

September 6, 2022

***VIA E-FILING***

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

**Subject: Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333-091)  
Updated Study Report Meeting Summary**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Rumford Falls Hydro LLC (RFH or Licensee), a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable, herein files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) the Updated Study Report (USR) Meeting Summary for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (Project) (FERC No. 2333). The Project is a two-development hydroelectric facility on the Androscoggin River in the Town of Rumford, Oxford County, Maine. The Project's existing FERC license expires on September 30, 2024, and RFH is pursuing a new license for the Project through the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process.

RFH initiated and/or completed all studies at the Project consistent with the July 7, 2020 Revised Study Plan, as modified and/or approved in the Commission's August 6, 2020 Study Plan Determination. The studies are as follows:

- 1) Water Quality Study
- 2) Angler Creel Survey
- 3) Recreation Study
- 4) Historic Architectural Survey
- 5) Aesthetic Flow Study
- 6) Impoundment Bass Spawning Survey
- 7) Flow Study for Aquatic Habitat Evaluation
- 8) Whitewater Boating Study

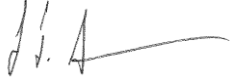
In accordance with 18 CFR §5.15(f), the USR was filed with the Commission on August 5, 2022, and RFH held the USR meeting on August 17, 2022. The attached provides a summary of the meeting.

In addition to filing this USR Meeting Summary with the Commission, RFH is distributing this letter to those on the enclosed distribution list. This submittal is also available electronically in FERC's eLibrary system at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search> under docket P-2333.

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333)  
Updated Study Report Meeting Summary  
September 6, 2022

If there are any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please contact me by phone at (207) 755-5613 or at [luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com](mailto:luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Luke Anderson  
Manager, Licensing  
Brookfield Renewable

cc: Distribution List  
Ryan Hansen, FERC

Enclosure (1)

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333  
Distribution List

**Federal Agencies**

John Eddins  
Program Analyst  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
401 F Street NW, Suite 308  
Washington, DC 20001-2637

Paul Ford  
Acting Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region 1  
99 High Street  
Boston, MA 02110

Peter Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20472

John Spain  
Regional Engineer  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - New  
York Regional Office  
19 W 34th Street, Suite 400  
New York, NY 10001

Christopher Boelke  
Chief, New England Branch  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Matt Buhyoff  
Atlantic Salmon Recovery Coordinator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
17 Godfrey Drive  
Orono, ME 04473

Donald Dow  
Hydro/Fish Passage Engineer  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
17 Godfrey Drive  
Orono, ME 04473

Jon Hare  
Director, Northeast Region  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

William McDavitt  
Environmental Specialist  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
HCD, 55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Scott Acone  
Deputy District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Jay Clement  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 350  
Augusta, ME 04330

Richard Kristoff  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District/Regulatory Branch  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2718

Major General Jeffrey L. Milhorn  
Division Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
North Atlantic Division  
Fort Hamilton Military Community / 302 General  
Lee Avenue  
Fort Hamilton, NY 11252-6700

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite  
Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Headquarters  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333  
Distribution List

Harold Peterson  
Natural Resources Officer  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700  
Nashville, TN 37214

Mitchell Leverette  
State Director  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States Office  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041

William Perry Pendley  
Director  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Headquarters  
1849 C Street NWMIB 5655  
Washington, DC 20240

Camille Calimlim Touton  
Commissioner  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Headquarters  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

David Bernhardt  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Andrew Raddant  
Regional Environmental Officer  
U.S. Department of Interior  
15 State Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02109

Chief, Water Quality Branch (CWQ)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Mail Code: OEP06-02  
Boston, MA 02109

Ken Moraff  
Director, Office of Ecosystem Protection  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Mail Code: OEP06-02  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Michael Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code: 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Deborah Szaro  
Acting Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 1: New England  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Amanda Cross  
Project Leader  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Maine Field Office  
306 Hatchery Way  
East Orlando, ME 04431

Peter Lamothe  
Complex Manager  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Maine Field Office  
306 Hatchery Way  
East Orlando, ME 04431

Julianne Rosset  
Hydropower Coordinator  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Maine Field Office  
306 Hatchery Way  
East Orlando, ME 04431

Randy Moore  
Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building  
201 14th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20024

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333  
Distribution List

Mark Prout  
Forest Fish Biologist  
U.S. Forest Service  
71 White Mountain Drive  
White Mountain National Forest  
Campton, NH 03223

Regional Forester  
U.S. Forest Service  
Eastern Region - 9  
626 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

David Applegate  
Director  
U.S. Geological Survey  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 20192

Richard Kiah  
Section Chief  
U.S. Geological Survey  
361 Commerce Way  
Pembroke, NH 03275

