



17 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
Bureau of Land & Water Quality fax: 287-7191,

Request for Project Review

TO: File; DEP DEA-Barry Mower, Rob Mohler, Don Witherill; IF&W-John Perry, Francis Brautigam, Scott Lindsay; DMR-Oliver Cox, Gail Whippelhauser; MHPC-Earle Shettleworth; MEMA-Mark Hyland; DACF-Mari Wells; MDOT-Herb Thomson

DATE: December 17, 2015

FROM: Kathy Howatt, Hydropower Coordinator, at (207) 446-2642
kathy.howatt@maine.gov

This constitutes a request for your agency's review of the project identified below and your submission of comments in accordance with our Memorandum of Agreement on Project Reviews. Questions may be directed to the DEP Hydropower Coordinator.

Project materials, including the MWDCA application and the final FERC Surrender Application, may be found at: http://www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/HYDRO/DAMS/Saccarappa_MWDCA_2015/

The deadline for agency comments is

January 19, 2016

DEP Application Number	L-19717-3D-H-N	Applicant Name:	S.D. Warren Company
Project Name:	Saccarappa FERC License Surrender Project	Contact:	Barry Stemm
Location:	Westbrook	Tel #	(207)856-4584

Notes to Reviewer:

The applicant, as owner and operator of the Saccarappa Project, proposes to surrender its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license and decommission the existing hydroelectric facilities, remove the eastern and the western spillways, and install a double Denil fish ladder in the tailrace of said hydroelectric facility.

Resources within and adjacent to the currently impounded Presumpscot River and resources downstream of the impoundment that may be impacted as a result of the proposed project include; palustrine wetlands and wetland habitat, fish and wildlife resources, and existing land uses, including public access, among others. An existing wet road will be utilized to access the dam with excavators and trucks, and will be removed as the dam is removed. Other small, temporary wet roads and cofferdams will be installed as required.

After a thorough review of the above project, as presented to us, and consideration of our agency's standards, programs and responsibilities, the following comments are submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Please see attached comments (1 page) from the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Check if requesting copy of draft Findings of Fact and Order.
(Comments must be signed and dated in order to be accepted by this Department)(if additional space is needed, please attach another sheet).

SIGNATURE: Jimmy Vogel **DATE:** 12/30/15

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands Comments

DEP Application Number L-19717-3D-H-N, Saccarappa FERC License Surrender Project

The Application for Dam Removal states in Section 22.0 Public Access and Uses: “the Surrender Project will result in significant benefit, and very little harm, to the public rights of access to the surface waters of the State” for recreation and references the Application for License Surrender concurrently submitted to FERC, Section 5.8 Recreation Resources, for a more detailed discussion. Section 22.0 acknowledges that the S.D. Warren-owned carry-in boat launch near the upstream end of the western channel will not be usable in the future due to high flow velocities, but reports that a City of Westbrook carry-in launch on the opposite bank a short distance upstream of the eastern spillway will remain available.

However, the impact of the project on boat access to the upstream portion of the impoundment and river are not addressed. The Application for License Surrender (Subsection 5.8.3.4 Little River Boat Carry, p. 88) states that the Little River Boat Carry “will no longer be suitable for launching boats except under unusually high water conditions” but that information is not reported in the Application for Dam Removal. Also, the second carry-in boat access on the upper impoundment, on S.D. Warren property on the west bank of the river immediately below the Mallison Falls powerhouse, is not mentioned in either application and the potential impact of dam removal on the usability of this boat access is not addressed in the Application for Dam Removal. Given the recreational value of this section of river as a part of the Sebago to Sea Trail (see <http://www.sebagotothesea.org/> and <http://presumpscotriver.tumblr.com/> for more information on the water trail and associated boat access facilities), and the apparent adverse impact of dam removal on the Little River boat carry downstream, the Bureau requests that additional information be provided about future boat access to upstream end of the Project area and any mitigation that may be necessary to sustain carry-in boat access in the future.