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## **LIHI Certifies Brookfield Renewable Power's School Street Project as Environmentally Low Impact**

### ***Company Has Most LIHI-Certified Facilities in United States***

**(PORTLAND, Maine) November 29, 2010** – The Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) Governing Board recently certified the School Street Project as low impact, recognizing the plant has avoided or reduced environmental impacts pursuant to the LIHI criteria. The School Street project is owned and operated by the Brookfield Renewable Power subsidiary Erie Boulevard Hydropower LP.

The 38-megawatt School Street Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license No. 2539) began operating in 1916, and is located on the Mohawk River at Cohoes Falls in Cohoes, New York. It consists of five hydropower turbine-generator sets.

"We are delighted to see Brookfield's ongoing commitment to produce clean, renewable, low-impact hydropower. The LIHI certification confirms Brookfield's ability to maintain a balance between non-power and power values at its hydropower projects," said Fred Ayer, executive director of Portland, Maine-based LIHI. "In addition, Brookfield has the most LIHI-certified projects in the United States, having received 10 certifications for 43 of its 100 hydropower facilities -- of which 41 certified plants are in New York State."

According to Nathanael Greene, Director of Renewable Energy Policy of the National Resources Defense Council (<http://www.nrdc.org>), "This is the 10th LIHI project certification garnered by Brookfield, further illustrating the company's pledge to meet the stringent standards set forth by LIHI to reduce environmental impacts and to improve water quality."

In the LIHI certification application for the School Street project, Brookfield demonstrated LIHI's eight environmentally rigorous criteria addressing river flows, water quality, fish passage and protection, watershed health, endangered species protection, cultural resources, recreation use and access, and whether or not the dam itself has been recommended for removal.

The School Street project successfully completed LIHI's application process, which includes a public comment period, review by an independent technical consultant or LIHI staff, consultations with state and federal natural resource agencies, and evaluation by the LIHI Governing Board, including leaders in the river conservation and renewable energy fields.

Brookfield has invested millions on environment and aesthetic improvements at the School Street hydropower facility over recent years, including fish protection and flows, and recreational enhancements. These improvements preserve the historic nature of the School Street site, which sits in the Harmony Mills National Historic District.

For further information about the School Street Project, or any of the other projects certified by LIHI, contact Fred Ayer, LIHI Executive Director at (207) 773-8190, or visit the LIHI at [www.lowimpacthydro.org](http://www.lowimpacthydro.org).

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