

April 8, 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)
Notification of Postponement of the Recreation Study and Angler Creel Survey
Due to Continued COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Rumford Falls Hydro LLC (RFH), a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable, is notifying the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) that it is postponing the Recreation Study and Angler Creel Survey for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333) (Project).

On July 7, 2020, RFH filed a Revised Study Plan (RSP), which specified that the Recreation Study and the first year of the Angler Creel survey would be conducted in 2021. Additionally, the RSP specified that RFH would provide FERC with a revised study implementation schedule in the event the proposed schedule changes due to COVID-19. On August 6, 2020, FERC issued a Study Plan Determination, which approved the study schedule.

Given the current state of affairs, RFH does not anticipate that 2021 will reflect typical recreation or angler usage at the Project. Similar to 2020, recreation and angler sites could see a significant increase in use as individuals look for ways in which to exercise and recreate while maintaining social distancing recommendations, while other recreation and angler sites could see a significant decrease in use from closures, whether in response to public safety concerns, or from individuals choosing to shelter in place and not participate in their normal recreation and angler activities.

In either case, RFH does not believe that a Recreation Study or Angler Creel Survey would reflect an accurate depiction of typical usage. Additionally, the scope of the Recreation Study and Angler Creel Survey requires consultants to frequently survey recreation and creel index survey sites to gather information from recreational users which potentially exposes them and the public to the COVID-19 virus. As such, RFH is planning to postpone the Recreation Study and year one of the Angler Creel survey to 2022. RFH has enclosed a revised study implementation schedule pursuant the FERC-approved RSP.

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

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333)
Notification of Postponement of the Recreation Study and Angler Creel Survey
April 8, 2021

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Luke Anderson
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cc: attached Distribution List
Enclosures (1)

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Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project Revised Study Implementation Schedule

Activity	Date
RFH Conducts Impoundment Bass Spawning Survey ¹	2020
RFH Conducts Water Quality Study	2020
RFH Conducts Historic Architectural Survey	2020
RFH Provides First Quarterly Progress Report	November 1, 2020
RFH Conducts Aesthetic Flow Study	2021
RFH Conducts Whitewater Flow Study	2021
RFH Conducts Flow Study for Aquatic Habitat Evaluation	2021
RFH Files Initial Study Report (ISR)	August 7, 2021
RFH Holds ISR Meeting	August 22, 2021
RFH Files ISR Meeting Summary	September 6, 2021
RFH Conducts First Year of Angler Creel Survey	2022
RFH Conducts Recreation Study	2022
RFH Files Updated Study Report (USR)	August 7, 2022
RFH Holds USR Meeting	August 22, 2022
RFH Files USR Meeting Summary	September 6, 2022
RFH Files Draft License Application	May 3, 2022
Stakeholders File Comments on Draft License Application	August 1, 2022
RFH Files Final License Application (FLA)	September 30, 2022
RFH Issues Public Notice of FLA Filing	October 14, 2022
RFH Conducts Second Year of Angler Creel Survey	2023

¹ RFH is in the process of consulting with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to determine if a second year of study is needed in 2021.