Dr. Arthur Spiess
Review & Compliance/CLG Coordinator
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street
65 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Email: arthur.spiess@maine.gov

Kathleen Leyden
Dir., Maine Coastal Program
State of Maine Department of Agriculture,
Conservation & Forestry
93 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038
Email: kathleen.leyden@maine.gov

James Vogel
Senior Planner
State of Maine Department of Agriculture,
Conservation & Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands
18 Elkins Lane, Harlow Building
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022
Email: jim.vogel@maine.gov

Municipalities and Government Officials

Nichole Cargnino
Commissioners Clerk
Board of Oxford County Commissioners
26 Western Ave
South Paris, ME 04281-1431
Email: info@oxfordcounty.org

Stacy Carter
Town Manager
Town of Rumford
145 Congress Street
Rumford, ME 04276
Email: townmanager@rumfordme.org

Lisa Keim
State Senator
Maine Senate District 18
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Email: Lisa.Keim@legislature.maine.gov

Native American Tribes

Edward Peter-Paul
Chief
Aroostook Band of Micmacs
7 Northern Road
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Email: epeterpaul@micmac-nsn.gov

Jennifer Pictou
THPO
Aroostook Band of Micmacs
7 Northern Road
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Email: jpictou@micmac-nsn.gov

Clarissa Sabattis
Chief
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
88 Bell Road
Littleton, ME 04730

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333
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Distribution List

Marla Dana
Chief
Passamaquoddy Native American Nation
Pleasant Point Reservation
Tribal Building Office
Route No. 190
Perry, ME 04667

William J. Nicholas, Sr
Chief
Passamaquoddy Tribe
Indian Township
PO Box 301
Princeton, ME 04668

Donald Soctomah
THPO
Passamaquoddy Tribe
PO Box 159
Princeton, ME 04668
Email: Soctomah@gmail.com

Kirk Francis
Chief
Penobscot Nation
12 Wabanaki Way
Indian Island, ME 04468

Christopher Sockalexis
THPO
Penobscot Nation
12 Wabanaki Way
Indian Island, ME 04468
Email: chris.sockalexis@penobscotnation.org

Additional Parties

Kevin Richard Colburn
National Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
1035 Van Buren Street
Missoula, MT 59802
Email: kevin@americanwhitewater.org

Robert Nasdor
Northeast Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
65 Blueberry Hill Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776
Email: bob@americanwhitewater.org

Mark Zakutansky
Director of Conservation Policy Engagement
Appalachian Mountain Club
100 Illick's Mill Rd.
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Email: mzakutansky@outdoors.org

Sean Mahoney
Executive Vice President and Director
Conservation Law Foundation Maine
53 Exchange Street, Suite 200
Portland, ME 04101
Email: smahoney@clf.org

Kirk Siegel
Executive Director
Mahoosuc Land Trust
162 North Road
PO Box 981
Bethel, ME 04217
Email: kirk@mahoosuc.org

Gabe Perkins
Executive Director
Mahoosuc Pathways
PO Box 572
Bethel, ME 04217
Email: gabe.perkins@gmail.com

Andrew Beahm
Executive Director
Maine Audubon Society
20 Gilsland Farm Rd
Falmouth, ME 04105-2100
Email: abeahm@maineaudubon.org

Landis Hudson
Executive Director
Maine Rivers
PO Box 782
Yarmouth, ME 04096
Email: landis@mainerivers.org

Thomas J Christopher
Principal
New England FLOW
252 Fort Pond Inn Rd
Lancaster, MA 01523-3230
Email: tom.christopher@comcast.net

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333
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Distribution List

Steve Heinz
Trout Unlimited
Sebago Lake Chapter
3 Spruce Lane
Cumberland Foreside, ME 04110
Email: heinz@maine.rr.com

Curtis Mooney
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Central Rivers Power
59 Ayers Island Road
Bristol, NH 03222
Email: cmooney@centralriverspower.com

Mike Scarzello
Eagle Creek Renewable Energy
65 Madison Avenue, Suite 500
Morristown, NJ 07960
Email: michael.scarzello@eaglecreekre.com

Jennifer Kreckel
President
EnvisionRumford
PO Drawer L
Rumford, ME 04276

Scott Reed
Manager, Environmental and Public Affairs
ND Paper Inc.
35 Hartford Street
Rumford, ME 04276
Email: scott.reed@us.ndpaper.com