Nicholas Stasulis  
Data Section Chief  
U.S. Geological Survey  
New England Water Science Center  
196 Whitten Road  
Augusta, ME 04333

Mike Tupper  
Regional Director, Northeast Region  
U.S. Geological Survey  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 20192

Kevin Mendik  
Hydro Program Coordinator  
U.S. National Park Service  
15 State Street, 10th floor  
Boston, MA 02109

David Vela  
Director  
U.S. National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Gay Vietzke  
Regional Director, Northeast Region  
U.S. National Park Service  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street 5th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

**State Agencies**

Kyle Olcott  
Hydropower Coordinator  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Jim Pellerin  
Regional Biologist  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Region A  
15 Game Farm Road  
Gray, ME 04039

John Perry  
Environmental Coordinator  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
284 State Street  
41 SHS  
Augusta, ME 04333-0041

Paul Christman  
Maine Department of Marine Resources  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0021

Casey Clark  
Maine Department of Marine Resources  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0021

Megan Rideout  
Review & Compliance/CLG Coordinator  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
55 Capitol Street  
65 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dr. Arthur Spiess  
Review & Compliance/CLG Coordinator  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
55 Capitol Street  
65 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333  
Distribution List

Kathleen Leyden  
Dir., Maine Coastal Program  
State of Maine Department of Agriculture,  
Conservation & Forestry  
93 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0038

James Vogel  
Senior Planner  
State of Maine Department of Agriculture,  
Conservation & Forestry  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
18 Elkins Lane, Harlow Building  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

**Municipalities and Government Officials**

Nichole Cargnino  
Commissioners Clerk  
Board of Oxford County Commissioners  
26 Western Avenue  
South Paris, ME 04281-1431

Lisa Keim  
State Senator  
Maine Senate District 18  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

Stacy Carter  
Town Manager  
Town of Rumford  
145 Congress Street  
Rumford, ME 04276

George O'Keefe  
Economic Development Director  
Town of Rumford  
145 Congress Street  
Rumford, ME 04276

**Native American Tribes**

Edward Peter-Paul  
Chief  
Mi'kmaq Nation  
7 Northern Road  
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Kendyl Reis  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Mi'kmaq Nation  
7 Northern Road  
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Clarissa Sabattis  
Chief  
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians  
88 Bell Road  
Littleton, ME 04730

Elizabeth Dana  
Chief  
Passamaquoddy Native American Nation  
Pleasant Point Reservation  
Tribal Building Office  
Route No. 190  
Perry, ME 04667

William J. Nicholas, Sr  
Chief  
Passamaquoddy Tribe  
Indian Township  
PO Box 301  
Princeton, ME 04668

Donald Soctomah  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Passamaquoddy Tribe  
PO Box 159  
Princeton, ME 04668

Kirk Francis  
Chief  
Penobscot Nation  
12 Wabanaki Way  
Indian Island, ME 04468

Christopher Sockalexis  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Penobscot Nation  
12 Wabanaki Way  
Indian Island, ME 04468

**Additional Parties**

Kevin Richard Colburn  
National Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater  
1035 Van Buren Street  
Missoula, MT 59802

Robert Nasdor  
Northeast Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater  
65 Blueberry Hill Lane  
Sudbury, MA 01776

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333  
Distribution List

Mark Zakutansky  
Director of Conservation Policy Engagement  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
45 Jordan Road  
Albrightsville, PA 18210-0527

Curtis Mooney  
Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Central Rivers Power  
59 Ayers Island Road  
Bristol, NH 03222

Sean Mahoney  
Executive Vice President and Director  
Conservation Law Foundation Maine  
53 Exchange Street, Suite 200  
Portland, ME 04101

Jody Smet  
Eagle Creek Renewable Energy  
65 Madison Avenue, Suite 500  
Morristown, NJ 07960

Jennifer Kreckel  
President  
EnvisionRumford  
PO Drawer L  
Rumford, ME 04276

Gabe Perkins  
Executive Director  
Inland Woods + Trails  
PO Box 572  
Bethel, ME 04217

Maryalice Fischer  
Certification Program Director  
Low Impact Hydropower Institute  
1167 Massachusetts Avenue, Office 407  
Arlington, MA 02476

Kirk Siegel  
Executive Director  
Mahoosuc Land Trust  
162 North Road  
PO Box 981  
Bethel, ME 04217

Andrew Beahm  
Executive Director  
Maine Audubon Society  
20 Gilsland Farm Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105-2100

Landis Hudson  
Executive Director  
Maine Rivers  
PO Box 782  
Yarmouth, ME 04096

