



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

PAUL MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

February 26, 2016

Brookfield White Pine Hydro  
150 Main St.  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
ATTN: Kelly Maloney

RE: LIHI Certification for North Gorham Hydro Project

Dear Ms. Maloney:

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) was contacted by Brookfield White Pine Hydro (BWPH) on February 5, 2016 regarding the Low Impact Hydro Institute (LIHI) certification application for the North Gorham Hydro Project (FERC No. 2519). BWPH requested that the Department verify that project operations are in compliance with its FERC License and Water Quality Certificate (WQC). Specifically, BWPH requested the following from the Department:

1. Confirmation that the North Gorham Hydro Project is in compliance with the minimum flow requirement of 222 cfs and that impoundment water level fluctuations have been kept within one foot of the normal pond elevation of 221.8 feet USGS datum.
2. Confirmation that the WQC effective on February 26, 1996 is still valid and is the most recent WQC issued by the Department.
3. Confirmation that the facility is in compliance with all other conditions pursuant to the WQC.

The Department reviewed impoundment water level and outflow data from 2005-2015 submitted by BWPH on February 23, 2016. Water levels fell below the minimum pond elevation of 220.8 feet USGS datum over two periods but corresponded with dam maintenance activities. Additionally, water levels were greater than the maximum pond elevation of 222.8 over several short periods but corresponded to high flows in the Presumpscot River. Daily average flows over the 10-year period were greater than the minimum flow requirement of 222 cfs except for one period in spring 2012 when flows were slightly lower; however, these flows corresponded with low flows in the Presumpscot River. Therefore, based on its review, the Department confirms that the North Gorham Hydro Facility is in compliance with minimum flow and impoundment water level fluctuation requirements pursuant to the WQC.

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The Department confirms that the WQC issued on September 24, 1992 and subsequently modified on February 26, 1996 is still valid and is the most recent WQC issued by the Department for the North Gorham Hydro Project.

The Department reviewed its file on the North Gorham Hydro Project and confirms that the facility is in compliance with all other conditions pursuant to the WQC.

Based on its review of the compliance items requested by BWPH and outlined above, the Department supports the LIHI certification of the North Gorham Hydro Project.

Please feel free to contact me at (207) 441-1732 or Michael.OConnor@maine.gov if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael O'Connor  
Licensing Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Resources, Land Division

pc: File

cc: *Electronically*  
Dr. Michael J. Sale, LIHI  
Dana Hall, LIHI