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GOVERNORSTATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
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COMMISSIONER***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

May 22, 2023

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426Subject: **Green Lake Dam Project (FERC No. 7189)**
MDIFW COMMENTS ON FINAL LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has reviewed Green Lake Water Power Company's Green Lake Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 7189-014 Final License Application (DLA). The Project is located on Green Lake and Reeds Brook in the City of Ellsworth, Hancock County, Maine. We offer the following comments and recommendations.

Fish Passage

As been previously stated, any planned reintroduction of sea-run fish into Green Lake should be coordinated with MDIFW based on the outcomes of discussions and research being undertaken within the joint Federal and State partnership of the Alewife Interaction Committee to reach a balanced approach to comanaging resident lake and diadromous species in this and other waters around the State. Density-dependent interactions between anadromous alewives and landlocked rainbow smelt remain an ongoing concern of our Agency. Landlocked smelt are the primary forage species for landlocked salmon, which are native to Green Lake, one of only four lakes in Maine to which landlocked salmon are endemic. Additional concerns relate to preventing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from being introduced above said licensed dam in the advancement of diadromous fish restoration. Green Lake's tributaries also have very limited spawning and rearing habitat for its native landlocked salmon, and MDIFW desires to protect this limited habitat from future threats of other species displacing and utilizing this native fishes' limited reproductive area. We believe there are options that would support both restoration and controlling the spread of AIS at Green Lake. MDIFW remains committed to working with our State and Federal partners in studying the above concerns, and MDIFW should be party to any future discussions pertaining to fish passage for sea-run species during the term of the new license. To that end, MDIFW supports the fishway prescription of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, including their concurrence to manage AIS threats proposed in their prescription, and our comments should not be interpreted as conflicting with this Agency.

Finally, please note our earlier recommendations and comments pertaining to other MDIFW jurisdictional resources remain in effect.

Letter to Ms. Bose, FERC Secretary

RE: MDIFW Comments on Final License Application for the Green Lake Dam Project (FERC No. 7189)

May 22, 2023

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions regarding this information, or if I can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Perry".

John Perry

Environmental Review Coordinator

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Document Content(s)

#MDIFW comments on FLA 5-22-2023.pdf1