

July 31, 2026

Ripogenus Project
FERC No. 2572-ME

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Ripogenus Project (FERC No. 2572);
Whitewater and Minimum Flow Excursion Report**

Dear Secretary Reese:

Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC (GLHA), licensee for the Ripogenus Project on the West Branch of the Penobscot River in Maine, is reporting a whitewater and minimum flow excursion that occurred at the Project on July 27, 2026, due to a transmission line cross-arm failure.

Please see the attached excursion reporting forms for details.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (207) 951-5006 or by e-mail at kevin.bernier@brookfieldrenewable.com.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bernier

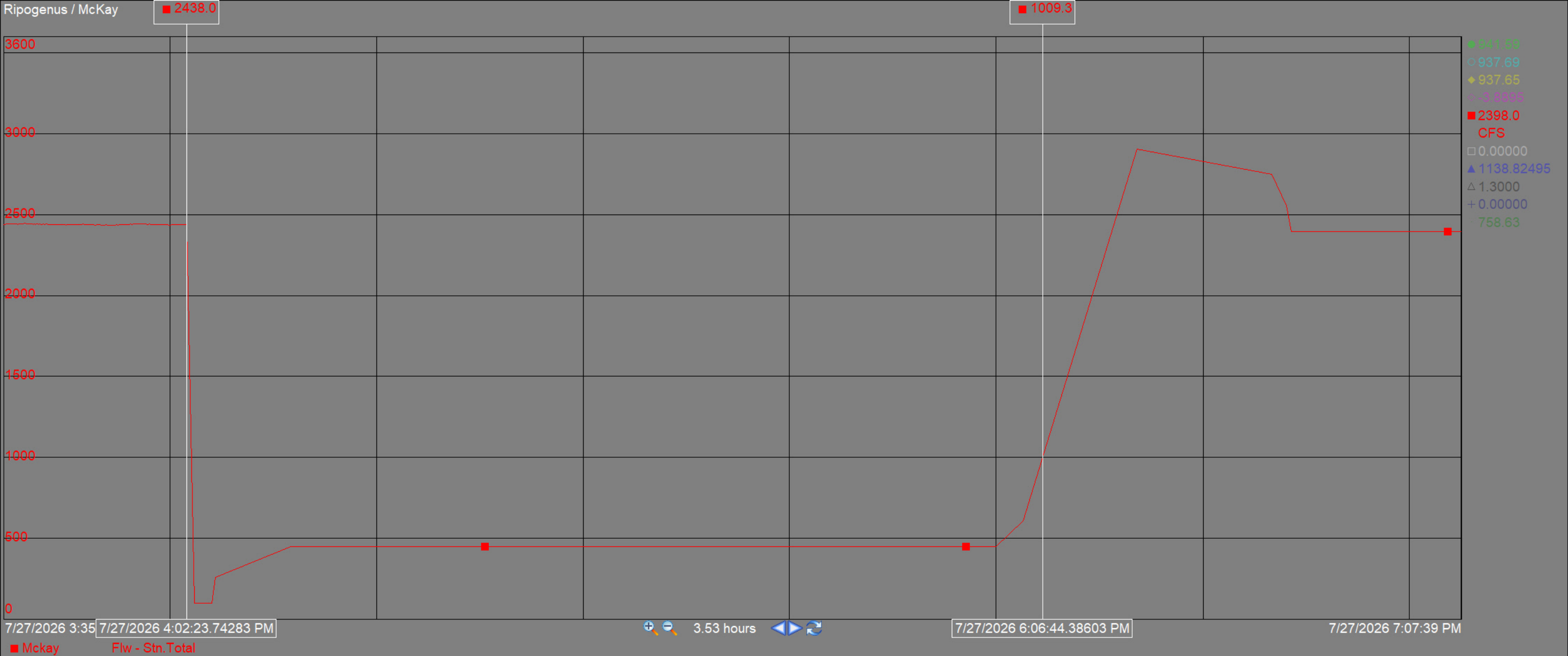
Kevin Bernier
Senior Compliance Specialist

