

Robert Stickney, Rumford, ME.

There is a public boat launch facility on the Androscoggin River in Rumford, Maine. It is located two miles upstream of Rumford Falls Hydro's hydroelectric plant, FERC project no. P-2333, on the north bank of the project's impoundment. Rumford Falls Hydro, LLC considers the boat launch to be part of its recreational plan even though the facility is owned and maintained by the Town of Rumford.

The site is many years old. It is small and the boat ramp was poorly engineered when it was built. The ramp is oriented so that boats are unloaded in an upstream direction and are fighting the current. This makes for an unsafe and unsatisfactory boat launching situation. In addition, the parking lot is much too small to accommodate the number of boaters and anglers who would like to access the river on any given day.

A group of energetic citizens are working with the Town to rebuild the facility to better serve the public's needs. Engineering plans have been drafted. Archaeology assessment has been performed. The major hurdle for the project going forward is funding. This is only going to get worse as State and local revenue streams are strained due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Rumford Falls Hydro, LLC is currently in the process of seeking a new FERC license to operate its project, docket no. P-2333-091. I urge the FERC to consider requiring Rumford Falls Hydro to provide leadership and funding to make the boat launch a more accessible and safer site. This will allow the public to make better use of the resources of the Androscoggin River located in the project boundary.

Document Content(s)

97425.TXT.....1-1