Scott Reed  
Manager, Environmental and Public Affairs  
ND Paper Inc.  
35 Hartford Street  
Rumford, ME 04276

Thomas J Christopher  
Principal  
New England FLOW  
252 Fort Pond Inn Road  
Lancaster, MA 01523-3230

Jennifer Deraspe  
Owner  
Nurture Through Nature  
77 Warren Road  
Denmark, ME 04022

Tony Carter  
President  
Pennacook Falls Investments, Ltd.  
PO Box 35  
Rumford, ME 04276

Steve Heinz  
Trout Unlimited  
Sebago Lake Chapter  
3 Spruce Lane  
Cumberland Foreside, ME 04110

Glenn and Sandee Gordon  
72 Congress Street  
Rumford, ME 04276

Todd Papianou  
Email: beoutsidenw@gmail.com

John Preble  
Email: jmpreble69@gmail.com

Brie Weisman  
Email: brieweisman@yahoo.com

Karen Wilson  
Email: karensusanwilson@gmail.com

Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2333  
Distribution List

Craig Zurhorst  
757 Hancock Street  
Rumford, ME 04276



**Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333)**

**Updated Study Report Meeting Summary**

**August 17, 2022, 10:00AM**

**Rumford Town Hall, 145 Congress Street, Rumford, ME 04276**

**Attendees:**

Ryan Hansen (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC or Commission])  
Ingrid Brofman (FERC)  
George O’Keefe (Town of Rumford)  
Stephen Heinz (Maine Council of Trout Unlimited [TU])  
Luke Anderson (Rumford Falls Hydro LLC [RFH])  
Patrick McDonough (RFH)  
Peter Browne (HDR)  
Dawn Cousens (HDR)  
Kelly MacVane (HDR)  
Drew Trested (Normandeau Associates, Inc.)  
Mark Allen (Normandeau Associates, Inc.)

**1.0 Introductions/Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Luke Anderson (RFH) welcomed participants and requested attendees introduce themselves. All participants introduced themselves.

Mr. Peter Browne (HDR) provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

**2.0 Purpose of Meeting**

Mr. Browne specified that the Updated Study Report (USR) for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (Project) was filed with FERC on August 5, 2022. Mr. Browne identified the purpose of the meeting, referencing 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §5.15(f).

**3.0 Project Overview**

Mr. Browne provided an overview of the Project, including facilities and operations.

**4.0 Study Plan Development and Implementation**

Mr. Browne reviewed past and future Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) milestones for the Project.

## 5.0 Study Status and Progress Summary

Ms. Dawn Cousens (HDR) provided an overview of the status of each of the eight relicensing studies being conducted at the Project, which include:

1. Water Quality Study
2. Angler Creel Survey
3. Recreation Study
4. Historic Architectural Survey
5. Aesthetic Flow Study
6. Impoundment Bass Spawning Survey
7. Flow Study for Aquatic Habitat Evaluation
8. Whitewater Boating Study

Ms. Cousens specified that RFH is currently in the second study season within the ILP schedule consistent with the FERC-issued Process Plan and Schedule for the Project. Ms. Cousens specified the Water Quality Study and Impoundment Bass Spawning Survey were previously completed and the study reports were included in the Initial Study Report (ISR)<sup>1</sup>.

Ms. Cousens stated that the Aesthetic Flow Study, Flow Study for Aquatic Habitat Evaluation, and the Whitewater Boating Study were completed, and the associated study reports were included in the USR. Ms. Cousens stated that the report for the Outlet Stream Aquatic Habitat Study component of the Water Quality Study was also included in the USR.

Ms. Cousens noted that the Recreation Study and the Angler Creel Survey were postponed to the second study season in 2022 due to concerns regarding safety and potentially anomalous data associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. She specified that these studies are underway and will be completed in 2022, and these two reports will be filed as a supplement to the Final License Application (FLA).

Ms. Cousens also noted that the Historic Architectural Survey Study Report was filed as privileged, per Commission request, with FERC in May 2022.

Ms. Ingrid Brofman (FERC) asked when the Recreation Study and Angler Creel Survey reports would be filed with the Commission. Ms. Cousens stated that the recreation surveys will occur until mid-September and the creel surveys will occur through November of 2022; therefore, RFH will file the study reports in the first quarter of 2023. Ms. Brofman asked if the study reports would be filed together or separately. Mr. Anderson stated that the Recreation Study and Angler Creel Survey reports will be filed together.

---

<sup>1</sup> As specified in the ISR, the results of the Outlet Stream Aquatic Habitat Study component of the Water Quality Study are presented in the USR and the results of the additional trophic sampling will be filed with the Commission as a supplement to the Final License Application soon after the sampling is completed. All other water quality sampling has been completed and the results are provided within the ISR.