Attachments

Cc. L. Paye, C. Briggs, R. Mohlar; MDEP
J. Bagley, J. Perry, D. Kane; MDIFW
B. Way, B. Theriault, B. Godsoe, E. Francis-Lamore; MLUPC
A. Cross, P. Dockens, K. Spiller; USFWS
J. Spain, N. Aglubat; FERC - NYRO
K. Pocquette, M. Osborne, N. Weaver, T. Mapletoft, R. Dill, P. Wainwright, P. McDonough,
D. Heidrich, J. Grevstad, R. Dorman, S. Hill, J. York, J. Seyfried, K. Murphy, N. Stevens; GLHA

GLHA File: HSSE 19a/ii/Penobscot

Brookfield		COMPLIANCE EXCURSION REPORT			
Project No(s): FERC No. 2572		Project Name(s):		Ripogenus Project	
Licensee(s): Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC (GLHA)		Facility:		McKay Station	
SUBJECT:		Whitewater Recreation and Minimum Flow Excursion			
BACKGROUND (e.g. License Article/ Requirement; Permit Condition; Operating Procedure, etc.):		Article 402 of the Ripogenus Project license in part requires minimum whitewater recreation flows from May 1 – September 15 between the hours of 0830 and 1700. In a “normal” hydrologic year (such as 2026), the required minimum flows are 2,300 cfs on Saturdays and Sundays, 2,200 cfs on Mondays and Fridays, and 2,000 cfs on Tuesdays through Thursdays. In addition, Article 402 requires minimum flows of 1,000 cfs between the hours of 1700 and 0830 from June 8 through October 14, plus short-term outage flows of at least 400 cfs during generating unit failures at McKay Station. These minimum flows shall be the flows for each hourly period (measured based on an hourly average), and any modifications from these flow requirements must be reported to the Commission within 10 days of the incident.			
DATE OF EVENT:		July 27, 2026	TIME OF EVENT:	16:02 hrs	DURATION: 2 hours, 4 minutes
DESCRIPTION:		Due to a trip of McKay Station, flows from the Ripogenus Project dropped below the required minimum flow (2,200 cfs) for whitewater recreation for one hourly period on Monday, July 27, 2026, and below the 1,000 cfs minimum flow that immediately followed that day’s whitewater recreation flows for one additional hourly period; average flows of 648 and 610 cfs were respectively recorded during these two hourly periods (see attached graph). Although normal outflows were disrupted by this event, the automated minimum flow system at McKay Station functioned properly thereby preventing an excursion from the Article 402 outage flow requirements (with Project outflows during the outage released via both the McKay Station minimum flow system and from the dam to satisfy Article 401 requirements for flows to the Upper Gorge).			
CAUSE:		The station outage was caused by a fault on the Ripogenus Project transmission line caused by a broken cross-arm on the structure. The cross-arm failed due to age-related internal deterioration within the member, which was not externally visible and thus was not identified during the last transmission line inspection.			
CORRECTIVE MEASURES:		IMMEDIATE ACTION			
		The Brookfield System Operator promptly dispatched local Operations staff to the Ripogenus Project, who upon arrival found and reported a small fire which resulted from the transmission line fault. The local Operators checked and secured McKay Station (which included isolating the line to allow safe access by firefighters) and then proceeded to Ripogenus Dam. Following public safety checks and activation of the Project’s siren warning system, the technicians opened two crest gates at the dam at 18:06 hrs on July 27, 2026, to resume normal flows to the West Branch of the Penobscot River.			
		LONG-TERM ACTION			
		GLHA expedited repairs to the Ripogenus Project transmission line, which were completed on Wednesday, July 29 th , thereby allowing McKay Station to be brought back online by 18:00 hrs that day. GLHA is also continuing with a multi-year project, started in 2016, to proactively replace poles, cross-arms, and insulators on the Project transmission line.			
OBSERVED OR REPORTED EFFECTS:		Although GLHA did not conduct any field surveys downstream of McKay Station during this event (as the local technicians were busy addressing the fire, securing McKay Station, and restoring river flow), it is likely that impacts to aquatic life occurred in the West Branch of the Penobscot River consistent with impacts observed during an October 2022 simulated station trip and fish stranding study for relicensing of the Project (see Initial Study Report dated April 24, 2023). As noted above, the downed powerline resulted in a small fire, which was extinguished by Maine Forest Service and local fire department crews during the evening of July 27, 2026.			
AGENCIES NOTIFIED (attach correspondence):		Method of Initial Notification: ☐ Phone ☒ Email ☐ Letter Date of Notification: <u>7/28/26 (attached)</u> Federal Agencies: ☒ USFWS ☐ NMFS ☐ USACE ☒ FERC ☐ Other(s): _____ State Agencies: STATE: <u>Maine</u> ☒ Env. Prot ☒ F&W ☐ Dam Safety ☐ Other(s) . Other Agencies/NGOs: _____			
RESOURCE AGENCY COMMENTS:		None			
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION /COMMENTS:		None			
EXCURSION REPORT BY: (please print)			DATE:		
Kevin Bernier – Senior Compliance Specialist			July 31, 2026		



