

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20426
November 7, 2023

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2333-094 – Maine
Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project
Rumford Falls Hydro LLC

VIA Electronic Mail

Edward Peter-Paul
Tribal Chief
Mi'kmaq Nation
epeterpaul@micmac-nsn.gov

**Reference: Consultation with the Mi'kmaq Nation (Aroostook Band of Micmacs)
for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 2333-094**

Dear Chief Peter-Paul:

On September 29, 2022, Rumford Falls Hydro LLC (RFH) filed an application for a new license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) to continue operating its 44.5-megawatt (MW) Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 2333 (Rumford Falls Project or project).¹ The project is located on the Androscoggin River in the Town of Rumford, Oxford County, Maine and generates approximately 270,800 megawatt-hours (MWh) per year.

The project diverts water from the Androscoggin River at two existing developments, Upper Station and Lower Station, to generate power. The Upper Station Development consists of the following existing facilities: (1) a concrete gravity dam with a 464-foot-long, 37-foot-high ogee type spillway section with a crest elevation of 598.74 feet USGS with 32-inch-high, pin-supported wooden flashboards impounding a reservoir with a storage capacity of 2,900 acre-feet and a surface area of approximately 419 acres at a maximum headwater elevation of 601.24 feet; (2) a 2,300-foot-long, 150-foot-wide forebay; (3) a gatehouse containing two headgates for each of the four penstocks for a total of eight headgates, trashracks, and other appurtenant equipment; (4) four 110-foot-long underground steel-plate penstocks, three of which are 12 feet in diameter, and one of

¹ A license for the project was issued on October 18, 1994, for a term of 30 years, with an effective date of October 1, 1994, and an expiration date of September 30, 2024. See *Rumford Falls Power Company*, 69 FERC ¶ 61,063 (1994).

which is 13 feet in diameter; (5) a masonry powerhouse integral with the dam and occupying two adjoining sections of the dam, including a 30-foot-wide, 110-foot-long, 92-foot-high Old Station, equipped with one horizontal generating unit with a capacity of 4,300 kilowatts (kW), and a 60-foot-wide, 140-foot-long, 76-foot-high New Station, equipped with three vertical generating units, two with a capacity of 8,100 kW each, and one with a capacity of 8,800 kW; (6) four 11.5-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission lines; and (7) appurtenant facilities.

The Lower Station Development consists of the following existing facilities: (1) a rock-filled, wooden cribbed and concrete-capped Middle Dam, with a 328.6-foot-long, 20-foot-high gravity spillway section with a crest elevation of 502.74 feet with 16-inch-high, pin-supported, wooden flashboards impounding a reservoir with storage capacity of 141 acre-feet and a surface area of 21 acres at a normal maximum headwater elevation of 502.7 feet; (2) a 120-foot-long concrete headgate structure located adjacent to the dam with ten steel headgates and a waste weir section perpendicular to the headgate structure with a crest elevation of 502.6 feet and 10-inch-high flashboards regulating flow to the Middle Canal; (3) a 2,400-foot-long Middle Canal with a width ranging from 75 to 175 feet and a depth from 8 to 11 feet; (4) a gatehouse containing two headgates, trashracks, and other appurtenant equipment regulating flow from the canal into two penstocks; (5) two 815-foot-long, 12-foot-diameter, steel-plate penstocks conveying flow from the gatehouse to two surge tanks; (6) two 36-foot-diameter, 50.5-foot-high cylindrical surge tanks; (7) two 77-foot-long, 12-foot-diameter steel penstocks conveying flow from the surge tanks to the powerhouse; (8) a masonry powerhouse, equipped with two identical vertical units, each with a 7,600-kW capacity; (9) 600-foot-long, 11.5-kV generator leads; and (10) appurtenant facilities.

RFH operates the project in a run-of-river mode and does not propose any changes to project facilities or operation. The project would continue to generate an estimated average of 270,800 MWh annually.

We recently became aware that your tribe may have interest in the Rumford Falls project. The Commission therefore invites your participation in the licensing process for the hydroelectric project No. 2333-094. The Commission's licensing process is an opportunity for both the applicant and interested agencies, tribes, and other stakeholders to consider the project's proposed operation, and the need for protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures that may be implemented over the term of any license issued for the project.

It is very important that a tribe whose interests could be affected by the project participate in the process so that tribal issues are addressed. For this reason, please inform us if you have an interest in participating in the licensing process for the project.

In addition, please indicate if you would like to meet with Commission staff to

discuss the Commission's licensing process, how your Tribe can participate to the fullest extent possible, your interests and concerns in the affected area, and how to establish procedures to ensure appropriate communication between Commission and tribal staffs. The meeting can be limited to Commission and your Tribal staff or can be open to other tribes or RFH.

If possible, we would appreciate your response by December 11, 2023. Our regulations require that we hold a meeting with your tribe no later than thirty days from the filing of RFH's Notice of Intent if a meeting is desired;² however, given that we only recently became aware that your tribe may have interest in the project, we are waiving that timeframe to ensure that, if your tribe desires a meeting, we will be able to conduct it at a mutually agreeable time.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file your response using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx>. You can submit a brief response up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy of your response. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2333-094.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lauren Townson at (202)-502-8572 or lauren.townson@ferc.gov. Commission staff will contact your office shortly to follow-up on this letter.

Sincerely,

**MICHAEL
TUST** Digitally signed by
MICHAEL TUST
Date: 2023.11.07
14:53:57 -05'00'

For
David Turner, Chief
Northwest Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing

² 18 C.F.R. § 5.7.

cc: **VIA Electronic Mail**

Jenny Gaenzle
THPO
kreis@micmac-nsn.gov

Document Content(s)

P-2333-094_Rumford Falls_ Tribal.pdf1