

# **Stillwater Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2712)**

## **Project Description**

Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC's Stillwater Hydroelectric Project is a run-of-river hydroelectric generating facility located on the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in Old Town, Maine with a gross nameplate generating capacity of 1.95 MW. The Stillwater Project commenced initial commercial operations in 1913. The Stillwater Project generates clean, renewable electricity while providing recreational opportunities (portage trail, parking areas for river access and hand-carried boat launch), fish passage measures, consistent water levels that enhance habitats for waterfowl, etc., and substantial support of the local community through stable property tax payments, reliable voltage support of the electrical distribution system, etc.

On June 25, 2004, the Lower Penobscot River Basin Comprehensive Settlement Accord ("Lower Penobscot Agreement") was signed.<sup>1</sup> The Agreement represented an unprecedented collaboration to restore 11 species of sea-run fish while rebalancing hydropower generated on the river.<sup>2</sup> An integral part of the energy balance associated with the Agreement included amending the license for the Stillwater Hydroelectric Project. In June 2004 an application was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") for the amendment and FERC issued the amendment on April 18, 2005 (111 FERC 62,065).

Pursuant to the Lower Penobscot Agreement, BBHP plans to add an additional 2.7 MW powerhouse to the existing Stillwater Project dam.

The Stillwater Project license was transferred to Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC by FERC order dated September 17, 2009 (128 FERC ¶62,212).

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<sup>1</sup> Parties to the Lower Penobscot Agreement include Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC's predecessor PPL Maine, LLC; the Penobscot Indian Nation (Penobscot); U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior); Maine State Planning Office, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Maine Department of Marine Resources ("Maine Agencies"); American Rivers, Inc., Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Audubon Society, Natural Resources Council of Maine, and Trout Unlimited; and the Penobscot River Restoration Trust ("Trust").

<sup>2</sup> When complete, the project will help restore native fisheries by markedly improving access to nearly 1000 miles of significant habitat for Atlantic salmon, American shad, shortnose sturgeon and several other species of sea-run fish that once supported diverse economic opportunities as well as the biological health of the Penobscot River.