## **6.0 Study Reports**

### **6.1 Aesthetic Flow Study Report**

Ms. Cousens provided a summary of the Aesthetic Flow Study Report.

Mr. Ryan Hansen (FERC) asked if the key observation points (KOPs) included the alternate trail. Mr. Anderson stated that the study was conducted prior to developing and opening the alternate trail. Ms. Brofman asked if RFH owned the overlook portion of the alternate trail and if there was discussion of locating a KOP at that location. Mr. Anderson responded that RFH does own the overlook portion of the alternate trail, and that RFH has an agreement with ND Paper to operate the portion of the trail that is located on ND Paper's land. Mr. Anderson stated that the working group considered a number of KOPs, and as the alternative trail was not developed at the time of the study, it was not included as a KOP.

Ms. Brofman asked if all focus group members were invited to participate in the controlled flow assessment via video. Mr. Anderson confirmed that those focus group members that did not attend the field portion and expressed interest in viewing the videos were invited to participate in the in-person desktop assessment.

Ms. Brofman asked if there are existing lights at the falls. Mr. Anderson responded that there are existing lights that turn on at flows of 7,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) and greater from 8PM to midnight.

Ms. Brofman asked if the study objective to determine the effects on generation and cost of providing acceptable aesthetic flow releases were conducted and reported in the study report. Ms. Cousens specified the report includes a section that assessed the potential effects of aesthetic flows on a variety of resources, including generation. Mr. Browne specified the impact of curtailment was included within the study report. Mr. Anderson specified that additional economic analyses of all potential acceptable flows, as identified by the working group, will be provided in the FLA. Ms. Brofman noted that they would like the FLA to address costs for the evaluated flows in the FLA.

Mr. George O'Keefe (Town of Rumford) specified that access to the Rumford Falls Trail KOP is limited due to an existing gate (the Rumford Falls Trail KOP was made accessible for the focus group during the KOP selection phase and the aesthetic flow viewing phase). Mr. O'Keefe specified the existing gate on the downstream side of the trail near the aesthetic flow viewing KOP on the existing trail is aesthetically unpleasing. He asked FERC about the federal standards for fencing and to consider the aesthetic effects this fencing has at the Project. Mr. Hansen specified he would revisit the federal standards. Mr. Anderson specified that a fence gate was installed for a portion of the trail, which was closed historically due to safety concerns for rockfalls; and that while the alternate trail has been opened, RFH continues to evaluate the feasibility of reopening this portion of the trail. Ms. Brofman requested the report provide the most current photos and images of the trails. Ms. Kelly MacVane (HDR) specified the Recreation Study Report will contain recent photos as well as a map with the existing and alternate trail.

Mr. Stephen Heinz (TU) asked if focus group participants were asked to identify at what frequency they would like to see the aesthetic flows. Ms. Cousens specified the evaluation forms asked participants to identify when they would like to see potential aesthetic flows.

Mr. O’Keefe noted that he considers the aesthetic flow study to be complete.

## **6.2 Whitewater Boating Study Report**

Ms. MacVane provided a summary of the Whitewater Boating Study Report.

Mr. Hansen asked for clarification regarding a reference made to what occurs when a unit trips. Mr. Patrick McDonough (RFH) specified a unit trip occurs when a unit(s) go offline and as a result, the flows that would go through the turbine at the powerhouse go into the bypass reach. Mr. Anderson specified that once the unit has tripped at the Lower Station, it takes approximately 30 to 40 minutes for increased flows to reach the study area of the whitewater boating assessment located in the Middle Dam bypass reach.

Ms. Brofman asked about the duration of the boater runs because they were longer than she expected for this reach. Ms. MacVane indicated the boaters spent time scouting the rapids, particularly the Upper Reach with Class IV and V rapids, and spent time in the play areas in the lower reach. Mr. Anderson specified that due to the lack of experience in this reach of the river, that time was needed by the boaters to closely evaluate each run. Ms. MacVane also specified that time was needed to transition between study flows. Ms. MacVane noted that it would take as little as approximately 8 minutes to paddle this reach of river, depending on paddler ability, if a paddler proceeded directly from put-in to take-out or more time if the paddler stayed within the lower play area.

Ms. Brofman asked if there were photos of the put-in and take-out locations included in the report. Ms. MacVane specified that there were not photos of the put-in and take-outs in the report, and stated that they would be provided in the FLA. Ms. Brofman also requested photos of the egress be included in the FLA. Ms. MacVane confirmed these photos would be included in FLA. Ms. Brofman requested a comparison between run time and egress be included in the FLA.

