

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2284-045 – Maine
Brunswick Project
Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC

November 10, 2016

Ms. Kelly Maloney
Licensing Compliance Manager
Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC
150 Main Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

Subject: October 15, 2016 Fish Kill Incident, Article 30

Dear Ms. Maloney:

On October 28, 2016, we received a report and photographs from the Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB), regarding a fish kill that had occurred at the Brunswick Project (FERC No. 2284) on or about October 15-16, 2016. The project is located on the Androscoggin River in Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties, Maine.¹ Downstream passage at the project is provided via a surface sluice and associated 18-inch pipe that discharges fish into the project tailrace. The downstream fishways are required to be operated from April 1 to December 31 annually, as river conditions allow.

The FOMB's October report states that 500-800 dead river herring were found at the project and at locations downstream. No mortality was noted above Brunswick or at the next upstream Pejepscot Project (FERC NO. 4784). The FOMB states that it reported the incident to the Brookfield emergency phone line but received no further information whether any action was taken. The injuries to the fish included decapitation, direct strikes, and pressure injuries.

The FOMB then observed that planned project maintenance was underway on October 18, 2016 and the project was not operating although the tainter gates were opened. They also noted heavy rain and spillage across the entire dam.

¹ Order Amending license and Issuing new Major License. 6 FERC P 61122 (F.E.R.C.), 1979 WL 19901 (issued February 9, 1979).

In order for us to review the causes and events surrounding this fish kill event, please file a report with the Commission identifying the following information: (1) the operational status of the downstream fish passage facility (i.e., whether they were clear of debris on the days in question, whether sufficient attraction flow was available, and whether they were functioning as required); (2) project operation before, during, and after the incident including any operational difficulties or abnormal river conditions; (3) any observations you have regarding the fish kill, and your conclusions regarding what caused it to occur; and (4) any action you took immediately upon learning of the incident.

Please provide this requested information within 30 days from the date of this letter. Please file the requested information using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20426. The first page of your filing should include docket number P-2284-045.

Thank you for your cooperation and if you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (212) 273-5917 or email at joseph.enrico@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Joseph Enrico
Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance