



Verso Paper Corp.

Androscoggin Mill
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Joel E. Pike
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July 7, 2014

Low Impact Hydropower Institute
PO Box 194
Harrington Park, NJ 07640

Dear Mr. Sale,

Along with this letter, please find the re-certification materials for the Verso Hydro facilities located along the Androscoggin River in Maine currently certified as Certificate No. 48. Since our original application and our initial conditional certification, the required 2009 DEP fish sampling data was received and provided which allowed for full certification. We've referenced and included these reports in this re-certification package since those are the only new items since our original application.

Also attached are the sworn statements as detailed in the notice letter

Please contact me with any questions or if any additional information is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pike', followed by the date '7/8/2014' written in a similar cursive style.

Joel E. Pike
Energy Manager - Androscoggin Mill

LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER INSTITUTE

CERTIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

APRIL, 2014 REVISION

Background Information	
1) Name of the Facility as used in the FERC license/exemption.	<p>Verso Androscoggin Power LLC</p> <p>Note that the Facility is composed of 4 separate developments covered by 2 FERC Projects Riley, Jay and Livermore developments are covered by P-2375 Otis development is covered by P-8277.</p>
2) Applicant's name, contact information and relationship to the Facility. Please use the Project Contact Form in Appendix D.	<p>Verso Androscoggin Power LLC PO Box 20, 300 RILEY ROAD Jay, ME 04239</p> <p>LJHI Certificate No. 48</p>
3) Location of Facility including (a) the state in which Facility is located; (b) the river on which Facility is located; (c) the river-mile location of the Facility dam; (d) the river's drainage area in square miles at the Facility intake; (e) the location of other dams on the same river upstream and downstream of the Facility; and (f) the exact latitude and longitude of the Facility dam.	<p>(a) State of Maine (b) Androscoggin River (c) Between river miles 53.25 and 63.5 (d) 2,421 sq. miles (e) See Attachment I (f) Riley: Lat: 44° 30' 12.213" N Long: 70° 14' 56.501" W Jay: Lat: 44° 30' 13.108" N Long: 70° 13' 15.585" W Otis: Lat: 44° 28' 40.048" N Long: 70° 12' 2.675" W Livermore: Lat: 44° 28' 13.287" N</p>

		Long: 70° 11' 14.038" W																		
4)	Installed capacity.	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Riley</td><td>7.8 MW</td></tr> <tr><td>Jay</td><td>3.1 MW</td></tr> <tr><td>Otis</td><td>10.4 MW</td></tr> <tr><td><u>Livermore</u></td><td><u>8.8 MW</u></td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>30.1 MW</td></tr> </table>	Riley	7.8 MW	Jay	3.1 MW	Otis	10.4 MW	<u>Livermore</u>	<u>8.8 MW</u>	TOTAL	30.1 MW								
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6)	Regulatory status.	All four dams were issued FERC licenses with 50-year terms on September 16, 1998.																		
7)	Reservoir volume and surface area measured at the normal maximum operating level.	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>VOLUME (acre-ft)</th> <th>SURFACE (acres)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Riley</td><td>2,000</td><td>578</td></tr> <tr><td>Jay</td><td>1,800</td><td>206</td></tr> <tr><td>Otis</td><td>877</td><td>115</td></tr> <tr><td>Livermore</td><td><u>300</u></td><td><u>46</u></td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>4,977</td><td>945</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		VOLUME (acre-ft)	SURFACE (acres)	Riley	2,000	578	Jay	1,800	206	Otis	877	115	Livermore	<u>300</u>	<u>46</u>	TOTAL	4,977	945
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8)	Area occupied by non-reservoir facilities (e.g., dam, penstocks, powerhouse).	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Riley</td><td>1.2 acres</td></tr> <tr><td>Jay</td><td>2.6 acres</td></tr> <tr><td>Otis</td><td>0.7 acres</td></tr> <tr><td><u>Livermore</u></td><td><u>3.1 acres</u></td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>7.6 acres</td></tr> </table>	Riley	1.2 acres	Jay	2.6 acres	Otis	0.7 acres	<u>Livermore</u>	<u>3.1 acres</u>	TOTAL	7.6 acres								
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9)	Number of acres inundated by the Facility.	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Riley</td><td>579 acres</td></tr> <tr><td>Jay</td><td>209 acres</td></tr> <tr><td>Otis</td><td>116 acres</td></tr> </table>	Riley	579 acres	Jay	209 acres	Otis	116 acres												
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		<p><u>Livermore</u> TOTAL <u>49 acres</u> 953 acres</p> <p>Riley Jay 363 acres Otis 84 acres Livermore 128 acres TOTAL <u>45 acres</u> 620 acres</p> <p>See Attachment 2</p> <p>See Attachment 3</p>
10)	Number of acres contained in a 200-foot zone extending around entire reservoir.	
11)	Contacts for Resource Agencies and non-governmental organizations	
12)	Description of the Facility, its mode of operation (i.e., peaking/run of river) and photographs, maps and diagrams.	
	<p>Questions for “New” Facilities Only: If the Facility you are applying for is “new” (i.e., an existing dam that added or increased power generation capacity after August of 1998) please answer the following questions to determine eligibility for the program.</p>	<p>This section will apply to an added turbine and generator at the Livermore development. This new equipment was added to the existing Livermore dam in 2004. This was added prior to the original application and no other new capacity has been added since certification.</p> <p>Livermore dam was completed in 1893</p> <p>New turbine and generator began operation in 2004.</p>
13)	When was the dam associated with the Facility completed?	
14)	When did the added or increased generation first generate electricity? If the added or increased generation is not yet operational, please answer question 18 as well.	
15)	Did the added or increased power generation capacity require or include any new dam or other diversion structure?	<p>The new turbine required a new penetration in the Western side of the existing forebay wall.</p>
16)	Did the added or increased capacity include or require a change in water flow through the facility that worsened conditions for fish, wildlife, or water quality (for example, did operations change from run-of-river to peaking)?	<p>The new turbine discharges water into an area of ledge which previously received variable amounts of water, depending on discharge over the Livermore spillway. The new turbine installation provides a constant flow into this area and provides improved habitat for fish.</p>

<p>17 (a) Was the existing dam recommended for removal or decommissioning by resource agencies, or recommended for removal or decommissioning by a broad representation of interested persons and organizations in the local and/or regional community prior to the added or increased capacity?</p> <p>(b) If you answered “yes” to question 17(a), the Facility is not eligible for certification, unless you can show that the added or increased capacity resulted in specific measures to improve fish, wildlife, or water quality protection at the existing dam. If such measures were a result, please explain.</p>	(a) No
<p>18 (a) If the added or increased generation is not yet operational, has the increased or added generation received regulatory authorization (e.g., approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)? If not, the facility is not eligible for consideration; and</p> <p>(b) Are there any pending appeals or litigation regarding that authorization? If so, the facility is not eligible for consideration.</p>	N/A
<p>A. Flows</p>	<p>PASS</p>
<p>1) Is the Facility in Compliance with Resource Agency Recommendations issued after December 31, 1986 regarding flow conditions for fish and wildlife protection, mitigation and enhancement (including in-stream flows, ramping and peaking rate conditions, and seasonal and episodic instream flow variations) for both the reach below the tailrace and all bypassed reaches?</p>	<p><u>YES</u> = Pass, Go to B N/A = Go to A2</p>
<p>2) If there is no flow condition recommended by any Resource Agency for the Facility, or if the recommendation was issued prior to January 1, 1987, is the Facility in Compliance with a flow release schedule, both below the tailrace and in all bypassed reaches, that at a minimum meets Aquatic Base Flow standards or “good” habitat flow standards calculated using the Montana-</p>	<p>YES = Pass, go to B NO = Go to A3</p>
<p>FAIL</p>	<p>NO = Fail</p>

Tennant method?		
3) If the Facility is unable to meet the flow standards in A.2., has the Applicant demonstrated, and obtained a letter from the relevant Resource Agency confirming that demonstration, that the flow conditions at the Facility are appropriately protective of fish, wildlife, and water quality?	YES = Pass, go to B	NO = Fail
B. Water Quality	PASS	FAIL
1) Is the Facility either:		
a) In Compliance with all conditions issued pursuant to a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification issued for the Facility after December 31, 1986? Or	<u>YES</u> = Go to B2 (Note—See Attachment 4 March/April 2010 Maine DEP Fish Tissue Sampling Report)	NO = Fail
b) In Compliance with the quantitative water quality standards established by the state that support designated uses pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act in the Facility area and in the downstream reach?		
2) Is the Facility area or the downstream reach currently identified by the state as not meeting water quality standards (including narrative and numeric criteria and designated uses) pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act?	<u>YES</u> = Go to B3 <u>NO</u> = Pass (Note--Gulf Island Pond – a downstream impoundment – does not meet State of Maine river standards.)	
3) If the answer to question B.2 is yes, has there been a determination that the Facility does not cause, or contribute to, the violation?	<u>YES</u> = Pass (Note—the Facility does not	NO = Fail

	cause this violation)	
C. Fish Passage and Protection		
1) Are anadromous and/or catadromous fish present in the Facility area or are they know to have been present historically?	PASS <u>YES</u> = Go to C2 <u>NO</u> = Go to C6	FAIL
2) Is the Facility in Compliance with Mandatory Fish Passage Prescriptions for upstream and downstream passage of anadromous and catadromous fish issued by Resource Agencies after December 31, 1986?	YES = Go to C7 <u>N/A</u> = Go to C3	NO = Fail
3) Are there historic records of anadromous and/or catadromous fish movement through the Facility area, but anadromous and/or catadromous fish do not presently move through the Facility area (e.g., because passage is blocked at a downstream dam or the fish no longer have a migratory run)?	<u>YES</u> = Go to C3a <u>NO</u> = Go to C4	
a) If the fish are extinct or extirpated from the Facility area or downstream reach, has the Applicant demonstrated that the extinction or extirpation was not due in whole or part to the Facility?	YES = Go to C3b <u>N/A</u> = Go to C3b	NO = Fail
b) If a Resource Agency Recommended adoption of upstream and/or downstream fish passage measures at a specific future date, or when a triggering event occurs (such as completion of passage through a downstream obstruction or the completion of a specified process), has the Facility owner/operator made a legally enforceable commitment to provide such passage?	<u>YES</u> = Go to C6 <u>N/A</u> = Go to C4	NO = Fail
4) If, since December 31, 1986:		
a) Resource Agencies have had the opportunity to issue, and considered issuing, a Mandatory Fish Passage Prescription for upstream and/or	NO = Go to C7 <u>N/A</u> = Go to C5	YES = Fail

<p>downstream passage of anadromous or catadromous fish (including delayed installation as described in C.3.a above), and</p> <p>b) The Resource Agencies declined to issue a Mandatory Fish Passage Prescription,</p> <p>c) Was a reason for the Resource Agencies' declining to issue a Mandatory Fish Passage Prescription one of the following: (1) the technological infeasibility of passage, (2) the absence of habitat upstream of the Facility due at least in part to inundation by the Facility impoundment, or (3) the anadromous or catadromous fish are no longer present in the Facility area and/or downstream reach due in whole or part to the presence of the Facility?</p>		<p>5) If C4 was not applicable:</p> <p>a) Are upstream and downstream fish passage survival rates for anadromous and catadromous fish at the dam each documented at greater than 95% over 80% of the run using a generally accepted monitoring methodology?</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b) If the Facility is unable to meet the fish passage standards in 5.a, has the Applicant either i) demonstrated, and obtained a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service confirming that demonstration, that the upstream and downstream fish passage measures (if any) at the Facility are appropriately protective of the fishery resource, or ii) committed to the provision of fish passage measures in the future and obtained a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service indicating that passage measures are not currently warranted?</p>	<p>YES = Go to C6</p> <p>NO = Fail</p>	
<p>6) Is the Facility in Compliance with Mandatory Fish Passage Prescriptions</p>			<p>YES = Go to C7</p> <p>NO = Fail</p>	

for upstream and/or downstream passage of Riverine fish?		<u>N/A</u> = Go to C7	
7) Is the Facility in Compliance with Resource Agency Recommendations for Riverine, anadromous and catadromous fish entrainment protection, such as tailrace barriers?		YES = Pass, go to D <u>N/A</u> = Pass, go to D	NO = Fail.
D. Watershed Protection		PASS	FAIL
1) Is there a buffer zone dedicated for conservation purposes (to protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, aesthetics and/or low-impact recreation) extending 200 feet from the average annual high water line for at least 50% of the shoreline, including all of the undeveloped shoreline?		YES = Eligible for 3 extra years of certification; Go to D4	<u>NO</u> = Go to D2
2) Has the Facility owner/operator established an approved watershed enhancement fund that: 1) could achieve within the project's watershed the ecological and recreational equivalent of land protection in D.1, and 2) has the agreement of appropriate stakeholders and state and federal resource agencies?		YES = Eligible for 3 extra years of certification; Go to D4	<u>NO</u> = Go to D3
3) Has the Facility owner/operator established through a settlement agreement with appropriate stakeholders, with state and federal resource agencies agreement, an appropriate shoreland buffer or equivalent watershed land protection plan for conservation purposes (to protect fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, aesthetics and/or low impact recreation)?		YES = Go to D4	<u>NO</u> = Go to D4
4) Is the facility in compliance with both state and federal resource agencies recommendations in a license approved shoreland management plan regarding protection, mitigation or enhancement of shorelands surrounding the project?		<u>YES</u> = Pass, go to E N/A = Pass, go to E	No = Fail
E. Threatened and Endangered Species Protection		PASS	FAIL
1) Are threatened or endangered species listed under state or federal			

<p>Endangered Species Acts present in the Facility area and/or downstream reach?</p>	<p><u>YES</u> = Go to E2 NO = Pass, go to F</p> <p>(Note—Salmon have been listed, however none are present at the Facility area or in the downstream reach)</p>	
<p>2) If a recovery plan has been adopted for the threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act or similar state provision, is the Facility in Compliance with all recommendations in the plan relevant to the Facility?</p>	<p>YES = Go to E3 <u>N/A</u> = Go to E3</p>	NO = Fail
<p>3) If the Facility has received authorization to incidentally Take a listed species through: (i) Having a relevant agency complete consultation pursuant to ESA Section 7 resulting in a biological opinion, a habitat recovery plan, and/or (if needed) an incidental Take statement; (ii) Obtaining an incidental Take permit pursuant to ESA Section 10; or (iii) For species listed by a state and not by the federal government, obtaining authorization pursuant to similar state procedures; is the Facility in Compliance with conditions pursuant to that authorization?</p>	<p>YES = Go to E4 <u>N/A</u> = Go to E5</p>	NO = Fail
<p>4) If a biological opinion applicable to the Facility for the threatened or endangered species has been issued, can the Applicant demonstrate that:</p> <p>a) The biological opinion was accompanied by a FERC license or exemption or a habitat conservation plan? Or</p> <p>b) The biological opinion was issued pursuant to or consistent with a recovery plan for the endangered or threatened species? Or</p> <p>c) There is no recovery plan for the threatened or endangered species</p>	<p>YES = Pass, go to F</p>	NO = Fail

<p>under active development by the relevant Resource Agency? Or</p> <p>d) The recovery plan under active development will have no material effect on the Facility's operations?</p>		
<p>5) If E.2 and E.3 are not applicable, has the Applicant demonstrated that the Facility and Facility operations do not negatively affect listed species?</p>	<p><u>YES</u> = Pass, go to F</p>	<p>NO = Fail</p>
<p>F. Cultural Resource Protection</p>	<p>PASS</p>	<p>FAIL</p>
<p>1) If FERC-regulated, is the Facility in Compliance with all requirements regarding Cultural Resource protection, mitigation or enhancement included in the FERC license or exemption?</p>	<p><u>YES</u> = Pass, go to G N/A = Go to F2 (Note—see Article 413 of P-2375 and Article 410 of P-8277)</p>	<p>NO = Fail</p>
<p>2) If not FERC-regulated, does the Facility owner/operator have in place (and is in Compliance with) a plan for the protection, mitigation or enhancement of impacts to Cultural Resources approved by the relevant state or federal agency or Native American Tribe, or a letter from a senior officer of the relevant agency or Tribe that no plan is needed because Cultural Resources are not negatively affected by the Facility?</p>	<p>YES = Pass, go to G</p>	<p>NO = Fail</p>
<p>G. Recreation</p>	<p>PASS</p>	<p>FAIL</p>
<p>1) If FERC-regulated, is the Facility in Compliance with the recreational access, accommodation (including recreational flow releases) and facilities conditions in its FERC license or exemption?</p>	<p><u>YES</u> = Go to G3 N/A = Go to G2 (Note—see Article 408 of P-</p>	<p>NO = Fail</p>

	8277 and Articles 411 & 412 of P-2375)		NO = Fail
2) If not FERC-regulated, does the Facility provide recreational access, accommodation (including recreational flow releases) and facilities, as Recommended by Resource Agencies or other agencies responsible for recreation?	YES = Go to G3		NO = Fail
3) Does the Facility allow access to the reservoir and downstream reaches without fees or charges?	<u>YES</u> = Pass, go to H		NO = Fail
H. Facilities Recommended for Removal	PASS		FAIL
1) Is there a Resource Agency Recommendation for removal of the dam associated with the Facility?	<u>NO</u> = Pass, Facility is Low Impact		YES = Fail