#### **Brookfield**

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January 29, 2021

#### 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. 2333-091)

**Second 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 second quarterly study progress report for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (Project) (FERC No. 2333) 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. On October 30, 2020, RFH submitted the first quarterly study progress report, which provided the status of each of these studies as well as any modifications to the approved study methodology. The enclosed table provides updates that have occurred since the submittal of the first quarterly study progress report. 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 third quarterly study progress report with the Commission in May 2021.

In addition to filing this with the Commission, RFH is distributing this letter to those 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)

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### Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project Second Quarterly Study Progress Report

Reporting Period: November 1, 2020 – January 29, 2021

Medicine to			
No.	Study	Status	Modifications to
1	Water Quality Study	The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) analyzed the macroinvertebrate data Rumford Falls Hydro LLC (RFH) collected <sup>1</sup> downstream of the Middle Dam and provided a preliminary report to RFH on November 24, 2020.	Methodology None
		RFH continues to review three years of elevation data for the Upper Dam impoundment and outflow data for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (Project) with the MDEP.	
		In the first quarterly study progress report, RFH specified that trophic sampling was conducted once (not twice) in the Middle Dam impoundment in October 2020 due to sampling constraints and that RFH was coordinating with the MDEP regarding this sampling event. In a November 2, 2020 email, the MDEP indicated the data collected was sufficiently representative of the conditions. Therefore, additional sampling was not conducted. The collection of water quality data, as outlined in the RSP, has been completed.	
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	As noted in the first quarterly study progress report, the survey was conducted in June 2020. Consistent with the approved study plan, RFH will consult with the MDIFW 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	RFH has scheduled the first small working group meeting for February 10, 2021.	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	As noted in the first quarterly study progress report, the historic architectural resource inventory was conducted in October 2020.	None

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Macroinvertebrate samples were collected with rock baskets as opposed to rock-filled bag samplers as indicated in the November 2020 first quarterly study progress report.