Kristen Giberson, Dixfield, ME.

For many, many years the people of the River Valley and the many tourists who visited the little town of Rumford, Maine enjoyed the falls at the hydro dam from several locations. The falls are downright impressive and a glimpse of them often causes people that are just passing through to stop in town, often providing valuable income to the businesses near the falls. The view from the information booth area is excellent, but there used to be other ways to take in the views of the falls. When Brookfield took possession of the hydro dam they shut down much of the access to the river in the area. There is a beautiful overlook on the side of Falls Hill that is closed. There are hiking trails on the opposite side of the river that are closed. Brookfield is preventing residents and tourists alike from enjoying the river, the falls and all it has to offer. Brookfield should GIVE BACK access to these areas. Brookfield should also maintain an adequate flow over the falls, especially during peak tourist months in Maine. Rumford and the surrounding communities depend on the income that tourists generate in our area. The people who live in the are should be able to enjoy the river and the falls the way we had for so many years before Brookfield took ownership and closed it all down.

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