Jennifer Deraspe
Owner
Nurture Through Nature
77 Warren Road
Denmark, ME 04022

Tony Carter
President
Pennacook Falls Investments, Ltd.
PO Box 35
Rumford, ME 04276

Glenn and Sandee Gordon
72 Congress Street
Rumford, ME 04276

Todd Papianou
Email: beoutsidenw@gmail.com

John Preble
Email: jmpreble69@gmail.com

Brie Weisman
Email: brieweisman@yahoo.com

Karen Wilson
Email: karensusanwilson@gmail.com

Craig Zurhorst
757 Hancock Street
Rumford, ME 04276
Email: craig.zurhorst@gmail.com

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No.	Study	Status	Modifications to Methodology
1	Water Quality Study	<p>Consistent with the approved study plan, all field work associated with the Water Quality Study was conducted this year, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Impoundment Trophic State Study</u> – Trophic sampling occurred in a deep-water location in the Upper Dam and Middle Dam impoundments twice a month from June through September 2020. In October, sampling occurred twice in the Upper Dam Impoundment and once in the Middle Dam Impoundment. Prior to sampling, field personnel were certified by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP or Department). • <u>Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring</u> – Continuous, once per hour water temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring was conducted at a site downstream of the Middle Dam and at the lower powerhouse intake from July to September 2020. • <u>Benthic Macroinvertebrate Study</u> – Three rock-filled bag samplers were deployed from July 30 to August 27, 2020, downstream of the Middle Dam. In consultation with the MDEP, a representative sampling location downstream of the Project could not be identified and, therefore, the MDEP requested that Rumford Falls Hydro LLC (RFH) utilize the data collected by the Department in the Town of Mexico, Maine, in lieu of additional downstream sampling. The samples collected downstream of the Middle Dam were processed by a certified taxonomy laboratory and were provided to the MDEP on October 20, 2020 for analysis. • <u>Outlet Stream Aquatic Habitat Study</u> – Bank full elevation, wetted width, water depth, and water velocity measurements were recorded at two representative cross-sections within the Middle Dam bypass reach on September 15, 2020. Bed elevation information obtained during the survey will be incorporated into a 2D HEC-RAS model to compute the flow at which at least 75% of the bank full cross-sectional area of the river is watered. <p>The sample sites for these studies were identified in consultation with the MDEP.</p>	<p>In October, trophic sampling was conducted once (not twice) in the Middle Dam impoundment due to sampling constraints. RFH continues to coordinate with the MDEP regarding this sampling event.</p>

**Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project
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No.	Study	Status	Modifications to Methodology
		Per the option presented to RFH in the MDEP’s comments on the Pre-Application Document and Study Request dated January 25, 2020, RFH provided three years of elevation data for the Upper Dam impoundment and outflow data for the Project. This data was summarized in the Proposed Study Plan (PSP) as well as the Revised Study Plan (RSP) and the raw data was provided to the MDEP on March 10, 2020, the day the PSP was filed. RFH continues to review the data with the MDEP.	
2	Angler Creel Survey	Consistent with the approved study plan, the first year of the Angler Creel Survey will be conducted in 2021.	None
3	Impoundment Bass Spawning Survey	Consistent with the approved study plan, the Impoundment Bass Spawning Survey was conducted weekly in June 2020. RFH is in the process of analyzing the data and will consult with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to determine if a second year of evaluation is warranted in 2021.	None
4	Flow Study for Aquatic Habitat Evaluation	Consistent with the approved study plan, the Flow Study for Aquatic Habitat Evaluation will be conducted in 2021.	None
5	Aesthetic Flow Study	Consistent with the approved study plan, the Aesthetic Flow Study will be conducted in 2021.	None
6	Whitewater Boating Study	The Whitewater Boating Study will be conducted in 2021 consistent with the methods identified in the Study Plan Determination (SPD) issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).	None
7	Recreation Study	The Recreation Study will be conducted in 2021 consistent with the approved study plan as modified in FERC’s SPD.	None
8	Historic Architectural Survey	Concurrence on the Project’s Area of Potential Effect was received from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in an email dated July 28, 2020. The historic architectural resource inventory was conducted in October 2020.	None