### blackBEAR Hydro Partners, LLC

20121001-5478 FERC PDF (Unofficial PO Box 276 Milford, ME 04461-0276



October 1, 2012

#### VIA E-FILING

Kimberly D. Bose Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20426

Re: **Compliance Filings for License Articles** 

> Article 420 - Stillwater Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2712) Article 415 - Orono Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2710)

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to the Commission's September 14, 2012 Orders Amending License and Revising Annual Charges for the above-referenced Stillwater (FERC No. 2712) and Orono (FERC No. 2710) Hydroelectric Projects, Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC ("BBHP") hereby submits the Fish Stranding Plan in compliance with Article 420 for the Stillwater Hydroelectric Project and with Article 415 for the Orono Hydroelectric Project.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerel

Scott D. Hall

Vice President, Environmental & Business Services

**Enclosures** 

Fish Stranding Plan for the Stillwater and Orono Projects

# STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2712)

## FISH SALVAGE PLAN

Prepared for:

# Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Milford, Maine

Prepared by:



141 Main Street Pittsfield, Maine 04967 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

October 2012

STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2712)

FISH SALVAGE PLAN

Prepared for:

Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Milford, Maine

Prepared by:



141 Main Street Pittsfield, Maine 04967 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

October 2012

#### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

# ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2710) STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2712)

## BLACK BEAR HYDRO PARTNERS, LLC MILFORD, MAINE

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#### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2710) STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2712)

BLACK BEAR HYDRO PARTNERS, LLC MILFORD, MAINE

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC (BBHP) proposes to increase capacity at its existing Stillwater (FERC No. 2712) Hydroelectric Project (Stillwater Project), located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in the Old Town, Maine, by installing a new powerhouse at the site. The proposed action for the Stillwater Project involves the construction of a new additional hydroelectric generating facility (Powerhouse B) in the bypass reach of the existing dam with a capacity of 2.229 MW, a new forebay and intake structure and trashrack, tailrace excavation, a new downstream fish passage facility adjacent to the new intake, and access roads and parking.

As part of construction activities, there will be two specific areas of temporary cofferdamming and one dead-end causeway for the Stillwater Project. A 215-ft-long forebay cofferdam will be installed in the impoundment, upstream of the existing dam, to allow for the removal of part of the existing dam leading to the new forebay, after the intake/powerhouse is constructed. The 560-ft-long powerhouse cofferdam will be installed in the tailrace area to dewater the Powerhouse B area to allow for the excavation for the draft tubes and tailrace channel. A 340-ft-long dead-end causeway of clean, bank-run gravel fill material will be placed upstream of the existing bedrock outcrop in the proposed Powerhouse B tailrace and will be used facilitate access to the tailrace and removal of the tailrace berm to the 70.0 ft NGVD elevation (Appendix A).

BBHP also proposes to increase capacity at its existing Orono (FERC No. 2710) Hydroelectric Project (Orono Project), located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in the town of Orono, Maine, by installing a new powerhouse at the site. The proposed action for the Orono Project involves the construction of a new additional hydroelectric generating facility

(Powerhouse B) in the bypass reach of the existing dam with a capacity of 3.738 MW, a new intake structure and trashrack, a new 300-foot-long penstock, tailrace excavation, a new fish passage facility (providing upstream and downstream passage) adjacent to the new intake, and access roads and parking.

As part of construction activities, there are three areas of temporary cofferdamming for the Orono Project. A 300-ft-long intake cofferdam will be installed in the impoundment, upstream of the existing dam, to dewater the new intake area and allow for the removal of part of the existing dam section and completion of the new intake. The powerhouse cofferdam will be erected to minimize, or eliminate, normal river flows from encroaching on the penstock and powerhouse construction work areas. The third cofferdam will be a temporary 300-ft-long earthen cofferdam will be a tailrace cofferdam used to create a dewatered work environment to drill and blast bedrock (Appendix A).

The activities associated with construction activities could potentially affect Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and other fish species in the construction area that may become trapped and stranded within these cofferdams during construction. To avoid and minimize effects to fish specific to injury or mortality associated with stranding, BBHP has developed this Fish Salvage Plan in consultation with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), and the Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN).

#### 2.0 FISH SALVAGE ACTIVITIES

On May 18, 2011, BBHP filed a Multi-Project Environmental Analysis (MPEA) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in addition to its applications to amend the licenses for the Stillwater and Orono Projects. FERC issued its own Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project on July 9, 2012. The MPEA and EA identified potential risks to fish during construction activities for the proposed powerhouse at the Project. To avoid and minimize impacts, BBHP will implement the following procedures for fish relocation from within dewatered cofferdam areas.

BBHP will work as quickly as possible to minimize any temporary impacts to aquatic life. Immediately following closure of each cofferdams, on-site personnel will thoroughly inspect the entire dewatered areas for evidence of fish through visual observation and will promptly notify BBHP environmental staff in the event fish are observed in the area during those construction activities at Stillwater and Orono. Should Atlantic salmon, sturgeon or any fish greater than 20 inches in size be discovered, dewatering of the cofferdam area will cease to allow recovery without additional stressors. Fish will then be collected via net or by herding, and moved into the adjacent Orono headpond at the Stillwater Project or the mainstem of the Penobscot River at the Orono Project.

If cofferdams overtop due to a high flow event, the cofferdam will be visually resurveyed for fish prior to dewatering. If any Atlantic salmon or sturgeon or any fish greater than 20 inches in size are observed within the enclosed cofferdam, dewatering will cease. All fish will be removed, either by herding or by capture and moved into the adjacent Orono headpond at the Stillwater Project or the mainstem of the Penobscot River at the Orono Project.

BBHP will be responsible for ensuring appropriately qualified and trained personnel are on-site and equipment for capture and relocation is available including boats, nets and other gear for capture and handling, and holding facilities, etc. BBHP will ensure trained personnel are skilled in fish identification, collection, and handling techniques. BBHP and its contractor will collaborate with the agencies as necessary to make best use of available personnel and equipment and to ensure appropriate training and guidance throughout the relocation efforts. Special considerations for federally listed species and invasive species are provided below.

#### 2.1 ESA LISTED SPECIES

Pursuant to the recently issued Biological Opinion (NMFS 2012), BBHP will implement the following procedures for handling, containment and/or release of Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sturgeon or shortnose sturgeon:

Daily surveys will be conducted by qualified personnel to verify there are no Atlantic salmon or sturgeon within the project area during installation and removal of any in-water cofferdam or bypass structures. If cofferdams overtop due to a high flow event, the cofferdam will be resurveyed for adult Atlantic salmon or sturgeon prior to dewatering. If any Atlantic salmon or sturgeon are observed within the enclosed cofferdam they will be removed, either by herding or by capture. Handling will be minimized to the extent possible.

A long handled net outfitted with non-abrasive knotless mesh will be used to place the fish into an aerated, covered container for short-distance transport. Alternatively, Atlantic salmon and sturgeon capture could be done by herding into a water-filled rubber sock for short-distance transport. At the Stillwater Project, adult Atlantic salmon and sturgeon will be placed into the bypass reach/Orono headpond; at the Orono Project, fish will be placed into the bypass reach/Penobscot River. Juvenile Atlantic salmon, if encountered, will be placed into the bypass reaches at each Project.

If any injured Atlantic salmon or sturgeon are observed, dewatering will cease and BBHP will report immediately to the MDMR, MDIFW, NMFS and PIN. Injured fish will be retained; photographed and measured, if possible; and transferred to NMFS. A reporting sheet will be submitted to NMFS within 24 hours.

If any dead Atlantic salmon or sturgeon are observed, BBHP will report to NMFS within 24 hours. Dead specimens or body parts will be photographed, measured, scanned for tags and all relevant information will be recorded. Specimens will be stored in a refrigerator by BBHP until they can be obtained by NMFS for analysis.

#### 2.2 INVASIVE SPECIES

The MDMR is in the practice of removing non-native/undesirable fish species from fishway traps that it operated in an attempt to prevent further range expansion. In accordance with the "Disposition of fish species at fishway traps operated by MDMR on Penobscot, as identified by MDMR & MDIFW", BBHP will coordinate with the MDMR, PIN, and the MDIFW on the removal of the species identified in Table 1 from the River, should they be discovered from within dewatered cofferdam areas at the Stillwater or Orono Projects (PRRT, 2011). BBHP will record the species, date of discovery, and quantity of removed fish and report it to the MDMR, PIN, and the MDIFW within 24 hours.

TABLE 1. SPECIES TO BE REMOVED

Species to be Removed		
Northern pike		
Largemouth bass		
Central mud minnow		
Black Crappie		
Green Sunfish		
Brown trout		
Rainbow trout		
Splake		
Other non-native / exotic new species		
Chain pickerel		

White catfish<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While not included in the "Disposition of fish species at fishway traps operated by MDMR on Penobscot, as identified by MDMR & MDIFW", white catfish was identified in the Penobscot River in Brewer by MDMR in Aug. 2009.

#### 3.0 AGENCY CONSULTATION

In accordance with the FERC-approved license amendments for the Stillwater and Orono Projects, a draft of this proposed Fish Salvage Plan was distributed to the USFWS, NMFS, PIN, MDMR, and MDIFW for review and comment. The draft Plan was distributed on September 18, 2012.

On September 19, 2012, PIN submitted comments regarding the Plan. PIN requested to be included in the notification and reporting requirements regarding Atlantic salmon and sturgeon sightings at the Orono and Stillwater Project sites, as described in sections 2.1 and 2.2. Additionally PIN provided input on the handling of Atlantic salmon and sturgeon should these species be found in the construction area of the Projects. These comments have been incorporated in the document. While PIN requested that agency staff be present during relocation efforts for ESA listed species, follow up consultation with the fisheries agencies on September 19, 2012, confirmed that notification would be sufficient given BBHP's commitment to appropriately qualified and trained personnel on-site.

NMFS, on September 20, 2012, submitted comments regarding the Plan, as well as some minor edits. In Section 1.0, NMFS suggested figures be added to better illustrate construction at both the Orono and Stillwater Project sites. These figures have been included as Appendix A. NMFS requested further information regarding the resurveying methods and fish collection methods described in section 2.1. These comments have been incorporated in the document.

On September 21, 2012, MDIFW submitted comments regarding the Fish Salvage Plan. MDIFW requested to be included in the notification and reporting requirements regarding Atlantic salmon and sturgeon sightings at the Orono and Stillwater Project sites, as described in sections 2.1 and 2.2. Additionally, MDIFW requested that white catfish be added to Table 1. These comments have been incorporated in the document.

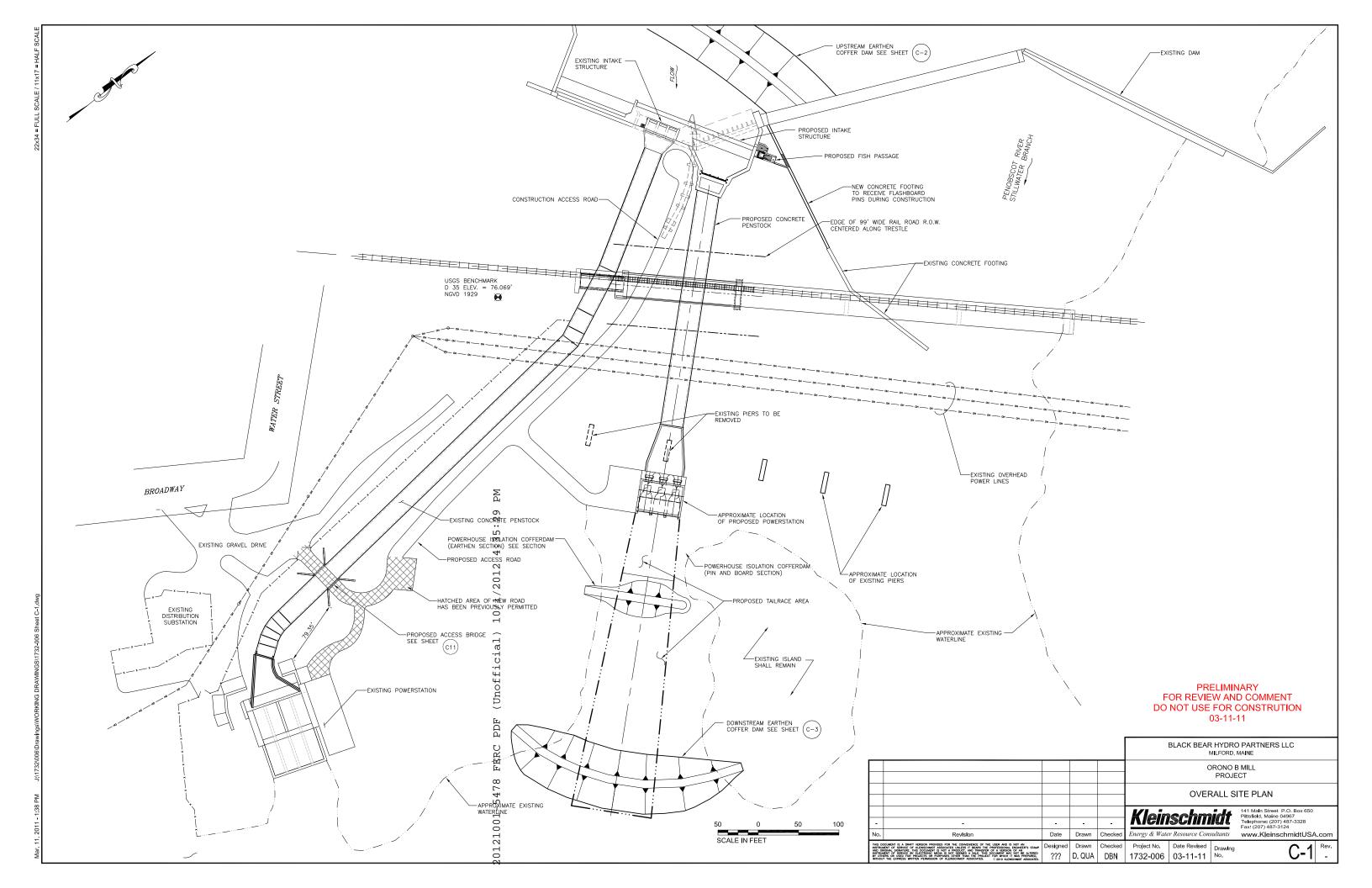
Comments were received from USFWS on September 20, 2012 and MDMR on September 24, 2012. Both agencies concurred with the comments and edits from NMFS and did not have any additional comments to add to the Fish Salvage Plan.

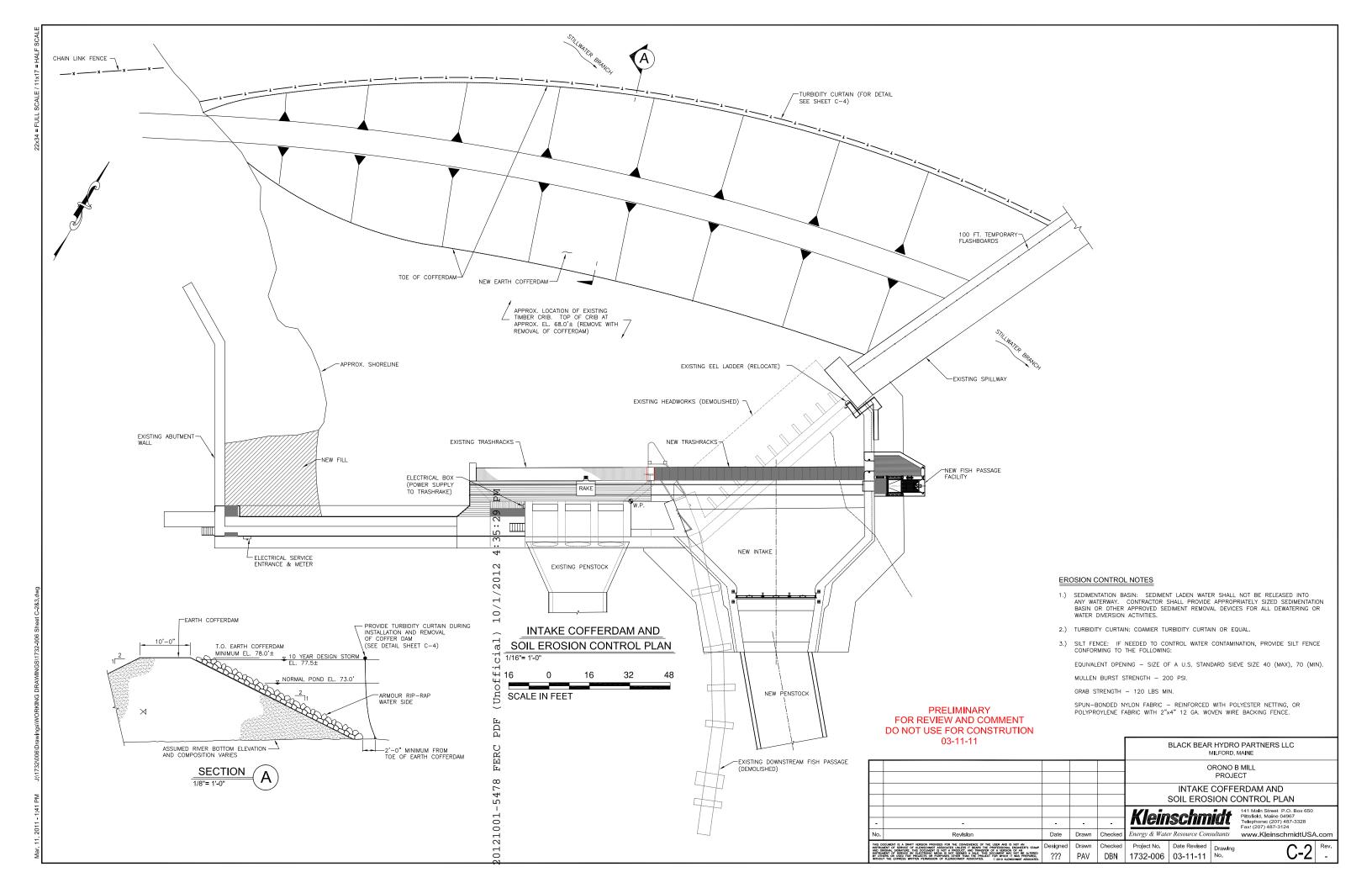
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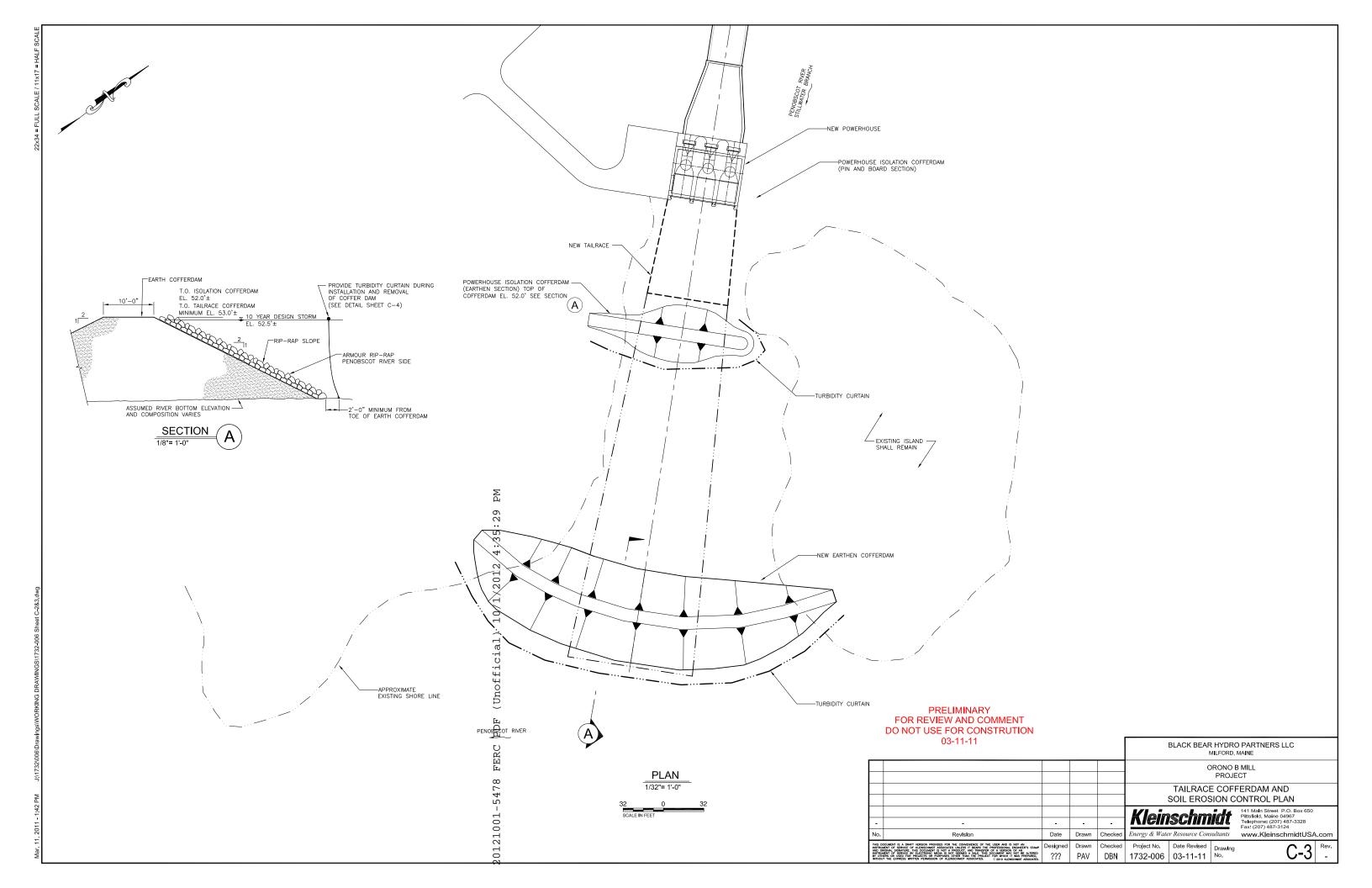
- Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC (BBHP). 2011. Amendment to Application of Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC under (FERC Nos. 2710 and 2712). Filed on May 18, 2011. FERC Accession No. 20110518-5194.
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2012. Biological Opinion for Construction of new powerhouses at the Orono Project (FERC No. 2710) and Stillwater Project (FERC No. 2712), Fish passage improvements at the Orono, Stillwater and Milford (FERC No. 2534) Projects, Species Protection Plan for the Orono, Stillwater, Milford, West Enfield (FERC No. 2600) and Medway (FERC No. 2666) Projects. Filed August 31, 2012.
- Penobscot River Restoration Trust (PRRT). 2011. Veazie (FERC No. 2403) and Great Works (FERC No. 2312) Projects: Fish Stranding Plan. Filed on August 30, 2011. FERC Accession No. 20110830-5108.

### APPENDIX A

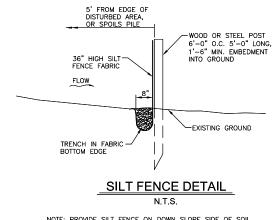
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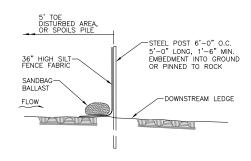








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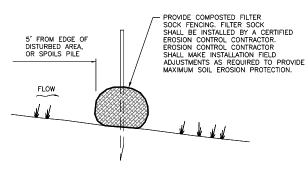
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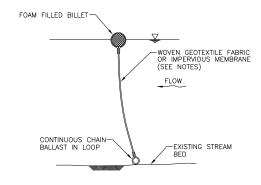
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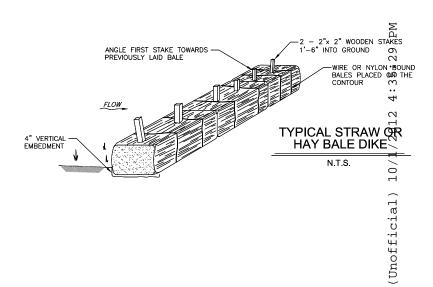
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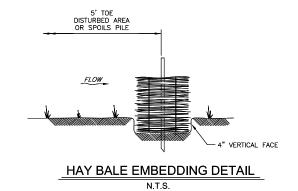


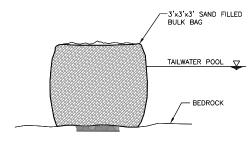
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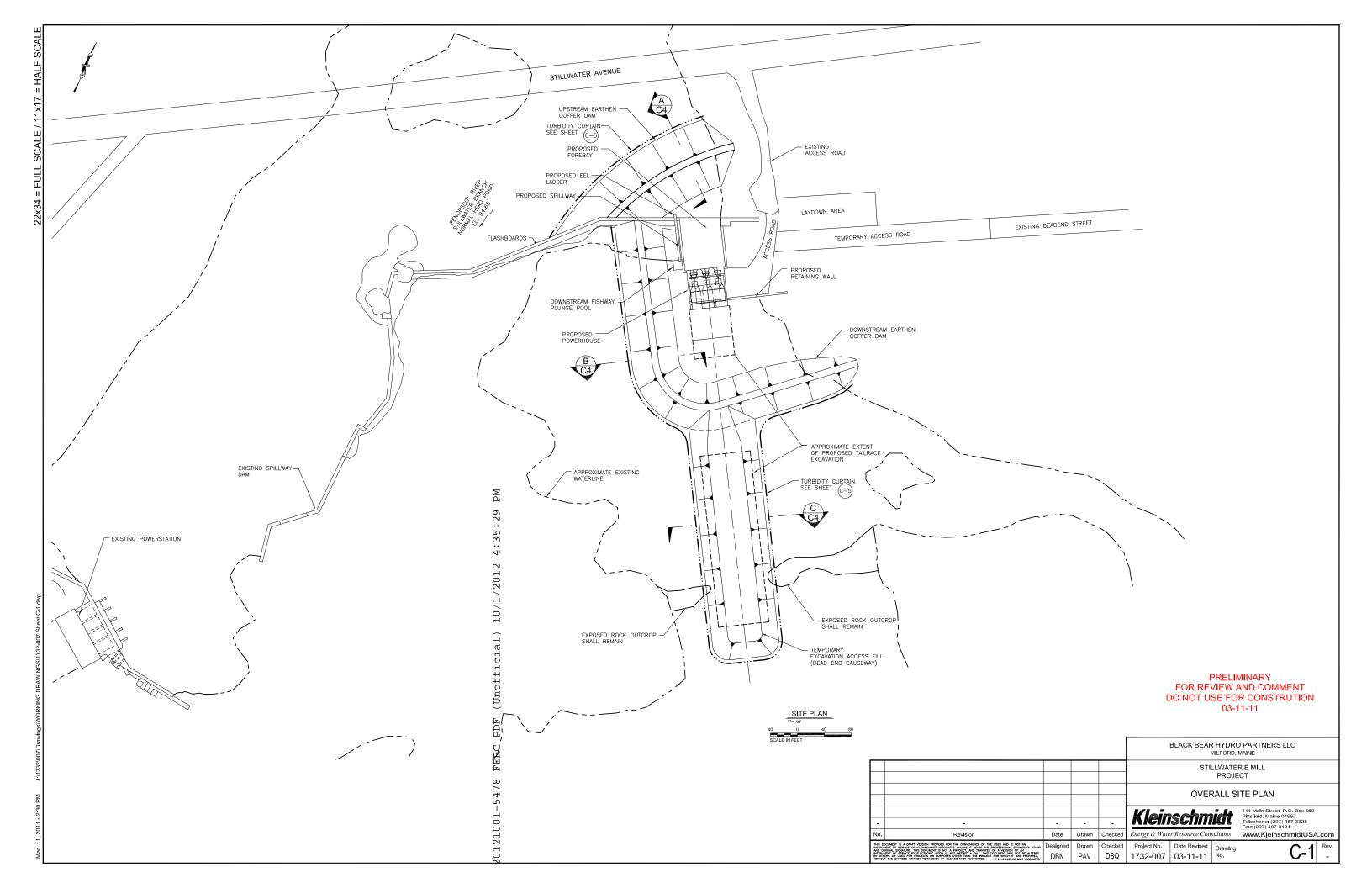
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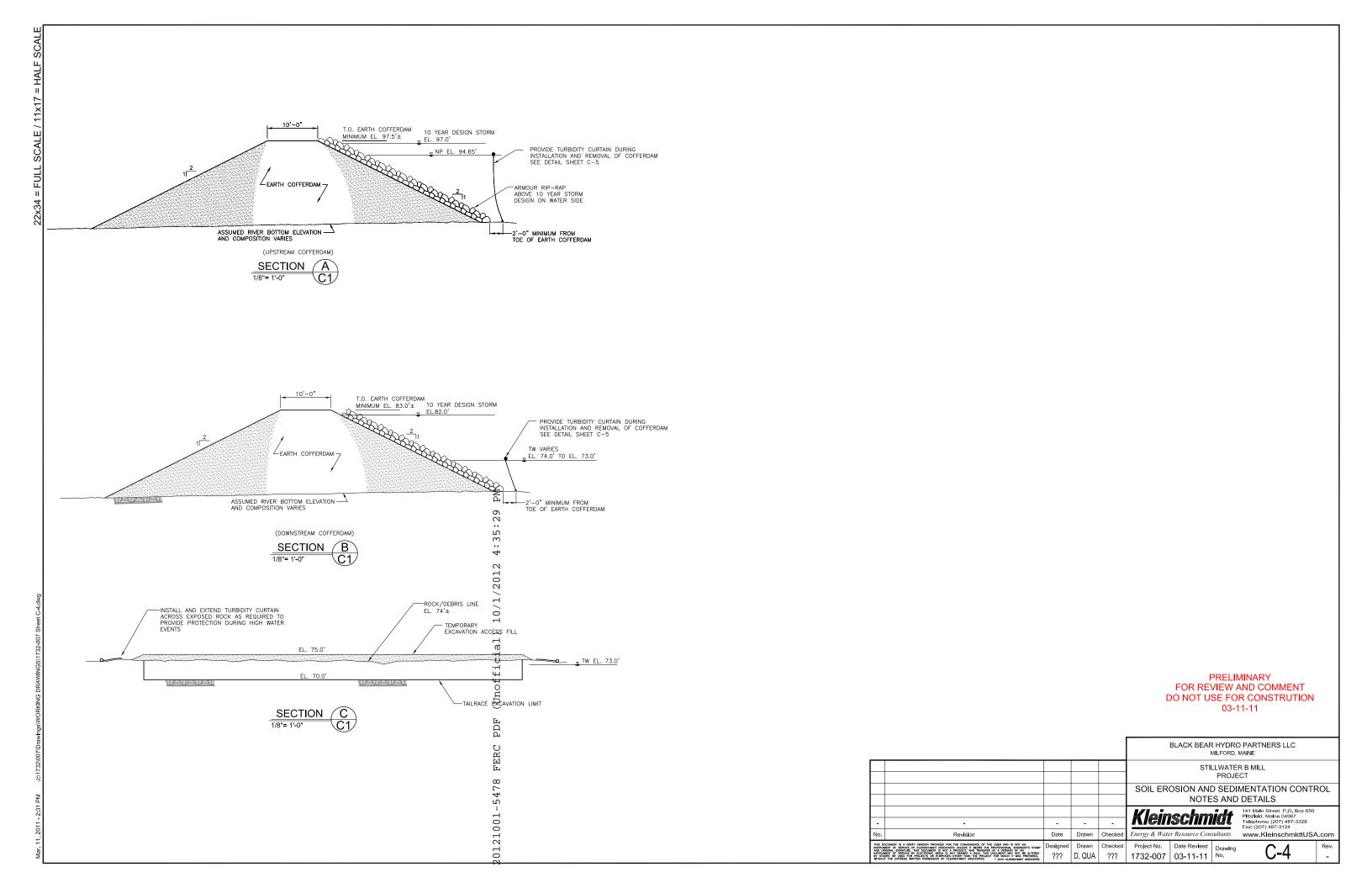
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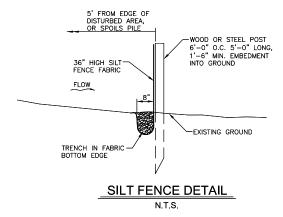
NOTES AND DETAILS Kleinschmidt

141 Main Street P.O. Box 650 Pittsfield, Maine 04967 Telephone: (207) 487-3328 Fax: (207) 487-3124 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

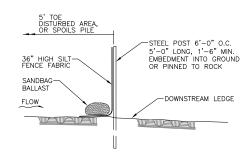
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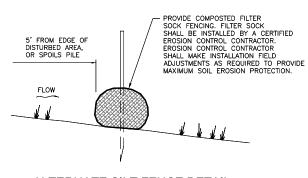
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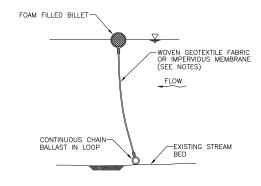
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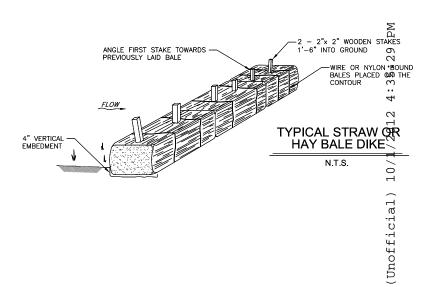
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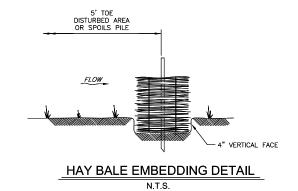


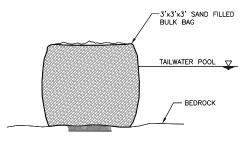
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STILLWATER B MILL PROJECT SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

NOTES AND DETAILS

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### APPENDIX B

## **AGENCY CONSULTATION**

#### **Kelly Maloney**

From: Scott Hall [shall@blackbearhydro.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 10:25 AM

To: Dill, Richard; Steven\_Shepard@fws.gov; Dan McCaw; Kramer, Gordon; Jeff Murphy; Sean

McDermott; Gail Wipplehauser; Cox, Oliver N

Cc: Kelly Maloney

**Subject:** Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater **Attachments:** 001-Fish Salvage Plan (9-17-12).pdf

#### Good morning,

As I have discussed (or left voicemails messages) with most of you, FERC issued our license amendments for Orono and Stillwater on Friday and as a result, in order to satisfy one of our compliance obligations we need to finalize our Fish Salvage Plan (Plan).

Again, the attached contains all of the components that we discussed in the applications, as well as the pertinent parts of other recently approved plans. In addition, it contains the specific provisions within the recently issued Biological Opinion.

As I explained, we plan to start immediately after completing the various compliance submittals. While we are able to get started elsewhere, since one of the next steps is installation of cofferdams we will need to finalize the attached prior to getting started on that step.

While we are still required to satisfy our technical requirement to consult at this point, since the Plan is consistent with your previous reviews, we would very much appreciate your quick response, ideally this week, via email with any additional thoughts and your concurrence.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or catch me tomorrow when we meet to discuss scheduling issues for other work on the river. Thanks again for your quick turnaround.

#### Scott

#### Scott D. Hall

Vice President - Environmental & Business Services Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Davenport Street, PO Box 276 Milford, ME 04461 207-827-5364 - p 207-461-3617 - m 207-827-4102 - f

#### **Kelly Maloney**

**Subject:** FW: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater Attachments: BBH fish stranding plan PIN comments.doc

From: Dan McCaw [mailto:Dan.McCaw@penobscotnation.org]

Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 10:15 AM

To: Scott Hall

Subject: RE: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater

#### Scott--

I have added some comments and look forward to them being integrated into your plan. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Dan

From: Scott Hall [mailto:shall@blackbearhydro.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 10:25 AM

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## STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2712)

### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

Prepared for:

## Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Milford, Maine

Prepared by:



141 Main Street Pittsfield, Maine 04967 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

September 2012

STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2712)

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 $Prepared \ for:$ 

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September 2012

#### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2710) STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2712)

## BLACK BEAR HYDRO PARTNERS, LLC MILFORD, MAINE

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#### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

Orono Hydroelectric Project (FERC NO. 2710) Stillwater Hydroelectric Project (FERC NO. 2712)

BLACK BEAR HYDRO PARTNERS, LLC MILFORD, MAINE

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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The activities associated with construction activities could potentially temporarily affect Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and other fish species in the construction area that may become trapped and stranded within these cofferdams during construction. To avoid any temporary effects to fish specific to injury or mortality associated with stranding, BBHP has developed this Fish Salvage Plan in consultation with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), and the Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN).

#### 2.0 FISH SALVAGE ACTIVITIES

On May 18, 2011, BBHP filed a Multi-Project Environmental Analysis (MPEA) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in addition to its applications to amend the licenses for the Stillwater and Orono Projects. FERC issued its own Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project on July 9, 2012. The MPEA and EA identified potential temporary minimal impact on fish during construction activities for the proposed powerhouse at the Project. To minimize impacts, BBHP will implement the following procedures for fish relocation from within dewatered cofferdam areas.

BBHP will work as quickly as possible to minimize any temporary impacts to aquatic life. Onsite personnel will monitor the dewatered areas for evidence of fish and will promptly notify BBHP environmental staff in the event fish are observed in the area during those construction activities at Stillwater and Orono. Should fish be discovered, dewatering of the cofferdam area will cease, as appropriate, to allow recovery without additional stressors. Fish will then be collected via net, and moved into the adjacent Orono headpond at the Stillwater Project or the mainstem of the Penobscot River at the Orono Project.

BBHP will be responsible for ensuring appropriately qualified and trained personnel are on-site and equipment for capture and relocation is available including boats, nets and other gear for capture and handling, and holding facilities, etc. BBHP will ensure trained personnel are skilled in fish identification, collection, and handling techniques. BBHP and its contractor will collaborate with the agencies as necessary to make best use of available personnel and equipment and to ensure appropriate training and guidance throughout the relocation efforts. Special considerations for federally listed species and invasive species are provided below.

#### 2.1 ESA LISTED SPECIES

Pursuant to the recently issued Biological Opinion (NMFS 2012), BBHP will implement the following procedures for handling, containment and/or release of Atlantic salmon:

Daily surveys will be conducted by qualified personnel to verify there are no Atlantic salmon within the project area during installation and removal of any in-water cofferdam or bypass structures. If cofferdams overtop due to a high flow event, the cofferdam will be resurveyed for

Comment [DEM1]: Dewatering shall cease if a suspected ATS or sturgeon is seen. There would never be a situation where continuing to dewater would be appropriate. This is for identified ATS and Sturgeon only, or any fish greater than 20" in size, until it has been identified by PIN, MDMR, or NOAA staff

**Comment [DEM2]:** ATS should never be collected in a net. See comments in ATS section below.

adult Atlantic salmon prior to dewatering. If any Atlantic salmon are observed within the enclosed cofferdam they will be removed, either by herding or by capture. Handling will be minimized to the extent possible.

Furthermore, a long handled net outfitted with non-abrasive knotless mesh to place the fish back into the river (at the Stillwater Project, fish will be placed into the bypass reach/Orono headpond; at the Orono Project, fish will be placed into the bypass reach/Penobscot River) will be used.

If any injured Atlantic salmon are found, BBHP will report immediately to the NMFS. Injured fish will be retained; photographed and measured, if possible; and transferred to NMFS. A reporting sheet will be submitted to NMFS within 24 hours.

If any dead sturgeon Atlantic salmon are found, BBHP will report to NMFS within 24 hours. Dead specimens or body parts will be photographed, measured, scanned for tags and all relevant information will be recorded. Specimens will be stored in a refrigerator by BBHP until they can be obtained by NMFS for analysis.

#### 2.2 INVASIVE SPECIES

The MDMR is in the practice of removing non-native/undesirable fish species from fishway traps that it operated in an attempt to prevent further range expansion. In accordance with the "Disposition of fish species at fishway traps operated by MDMR on Penobscot, as identified by MDMR & MDIFW", BBHP will coordinate with the MDMR on the removal of the following species from the River, should they be discovered from within dewatered cofferdam areas at the Stillwater or Orono Projects (PRRT, 2011).

Comment [DEM3]: If an ATS is discovered, dewatering should cease. The PIN fisheries biologist, as well as MDMR, NOAA should be notified before any capture attempt is made. Capture or herding should not take place without MDMR, PIN, or NOAA staff on site to monitor, assist and provide guidance.

Comment [DEM4]: A very large long handled non-abrasive net can be used, however the preferred method of capture would be crowding and getting the ATS into a rubber "sock" similar to ones used at Veazie and other facilities. ATS should never be out of the water. Once captured, they should be put into a water filled rubber sock and quickly carried to their destination. Carrying an ATS out of water in a a net is unacceptable. Again, this should all be done in the presence of trained PIN, MDMR, and/or NOAA staff. ATS should never be handled by BBH personnel without PIN, MDMR and/or NOAA staff present.

Comment [DEM5]: IF an injured ATS is found, it should not be handled, crowded, herded or approached until PIN, MDMR, and/or NOAA staff is notified and present.

Comment [DEM6]: Reports should also go to DIN

Comment [DEM7]: This whole paragraph doesn't make sense. Handling of any sturgeon should be done following the comments above for Atlantic salmon. They should not be approached without PIN, MDMR, and/or NOAA staff present. The protocols for the handling of any sturgeon needs to be developed similar to the protocols for ATS. Protocols for handling any dead or injured sturgeon must also be developed.

Comment [DEM8]: And the PIN

Comment [DEM9]: Any species removed from the river needs to be reported. Species, date, number and disposition needs to be recorded and reported to the PIN

TABLE 1. SPECIES TO BE REMOVED

Species to be Removed		
Northern pike		
Largemouth bass		
Central mud minnow		
Black Crappie		
Green Sunfish		
Brown trout		
Rainbow trout		
Splake		
Other non-native / exotic new species		
Chain pickerel		

#### 3.0 REFERENCES

- Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC (BBHP). 2011. Amendment to Application of Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC under (FERC Nos. 2710 and 2712). Filed on May 18, 2011. FERC Accession No. 20110518-5194.
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2012. Biological Opinion for Construction of new powerhouses at the Orono Project (FERC No. 2710) and Stillwater Project (FERC No. 2712), Fish passage improvements at the Orono, Stillwater and Milford (FERC No. 2534)
  Projects, Species Protection Plan for the Orono, Stillwater, Milford, West Enfield (FERC No. 2600) and Medway (FERC No. 2666) Projects. Filed August 31, 2012.
- Penobscot River Restoration Trust (PRRT). 2011. Veazie (FERC No. 2403) and Great Works (FERC No. 2312) Projects: Fish Stranding Plan. Filed on August 30, 2011. FERC Accession No. 20110830-5108.

Kleinschmidt

#### **Kelly Maloney**

**Subject:** FW: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater Attachments: 001-Fish Salvage Plan (9-17-12) jsm.docx

From: Jeff Murphy [mailto:jeff.murphy@noaa.gov] Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2012 8:03 AM

To: Scott Hall

Cc: Dill, Richard; Steven Shepard@fws.gov; Dan McCaw; Kramer, Gordon; Sean McDermott; Gail Wipplehauser; Cox,

Oliver N; Kelly Maloney

Subject: Re: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater

Scott - Attached are NMFS' comments on the plan. Thanks, Jeff.

On Tue, Sep 18, 2012 at 10:24 AM, Scott Hall <<u>shall@blackbearhydro.com</u>> wrote:

Good morning,

As I have discussed (or left voicemails messages) with most of you, FERC issued our license amendments for Orono and Stillwater on Friday and as a result, in order to satisfy one of our compliance obligations we need to finalize our Fish Salvage Plan (Plan).

Again, the attached contains all of the components that we discussed in the applications, as well as the pertinent parts of other recently approved plans. In addition, it contains the specific provisions within the recently issued Biological Opinion.

As I explained, we plan to start immediately after completing the various compliance submittals. While we are able to get started elsewhere, since one of the next steps is installation of cofferdams we will need to finalize the attached prior to getting started on that step.

While we are still required to satisfy our technical requirement to consult at this point, since the Plan is consistent with your previous reviews, we would very much appreciate your quick response, ideally this week, via email with any additional thoughts and your concurrence.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or catch me tomorrow when we meet to discuss scheduling issues for other work on the river. Thanks again for your quick turnaround.

Scott

#### Scott D. Hall

Vice President - Environmental & Business Services

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## STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2712)

### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

Prepared for:

## Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Milford, Maine

Prepared by:



141 Main Street Pittsfield, Maine 04967 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

September 2012

STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2712)

FISH SALVAGE PLAN

Prepared for:

Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Milford, Maine

Prepared by:

**Kleinschmidt** 

141 Main Street Pittsfield, Maine 04967 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

September 2012

#### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2710) STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2712)

# BLACK BEAR HYDRO PARTNERS, LLC MILFORD, MAINE

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#### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2710) STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2712)

BLACK BEAR HYDRO PARTNERS, LLC MILFORD, MAINE

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC (BBHP) proposes to increase capacity at its existing Stillwater (FERC No. 2712) Hydroelectric Project (Stillwater Project), located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in the Old Town, Maine, by installing a new powerhouse at the site. The proposed action for the Stillwater Project involves the construction of a new additional hydroelectric generating facility (Powerhouse B) in the bypass reach of the existing dam with a capacity of 2.229 MW, a new forebay and intake structure and trashrack, tailrace excavation, a new downstream fish passage facility adjacent to the new intake, and access roads and parking.

As part of construction activities, there will be two specific areas of temporary cofferdamming and one dead-end causeway for the Stillwater Project. A 215-ft-long forebay cofferdam will be installed in the impoundment, upstream of the existing dam, to allow for the removal of part of the existing dam leading to the new forebay, after the intake/powerhouse is constructed. The 560-ft-long powerhouse cofferdam will be installed in the tailrace area to dewater the Powerhouse B area to allow for the excavation for the draft tubes and tailrace channel. A 340-ft-long dead-end causeway of clean, bank-run gravel fill material will be placed upstream of the existing bedrock outcrop in the proposed Powerhouse B tailrace and will be used facilitate access to the tailrace and removal of the tailrace berm to the 70.0 ft NGVD elevation (Appendix A).

BBHP also proposes to increase capacity at its existing Orono (FERC No. 2710) Hydroelectric Project (Orono Project), located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in the town of Orono, Maine, by installing a new powerhouse at the site. The proposed action for the Orono Project involves the construction of a new additional hydroelectric generating facility

Comment [jsm1]: May want to insert a figure.

(Powerhouse B) in the bypass reach of the existing dam with a capacity of 3.738 MW, a new intake structure and trashrack, a new 300-foot-long penstock, tailrace excavation, a new fish passage facility (providing upstream and downstream passage) adjacent to the new intake, and access roads and parking.

As part of construction activities, there are three areas of temporary cofferdamming for the Orono Project. A 300-ft-long intake cofferdam will be installed in the impoundment, upstream of the existing dam, to dewater the new intake area and allow for the removal of part of the existing dam section and completion of the new intake. The powerhouse cofferdam will be erected to minimize, or eliminate, normal river flows from encroaching on the penstock and powerhouse construction work areas. The third cofferdam will be a temporary 300-ft-long earthen cofferdam will be a tailrace cofferdam used to create a dewatered work environment to drill and blast bedrock.

The activities associated with construction activities could potentially temporarily affect Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and other fish species in the construction area that may become trapped and stranded within these cofferdams during construction. To avoid and minimize any temporary effects to fish specific to injury or mortality associated with stranding, BBHP has developed this Fish Salvage Plan in consultation with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), and the Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN).

Comment [jsm2]: Suggest adding figure.

#### 2.0 FISH SALVAGE ACTIVITIES

On May 18, 2011, BBHP filed a Multi-Project Environmental Analysis (MPEA) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in addition to its applications to amend the licenses for the Stillwater and Orono Projects. FERC issued its own Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project on July 9, 2012. The MPEA and EA identified potential <u>risks\_temporary\_minimal\_impact\_onto</u> fish during construction activities for the proposed powerhouse at the Project. To <u>avoid and minimize impacts</u>, BBHP will implement the following procedures for fish relocation from within dewatered cofferdam areas.

BBHP will work as quickly as possible to minimize any temporary impacts to aquatic life. 
Immeditely following closure of each cofferdams. Oon-site personnel will thoroughly inspect monitor the entire dewatered areas for evidence of fish and will promptly notify BBHP environmental staff in the event fish are observed in the area during those construction activities at Stillwater and Orono. Should fish be discovered, dewatering of the cofferdam area will cease, as appropriate, to allow recovery without additional stressors. Fish will then be collected via net, and moved into the adjacent Orono headpond at the Stillwater Project or the mainstem of the Penobscot River at the Orono Project. If cofferdams overtop due to a high flow event, the cofferdam will be resurveyed for fish prior to dewatering.

BBHP will be responsible for ensuring appropriately qualified and trained personnel are on-site and equipment for capture and relocation is available including boats, nets and other gear for capture and handling, and holding facilities, etc. BBHP will ensure trained personnel are skilled in fish identification, collection, and handling techniques. BBHP and its contractor will collaborate with the agencies as necessary to make best use of available personnel and equipment and to ensure appropriate training and guidance throughout the relocation efforts. Special considerations for federally listed species and invasive species are provided below.

#### 2.1 ESA LISTED SPECIES

Pursuant to the recently issued Biological Opinion (NMFS 2012), BBHP will implement the following procedures for handling, containment and/or release of Atlantic salmon:

Comment [jsm3]: Visual, snorkeling, electrofishing, seining?

Daily surveys will be conducted by qualified personnel to verify there are no Atlantic salmon within the project area during installation and removal of any in-water cofferdam or bypass structures. If cofferdams overtop due to a high flow event, the cofferdam will be resurveyed for adult Atlantic salmon prior to dewatering. If any Atlantic salmon are observed within the enclosed cofferdam they will be removed, either by herding or by capture. Handling will be minimized to the extent possible.

Furthermore, a long handled net outfitted with non-abrasive knotless mesh to place the fish back into the river (at the Stillwater Project, adult Atlantic salmon fish will be placed into the bypass reach/Orono-Stillwater headpond; at the Orono Project, fish will be placed into the bypass reach/Penobscot River) will be used). Juvenile Atlantic salmon, if encountered, will be placed into the bypass reaches at each project.

If any injured Atlantic salmon are found, BBHP will report immediately to the NMFS. Injured fish will be retained; photographed and measured, if possible; and transferred to NMFS. A reporting sheet will be submitted to NMFS within 24 hours.

If any dead <u>Atlantic or shortnose</u> sturgeon <u>Atlantic salmon</u> are <u>observedfound</u>, BBHP will report to NMFS within 24 hours. Dead specimens or body parts will be photographed, measured, scanned for tags and all relevant information will be recorded. Specimens will be stored in a refrigerator by BBHP until they can be obtained by NMFS for analysis.

#### 2.2 INVASIVE SPECIES

The MDMR is in the practice of removing non-native/undesirable fish species from fishway traps that it operated in an attempt to prevent further range expansion. In accordance with the "Disposition of fish species at fishway traps operated by MDMR on Penobscot, as identified by MDMR & MDIFW", BBHP will coordinate with the MDMR on the removal of the following species from the River, should they be discovered from within dewatered cofferdam areas at the Stillwater or Orono Projects (PRRT, 2011).

Comment [jsm4]: Please describe method

**Comment [jsm5]:** Fished should be placed in a covered container with water then transported.

TABLE 1. SPECIES TO BE REMOVED

Species to be Removed
Northern pike
Largemouth bass
Central mud minnow
Black Crappie
Green Sunfish
Brown trout
Rainbow trout
Splake
Other non-native / exotic new species
Chain pickerel

#### 3.0 REFERENCES

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## **Kelly Maloney**

From: Steven\_Shepard@fws.gov

Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2012 2:14 PM

To: Jeff Murphy

Cc: Dan McCaw; Gail Wipplehauser; Kramer, Gordon; Kelly Maloney; Cox, Oliver N; Dill, Richard;

Sean McDermott; Scott Hall

**Subject:** Re: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater Attachments: 001-Fish Salvage Plan (9-17-12) jsm.docx

I have reviewed the Plan and the NMFS comments. The Plan is similar to the Trust Plan, which we have previously reviewed and commented upon. The Service concurs with the NMFS comments and has no additional comments.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Steven Shepard, C.F.P.
Maine Hydro Licensing Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
17 Godfrey Drive, Suite 2
Orono, Maine 04473

Voice: 207-866-3344 x116

Jeff Murphy

<<u>ieff.murphy@noaa.gov</u>> ToScott Hall <shall@blackbearhydro.com>

09/20/2012 08:04 AM

"Steven Shepard@fws.gov" <Steven Shepard@fws.gov>,
Dan McCaw <Dan.McCaw@penobscotnation.org>,
"Kramer, Gordon" <Gordon.Kramer@maine.gov>, Sean
McDermott <sean.mcdermott@noaa.gov>, Gail
Wipplehauser <Gail.Wippelhauser@maine.gov>, "Cox,

Oliver N" < Oliver.N.Cox@maine.gov >, Kelly Maloney

< Kelly. Maloney@kleinschmidtusa.com >

cc"Dill, Richard" < <a href="maintenant-normalized maine.gov">Richard.Dill@maine.gov</a>>,

SubjectRe: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater

# Scott - Attached are NMFS' comments on the plan. Thanks, Jeff.

On Tue, Sep 18, 2012 at 10:24 AM, Scott Hall <shall@blackbearhydro.com> wrote:

Good morning,

Jeff Murphy < jeff.murphy@noaa.gov>

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Scott

## Scott D. Hall

Vice President - Environmental & Business Services

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Jeff Murphy NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Maine Field Station 17 Godfrey Drive Orono, Maine 04473 PH: 207-866-7379

FAX: 207-866-7342

(See attached file: 001-Fish Salvage Plan (9-17-12) jsm.docx)

# **Kelly Maloney**

From: Dunham, Kevin [Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 10:46 AM

To: Scott Hall

**Cc:** Steve Shepard; Daniel McCaw; Kramer, Gordon; Dill, Richard; Jeff.Murphy@noaa.gov;

Wippelhauser, Gail; Cox, Oliver N; sean.mcdermott@noaa.gov; Kelly Maloney

**Subject:** FW: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater **Attachments:** 001-Fish Salvage Plan (9-17-12) jsm-kd.docx

Scott,

Here are MDIFW's comments on the fish salvage plan, thanks.

Kevin

Kevin Dunham Fisheries Biologist, Penobscot Region Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 16 Cobb Rd. Enfield, ME 04493 (207) 732-4131x4004 kevin.dunham@maine.gov

From: Scott Hall <a href="mailto:shall@blackbearhydro.com">[mailto:shall@blackbearhydro.com</a>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 10:25 AM

To: Dill, Richard; Steven Shepard@fws.gov; Dan McCaw; Kramer, Gordon; Jeff Murphy; Sean McDermott; Wippelhauser,

Gail; Cox, Oliver N Cc: Kelly Maloney

Subject: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater

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# Scott

## Scott D. Hall

Vice President - Environmental & Business Services Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Davenport Street, PO Box 276 Milford, ME 04461 207-827-5364 - p 207-461-3617 - m 207-827-4102 - f

# ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2710)

# STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2712)

# FISH SALVAGE PLAN

Prepared for:

# Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Milford, Maine

Prepared by:



141 Main Street Pittsfield, Maine 04967 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

September 2012

ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2710)

STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2712)

FISH SALVAGE PLAN

Prepared for:

Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Milford, Maine

Prepared by:

**Kleinschmidt** 

141 Main Street Pittsfield, Maine 04967 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

September 2012

#### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2710) STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2712)

# BLACK BEAR HYDRO PARTNERS, LLC MILFORD, MAINE

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#### FISH SALVAGE PLAN

ORONO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2710) STILLWATER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2712)

BLACK BEAR HYDRO PARTNERS, LLC MILFORD, MAINE

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC (BBHP) proposes to increase capacity at its existing Stillwater (FERC No. 2712) Hydroelectric Project (Stillwater Project), located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in the Old Town, Maine, by installing a new powerhouse at the site. The proposed action for the Stillwater Project involves the construction of a new additional hydroelectric generating facility (Powerhouse B) in the bypass reach of the existing dam with a capacity of 2.229 MW, a new forebay and intake structure and trashrack, tailrace excavation, a new downstream fish passage facility adjacent to the new intake, and access roads and parking.

As part of construction activities, there will be two specific areas of temporary cofferdamming and one dead-end causeway for the Stillwater Project. A 215-ft-long forebay cofferdam will be installed in the impoundment, upstream of the existing dam, to allow for the removal of part of the existing dam leading to the new forebay, after the intake/powerhouse is constructed. The 560-ft-long powerhouse cofferdam will be installed in the tailrace area to dewater the Powerhouse B area to allow for the excavation for the draft tubes and tailrace channel. A 340-ft-long dead-end causeway of clean, bank-run gravel fill material will be placed upstream of the existing bedrock outcrop in the proposed Powerhouse B tailrace and will be used facilitate access to the tailrace and removal of the tailrace berm to the 70.0 ft NGVD elevation (Appendix A).

BBHP also proposes to increase capacity at its existing Orono (FERC No. 2710) Hydroelectric Project (Orono Project), located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in the town of Orono, Maine, by installing a new powerhouse at the site. The proposed action for the Orono Project involves the construction of a new additional hydroelectric generating facility

- 1 -

Comment [jsm1]: May want to insert a figure.

(Powerhouse B) in the bypass reach of the existing dam with a capacity of 3.738 MW, a new intake structure and trashrack, a new 300-foot-long penstock, tailrace excavation, a new fish passage facility (providing upstream and downstream passage) adjacent to the new intake, and access roads and parking.

As part of construction activities, there are three areas of temporary cofferdamming for the Orono Project. A 300-ft-long intake cofferdam will be installed in the impoundment, upstream of the existing dam, to dewater the new intake area and allow for the removal of part of the existing dam section and completion of the new intake. The powerhouse cofferdam will be erected to minimize, or eliminate, normal river flows from encroaching on the penstock and powerhouse construction work areas. The third cofferdam will be a temporary 300-ft-long earthen cofferdam will be a tailrace cofferdam used to create a dewatered work environment to drill and blast bedrock.

The activities associated with construction activities could potentially temporarily affect Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and other fish species in the construction area that may become trapped and stranded within these cofferdams during construction. To avoid and minimize any temporary effects to fish specific to injury or mortality associated with stranding, BBHP has developed this Fish Salvage Plan in consultation with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), and the Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN).

Comment [jsm2]: Suggest adding figure.

#### 2.0 FISH SALVAGE ACTIVITIES

On May 18, 2011, BBHP filed a Multi-Project Environmental Analysis (MPEA) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in addition to its applications to amend the licenses for the Stillwater and Orono Projects. FERC issued its own Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project on July 9, 2012. The MPEA and EA identified potential <u>risks\_temporary\_minimal\_impact\_onto</u> fish during construction activities for the proposed powerhouse at the Project. To <u>avoid and minimize impacts</u>, BBHP will implement the following procedures for fish relocation from within dewatered cofferdam areas.

BBHP will work as quickly as possible to minimize any temporary impacts to aquatic life. 
Immeditely following closure of each cofferdams. Oon-site personnel will thoroughly inspect monitor the entire dewatered areas for evidence of fish and will promptly notify BBHP environmental staff in the event fish are observed in the area during those construction activities at Stillwater and Orono. Should fish be discovered, dewatering of the cofferdam area will cease, as appropriate, to allow recovery without additional stressors. Fish will then be collected via net, and moved into the adjacent Orono headpond at the Stillwater Project or the mainstem of the Penobscot River at the Orono Project. If cofferdams overtop due to a high flow event, the cofferdam will be resurveyed for fish prior to dewatering.

BBHP will be responsible for ensuring appropriately qualified and trained personnel are on-site and equipment for capture and relocation is available including boats, nets and other gear for capture and handling, and holding facilities, etc. BBHP will ensure trained personnel are skilled in fish identification, collection, and handling techniques. BBHP and its contractor will collaborate with the agencies as necessary to make best use of available personnel and equipment and to ensure appropriate training and guidance throughout the relocation efforts. Special considerations for federally listed species and invasive species are provided below.

#### 2.1 ESA LISTED SPECIES

Pursuant to the recently issued Biological Opinion (NMFS 2012), BBHP will implement the following procedures for handling, containment and/or release of Atlantic salmon:

Comment [jsm3]: Visual, snorkeling, electrofishing, seining?

Daily surveys will be conducted by qualified personnel to verify there are no Atlantic salmon within the project area during installation and removal of any in-water cofferdam or bypass structures. If cofferdams overtop due to a high flow event, the cofferdam will be resurveyed for adult Atlantic salmon prior to dewatering. If any Atlantic salmon are observed within the enclosed cofferdam they will be removed, either by herding or by capture. Handling will be minimized to the extent possible.

Furthermore, a long handled net outfitted with non-abrasive knotless mesh to place the fish back into the river (at the Stillwater Project, adult Atlantic salmon fish will be placed into the bypass reach/Orono-Stillwater headpond; at the Orono Project, fish will be placed into the bypass reach/Penobscot River) will be used). Juvenile Atlantic salmon, if encountered, will be placed into the bypass reaches at each project.

If any injured Atlantic salmon are found, BBHP will report immediately to the NMFS. Injured fish will be retained; photographed and measured, if possible; and transferred to NMFS. A reporting sheet will be submitted to NMFS within 24 hours.

If any dead <u>Atlantic or shortnose</u> sturgeon <u>Atlantic salmon</u> are <u>observedfound</u>, BBHP will report to NMFS within 24 hours. Dead specimens or body parts will be photographed, measured, scanned for tags and all relevant information will be recorded. Specimens will be stored in a refrigerator by BBHP until they can be obtained by NMFS for analysis.

#### 2.2 INVASIVE SPECIES

The MDMR is in the practice of removing non-native/undesirable fish species from fishway traps that it operated in an attempt to prevent further range expansion. In accordance with the "Disposition of fish species at fishway traps operated by MDMR on Penobscot, as identified by MDMR & MDIFW", BBHP will coordinate with the MDMR on the removal of the following species from the River, should they be discovered from within dewatered cofferdam areas at the Stillwater or Orono Projects (PRRT, 2011).

Comment [jsm4]: Please describe method

**Comment [jsm5]:** Fished should be placed in a covered container with water then transported.

**Comment [kd6]:** MDIFW should also be alerted to any invasives found.

# TABLE 1. SPECIES TO BE REMOVED

Comment [kd7]: Please add White Catfish to the spp. to be removed list. White catfish was identified in the Penobscot River in Brewer by MDMR in Aug. 2009.

| Species to be Removed                 |
|---------------------------------------|
| Northern pike                         |
| Largemouth bass                       |
| Central mud minnow                    |
| Black Crappie                         |
| Green Sunfish                         |
| Brown trout                           |
| Rainbow trout                         |
| Splake                                |
| Other non-native / exotic new species |
| Chain pickerel                        |

#### 3.0 REFERENCES

- Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC (BBHP). 2011. Amendment to Application of Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC under (FERC Nos. 2710 and 2712). Filed on May 18, 2011. FERC Accession No. 20110518-5194.
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2012. Biological Opinion for Construction of new powerhouses at the Orono Project (FERC No. 2710) and Stillwater Project (FERC No. 2712), Fish passage improvements at the Orono, Stillwater and Milford (FERC No. 2534)
  Projects, Species Protection Plan for the Orono, Stillwater, Milford, West Enfield (FERC No. 2600) and Medway (FERC No. 2666) Projects. Filed August 31, 2012.
- Penobscot River Restoration Trust (PRRT). 2011. Veazie (FERC No. 2403) and Great Works (FERC No. 2312) Projects: Fish Stranding Plan. Filed on August 30, 2011. FERC Accession No. 20110830-5108.

## **Kelly Maloney**

From: Cox, Oliver N [Oliver.N.Cox@maine.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2012 2:11 PM

To: Scott Hall

**Cc:** Steve Shepard; Daniel McCaw; Kramer, Gordon; Dill, Richard; Jeff.Murphy@noaa.gov;

Wippelhauser, Gail; sean.mcdermott@noaa.gov; Kelly Maloney; Dunham, Kevin

**Subject:** RE: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater

#### Scott,

Maine Department of Marine Resources has reviewed your fish salvage plan and concurs with the comments submitted by NMFS and IFW. I have not additional comments at this time.

#### Oliver

Oliver Cox Maine Department of Marine Resources Division of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat 650 State Street, Bangor, Maine 04401 207.941.4487

Division Mission

To protect, conserve, restore, manage and enhance diadromous fish populations and their habitat in all waters of the State; to secure a sustainable recreational fishery for diadromous species; and to conduct and coordinate projects involving research, planning, management, restoration or propagation of diadromous fishes.

From: Scott Hall [mailto:shall@blackbearhydro.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 10:25 AM

To: Dill, Richard; Steven Shepard@fws.gov; Dan McCaw; Kramer, Gordon; Jeff Murphy; Sean McDermott; Wippelhauser,

Gail; Cox, Oliver N Cc: Kelly Maloney

Subject: Fish Salvage Plan - Orono and Stillwater

#### Good morning,

As I have discussed (or left voicemails messages) with most of you, FERC issued our license amendments for Orono and Stillwater on Friday and as a result, in order to satisfy one of our compliance obligations we need to finalize our Fish Salvage Plan (Plan).

Again, the attached contains all of the components that we discussed in the applications, as well as the pertinent parts of other recently approved plans. In addition, it contains the specific provisions within the recently issued Biological Opinion.

As I explained, we plan to start immediately after completing the various compliance submittals. While we are able to get started elsewhere, since one of the next steps is installation of cofferdams we will need to finalize the attached prior to getting started on that step.

While we are still required to satisfy our technical requirement to consult at this point, since the Plan is consistent with your previous reviews, we would very much appreciate your quick response, ideally this week, via email with any additional thoughts and your concurrence.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or catch me tomorrow when we meet to discuss scheduling issues for other work on the river. Thanks again for your quick turnaround.

# Scott

## Scott D. Hall

Vice President - Environmental & Business Services Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC Davenport Street, PO Box 276 Milford, ME 04461 207-827-5364 - p 207-461-3617 - m 207-827-4102 - f

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|----------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Document Content(s)                                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10-1-12 Compliance Filing FERC Cover Letter.PDF1-1       |  |  |  |  |  |
| P-2710 Fish Salvage Plan (10-1-12).PDF2-59               |  |  |  |  |  |