From: [Bernier, Kevin](#)
To: ["Perry, John"](#); [Doug Kane \(douglas.kane@maine.gov\)](mailto:douglas.kane@maine.gov); [Bryan Way \(Bryan.C.Way@maine.gov\)](mailto:Bryan.C.Way@maine.gov); ["Theriault, Billie J"](#); ["Godsoe, Benjamin"](#); [Emily Francis-Lamore, PhD](#); [Rob Mohlar \(robert.c.mohlar@maine.gov\)](mailto:robert.c.mohlar@maine.gov); ["Cross, Amanda S"](#); ["Paye, Laura"](#); [Patrick Dockens \(patrick_dockens@fws.gov\)](mailto:patrick_dockens@fws.gov); [Claire Briggs@maine.gov](mailto:Claire.Briggs@maine.gov); [Jeff Bagley \(jeff.bagley@maine.gov\)](mailto:jeff.bagley@maine.gov); [Spiller, Kimberly J](#); [John Spain](#); [Noel J. Aglubat](#)
Cc: [Weaver, Nick](#); [Osborne, Michael](#); [Dill, Richard](#); [Scarzello, Michael](#); [Mapletoft, Thomas](#); [Dorman, Randy](#); [Heidrich, David](#); [Wainwright, Paul](#); [Grevstad, Justin](#); [York, Jason](#); [Mcdonough, Patrick](#); [Pocquette, Kayla](#); [Stevens, Nate](#); [Seyfried, Jason](#); [Murphy, Kyle](#); [Brenton, Paul](#); [Fradique, Andrea](#); [Hofacker, Stephen](#)
Subject: West Branch flow disruption and fire
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:06:00 PM

At approximately 16:02 hrs yesterday afternoon (Monday, July 27th), McKay Station tripped offline. This facility is part of the Ripogenus Project (FERC No. 2572) and located on the West Branch of the Penobscot River in T3 R11 WELS, Maine. Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC (GLHA), licensee for the Ripogenus Project, responded by immediately dispatching two local technicians to investigate the outage and to resume normal flows to the West Branch. The technicians discovered that a cross-arm failure on the Project's transmission line (approximately ½ mile from McKay Station) had caused the outage and resulted in a small fire (less than one acre) beneath the line. After reporting the fire and checking/securing the station, the technicians proceeded to Ripogenus Dam; following public safety checks and activation of the Project's siren warning system, the technicians opened two crest gates at the dam at 18:20 hrs to resume normal flows to the West Branch. The fire was extinguished by the Maine Forest Service and local fire crews last evening.

Article 402 of the Ripogenus Project license requires an outage flow of 400 cfs during generating unit outages at McKay Station, with scheduled minimum flows to be resumed as quickly and practically as possible. Although normal West Branch flows were disrupted by this event, the automated minimum flow system at McKay Station functioned properly thereby preventing an excursion from outage flow requirements, with Project outflows of approximately 610 cfs released once the minimum flow system was fully activated (510 cfs via the minimum flow system, plus 100 cfs being released from the dam at the time).

At the time of the station trip, outflows from McKay Station were running at approximately 2,400 cfs to satisfy whitewater recreation flows required by the Project license; since whitewater flows are required daily from 08:30 – 17:00 hrs from May 1 – September 15, these boating flows were impacted for about 58 minutes by this outage.

GLHA is still investigating and collecting information on this event, which will be detailed in a report to FERC within 10 days. I will copy everybody on this report, but in the meantime, please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Kevin Bernier
Senior Compliance Specialist

C (207) 951-5006
kevin.bernier@brookfieldrenewable.com