



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 3428-147--Maine  
Worumbo Project  
Miller Hydro Group

Project No. 4784-079--Maine  
Pejepscot Project  
Topsham Hydro Partners

Nancy Skancke  
Law Offices of GKRSE  
1500 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 330  
Washington, DC 20005

**December 2, 2011**

Subject: ESA consultation status report and schedule

Dear Ms. Skancke:

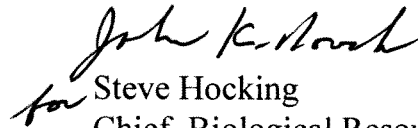
We received your November 23, 2011 reports on Miller Hydro Group's and Topsham Hydro Partners' (licensees) informal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act regarding effects of operation of the Worumbo and Pejepscot Projects on federally-listed Atlantic salmon. The Commission designated both licensees as its non-federal representatives for informal consultation with NMFS on July 14, 2010.

You anticipate that, by December 2011, the licensees will deliver a preliminary draft biological assessment (BA) and preliminary draft species protection plan (SPP) to the resource agencies. Following consultation with the agencies, a draft BA and draft SPP would be filed with the Commission in March 2012, with a request to amend the project licenses. You then identify dates regarding the Commission's formal consultation with NMFS and the issuance of license amendment orders.

We appreciate the information provided in the reports, and the licensees' continuing efforts to ensure the timely protection of Atlantic salmon at the Worumbo and Pejepscot Projects. Regarding Commission actions in this proceeding, please note that, while we will act on any filings we receive as quickly as possible, schedules for future Commission actions cannot be identified at this time.

Thank you for filing your report with us. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact B. Peter Yarrington at (202) 502-6129 or [peter.yarrington@ferc.gov](mailto:peter.yarrington@ferc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John K. Hocking", is written over the typed name "Steve Hocking".

Steve Hocking  
Chief, Biological Resources Branch  
Division of Hydropower Administration  
and Compliance

cc: Bearl S. Keith  
Project Administrator  
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