



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



JANET T. MILLS

GERALD D. REID

GOVERNOR

COMMISSIONER

April 17, 2019

RE: LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER INSTITUTE STAGE II APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION FOR THE RUMFORD FALLS PROJECT (FERC No. 2333); LIHI CERTIFICATE NO. 38

To whom it may concern:

The Rumford Falls Project is located on the Androscoggin River in the town of Rumford, in Oxford County, Maine. The Project consists of two discrete hydropower developments, the Upper Station Development and the Lower Station Development.

In 2009, Rumford Falls was certified as low impact for a five-year term expiring December 10, 2013. On November 18, 2013, an application was submitted for a second term of certification at the same project. On November 18, 2014, the LIHI governing board, determined that the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric project (FERC No. 2333) continued to meet the LIHI Certification Criteria. Brookfield Renewable Energy Group applied for a LIHI Recertification for the Rumford Falls Project on March 12, 2019.

The Department of Environmental Protection has reviewed its most recent water quality data for surface waters of the Rumford Falls project. The Department has no evidence to suggest that the continued operation of the project will negatively impact the designated uses, numeric or narrative criteria of its classification standards (Class C). Department data indicates that both the Upper and Lower stations which make up the project, operate as run of river facilities. The Androscoggin River surface waters upstream and downstream of the project are Class C waters, the 4<sup>th</sup> highest classification. The Department's latest Integrated Water Quality and Assessment Report (305b Report) indicates the river is not attaining all water quality standards. Specifically, it is not attaining the designated use of fishing since there is a statewide fish consumption advisory for all freshwaters due to mercury. The Androscoggin River has additional advisories for dioxin and PCB contamination. The Department has determined that the non-attainment status is not a result of the operation of the Rumford Falls Project. No fish passage facilities are present at the project, however, there are several hydroelectric dams downstream of the Rumford Falls Project and no diadromous fish species are found in the river reaches between the Lower Station and the Riley Dam.

Therefore, the Department supports the recertification for the Rumford Falls Project (FERC No. 2333); LIHI Certificate No. 38.

Please feel free to contact me at (207) 446-1619 or via email at [Christopher.Sferra@maine.gov](mailto:Christopher.Sferra@maine.gov) if you have any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris O. Sferra". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Christopher O. Sferra, Acting Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Resources