



OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

145 Congress Street
Rumford, Maine 04276
(207) 364-4576 Ext. 212
(207) 364-5642 Fax
town@rumfordme.org

Mr. Ryan Hansen
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426
Docket Number: P-2333-091

April 21, 2020

Dear Mr. Hansen,

The following written comment is submitted for record by the Town of Rumford, Maine with regards to the relicensing process of the Rumford Falls Hydro Project (FERC No. 2333).

The Town notes our continued interest in the creation of a formal recreational plan for the Rumford Falls Hydro Project. We especially note the greatly improved air and water environmental conditions on the Androscoggin River since the project was last relicensed circa 1994. These improved air and water environmental conditions strongly support the use of the Androscoggin River as a recreational asset.

The Town also notes that this licensure will be the first time that the Project will be licensed while owned and operated by an entity not under the control of the Rumford Mill. The Town believes that this change in ownership structure has significance to the differing approaches to operation which include closure of recreational facilities and is a supporting factor in justification for the requirement of a formal recreation plan.

The Town notes based on the historic record in our possession and elsewhere that recreation on the Androscoggin River was a significant part of our economy until pollution of the River made it unsuitable for recreational use. At the time of the construction of the Project circa 1916 there was still substantial recreational activity on the River as noted in available historical records and artifacts.

The Town memorializes for the record our observation made during the most recent hearing that in any upcoming study census counts for use of the recreational facilities currently closed in whole or in part are likely to be "0" due to the inability of users to access these facilities.

The Town repeats and reinforces our interest in the reopening of the Falls Hill Trail, the restoration of the West Viewing Area, built as an integral community feature of the Project, and the aesthetic restoration of Veterans Park which was also built as an integral community feature of the Project.

The Town notes that other issues may arise over the course of the relicensing process. We appreciate your consideration and concern for the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacy Carter".

Stacy Carter
Town Manager
Town of Rumford
Maine