Mr. O’Keefe stated that the study was very complete and that he had no concerns related to the study.

Mr. Anderson added that the working group considered the put-in at the Middle Dam, but the group agreed it was not safe and could result in boaters unknowingly going over Class IV-V rapids. Mr. O’Keefe concurred with Mr. Anderson.

Ms. Brofman asked if the pin potential identified in the study report was specific to study flows of 800 cfs. Ms. MacVane specified the pin potential was primarily identified by the participants at 800 cfs and although it was less of a concern at higher flows, there were other hazards presented at higher flows (i.e., 2,000 cfs).

Ms. Brofman asked if boaters were only interested in June, July, and August. Ms. MacVane confirmed boaters only specified interest in those months and that adequate, naturally occurring flow levels tend to occur in spring and fall.

Ms. Brofman asked if the Middle Dam bypass reach is currently accessible to boaters. Mr. Anderson specified that this is not an established boating reach and that RFH has public safety concerns, however there is nothing preventing someone from boating this reach of the river.

Ms. Brofman asked if during the focus group boaters requested a painted staff gage to use to identify river flows. Ms. MacVane confirmed a painted staff gage was requested.

Ms. Brofman asked if there was parking at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (MDACF) Boat Launch – Mexico. Ms. MacVane confirmed there is parking at the MDACF boat launch and that additional information on parking would be included in the Recreation Study Report.

Mr. O’Keefe specified that the town is removing the building structure used to house the town’s ladder truck, located at the corner of Portland Street bridge and River Street, and that this would increase the public parking available at this location. Mr. O’Keefe specified that there is currently ample parking along or near this section of the river. Ms. Brofman requested this information be included in the FLA. Mr. Anderson confirmed this information would be included in the FLA.

Ms. Brofman asked if the whitewater boaters indicated that they would like to have releases during the weekdays. Ms. MacVane specified the boaters only expressed interest in weekends during the focus group meeting.

### **6.3 Flow Study for Aquatic Habitat Evaluation Report**

Mr. Mark Allen (Normandeau Associates, Inc.) provided a summary of the Flow Study for Aquatic Habitat Evaluation Study Report.

Mr. Heinz asked for clarification regarding the wading suitability curve. Mr. Allen specified the wading suitability curve is based on wetted habitat as opposed to the safety of wading the river.

Mr. Heinz stated that the benthic macroinvertebrate (BMI) results are important to consider because they are an important fish food resource. Mr. Allen noted that habitat suitability criteria for BMI were included in the study as well as wetted perimeter.

Mr. Heinz referenced the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW) Draft License Application comment letter, which was filed with the Commission on July 29, 2022, regarding recreational access. Mr. Heinz asked RFH if it will be addressing the comments provided by MDIFW on recreational access. Mr. Anderson specified that information related to recreational access is being collected through the Angler Creel Survey and Recreation Study, which will be included in the associated study reports.

Mr. Hanson asked if surveys conducted as part of the Angler Creel Study were collecting information on fish species being targeted by recreational anglers. Mr. Drew Trested (Normandeau Associates, Inc.) specified the formal creel survey includes questions related to the species of fish being targeted as well as collects information on the species of fish caught.

Mr. O’Keefe specified there are informal access areas established along the Middle Dam bypass reach and requested that, if access is considered under this relicensing, it occur at the established informal areas, where road and river access is already more readily available.

#### **6.4 Outlet Stream Aquatic Habitat Study Report**

Mr. Trested provided a summary of the Outlet Stream Aquatic Habitat Study Report.

Mr. Heinz asked for clarification regarding the minimum flow value in the Middle Dam bypass reach. Mr. Trested specified that although the FERC-issued license requires 21 cfs, which is provided by the minimum flow pipes, and additional flow occurs via leakage through the flashboards and existing vertical drain holes, which resulted in a total base flow of approximately 54 cfs for this study. Mr. Trested specified that the mean depths used to assess downstream connectivity in the Middle Dam bypass reach were from the 1D modeled flow of 60 cfs due to its proximity to the actual flow given that the modeled flows are in 20 cfs increments.

Mr. Heinz asked if the BMI results were included in the ISR. Mr. Trested confirmed the results, as well as a taxonomic list of species, were included within the ISR.

#### **7.0 Process and Schedule**

Mr. Browne provided a summary of the next steps in the relicensing process. Mr. Heinz asked when the deadline was for the comment period on the USR. Mr. Hansen confirmed that there is no USR comment period in the FERC project schedule, but that FERC will review comments provided on the USR.

*The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 PM.*