



United States Department of the Interior



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Maine-New Hampshire Fish and Wildlife Service Complex
Ecological Services
Maine Field Office
P.O. Box A
306 Hatchery Road
East Orland, Maine 04431
207/469-7300 Fax: 207/902-1588

March 30, 2021

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

**Re: Pejepscot Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 4784
Androscoggin River
EXTENSION OF TIME REQUEST FOR STUDY COMMENTS**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Topsham Hydro Partners Limited Partnership (Topsham Hydro; Applicant) filed its Updated Study Report (USR) for the Pejepscot Hydroelectric Project (Project) on July 10, 2020, held its USR meeting on July 22, 2020, and filed the USR meeting summary on August 11, 2020. Included in the USR meeting summary were proposals for two additional studies which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recommended the Applicant perform.¹ The FERC-recommended studies included a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Modeling Study and a Project Sound Study. The Applicant performed both studies in 2020 and emailed the study reports to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on March 16, 2021. Subsequently, Topsham Hydro held a meeting on March 24, 2021 to present the study results to the resource agencies.

As the results were distributed after Topsham Hydro submitted their Final License Application on August 31, 2021² the resource agencies have not had the opportunity to comment on either of the new study reports. Given the importance of the results of the CFD Modeling and Sound Studies to the Pejepscot relicensing proceeding, the Service would like the opportunity to thoroughly review the studies and provide comments. Therefore, the Service is hereby writing to request an extension of time of 30 days, from the date that Topsham Hydro files the study reports with FERC, in order to have ample time to review the reports and provide any comments and recommendations we might have.

¹ Accession No. 20201030-3000

² Accession No. 20200831-5221

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
March 30, 2021

2

Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions, please contact Corbin Hilling of this office at corbin_hilling@fws.gov.

Peter Lamothe
Program Manager
Maine-New Hampshire FWS Complex

cc: FERC, Secretary (e-filed)
Brookfield, Luke Anderson (e-mail)
USFWS, Julianne Rosset, Bryan Sojkowski (e-mail)
NMFS, Matt Buhyoff, Donald Dow (e-mail)
MDEP, Kathy Howatt, Christopher Sferra (e-mail)
MDMR, Casey Clark, Gail Wippelhauser (e-mail)
MDIFW, James Pellerin, John Perry (e-mail)

Reading File

ES: CHilling:3-30-21: (207) 401-0995