

May 12, 2023

Brunswick Project
FERC No. 2284-ME

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Via eFiling

Subject: Brunswick Project (FERC No. 2284-ME) Upstream Fish Passage

Dear Secretary Bose,

Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC (BWPH), owner and operator of the Brunswick Project on the Androscoggin River in Maine, is providing an update on the delayed opening of the upstream fish passage following an email from the Commission on May 12, 2023.

The Androscoggin River experienced high flows from May 1 to May 5, 2023 exceeding many EAP High Flow thresholds with a peak flow on the lower Androscoggin River of approximately 55,000 cfs. While BWPH had made all the necessary preparations for routine operations beginning on the required opening date of May 1, the high flows prevented this. Due to the forecasted storm and predicted high flows, BWPH hydro technicians removed electrical components of the fishway entrance gate as a precaution. Additional staff traveled from other parts of Maine to expedite the process, removing a large amount of saturated woody debris using only hand and power tools for safety and to protect the environment. Preliminary agency data indicates that river flow that high had not been seen in some parts of Maine since the flood of 1987. BWPH notified the agencies on May 1, 2023 that the lower Androscoggin River fishways, including the Brunswick Project, would be shut down accordingly in compliance with the agency approved April 7, 2021 Brunswick Fishway Operations and Maintenance Plan, which requires the fishway to be open May 1 or as “conditions allow”.

While flows came down below the High Flow EAP thresholds for the lower Androscoggin River late last week, the lower portion of the Brunswick fishway still remained inundated until early the week of May 8th. BWPH notified the agencies on May 8, 2023 that the debris that resulted from the high flow conditions would prevent the timely opening of the Brunswick fishway and committed to prioritizing the work necessary to reopen.

The Brunswick fishway has no crane or other mechanical assistance for debris removal due to available space and hazards from overhead lines. As a result, all of the debris, the magnitude of which can be pictured in the attached email correspondence, had to be removed by hand and work could commence only once flows receded such that the length of the fishway could be safely accessed, early the week of May 8th.

BWPH hydro technicians worked diligently over the course of this week and had the upstream fish passage ready within days. BWPH hydro technicians were able to clear the woody debris, install temporary handrails, reinstall components of the fishway entrance gate, and make electrical repairs by the evening of May 11, 2023. The upstream fish passage was reopened for routine operations in coordination with the Maine Department of Marine Resources on the morning of May 12, 2023. The agencies and upstream dam owners were notified that the fishway was open for the season on May 12, 2023 (please see attached correspondence).

Please contact Adam Brown at (207) 313-1173 or at Adam.Brown@brookfieldrenewable.com with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kelly Maloney,
Senior Manager, Compliance – Northeast

Cc: N. Stevens, A. Brown, S. Michaud, P. McDonough, J. Seyfried, E. Thone; BWPH

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