

Mr. Ryan Hansen
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

VIA FERC SERVICE

Reference: Docket Number: P-2333-094

July 14, 2023

Dear Mr. Hansen,

The following written comment is submitted for the record by the Town of Rumford, Maine with regards to RFH's response to the Commission's Additional Information Request dated June 9, 2003:

1. Response #11 – After further discussion with stakeholders and careful consideration of Rumford Falls Hydro's response the Town is now in concurrence with RFH that the trail access opportunity from the J. Eugene Boivin Park to the West Viewing Area is impracticable from an engineering standpoint and economically unjustified. The Town appreciates the efforts made by all parties to review this possible recreation opportunity.
2. Response #10 – The Town considers RFH's response to the Commission's inquiry on ADA access at the West Viewing Area to be adequate and satisfactory if executed as described.
3. Response #9 – The Town concurs with RFH that safety fencing is necessary at the West Viewing Area in the location described and specifically concurs with regards to the installation of "ornate aluminum fencing" which will be compatible with the historic and natural characteristics of the West Viewing Area.
4. Response #8 – The Town proposes and strongly encourages the creation of a grade separated sidewalk as opposed to a painted walking zone. This sidewalk would connect to existing Town sidewalk which is proposed to be used for access from J. Eugene Boivin Park.
5. Cost Estimates – The Town's impression of all cost estimates provided by RFH to date on various construction items related to recreation is that they fall within the spectrum of local community norms for high quality and durable construction of

the various items proposed. This comment is specifically provided as an assurance to the Commission in the event that some costs or items may seem unusually high compared to other regions or projects. Construction costs in Western Maine tend to be well above national, regional, and in-state averages due to high demand for contractor services and tight labor supply.

The Town notes its continued desire as stated in our public comment of May 15th, 2023 for 10 days of whitewater flows and 10 days of aesthetic flows. The Town presumes a continued healthy dialogue with RFH and FERC on these topics and greatly appreciates the Commission and Rumford Falls Hydro's consideration for our community. We feel that the present process has yielded substantive and meaningful improvement to the community while preserving the sustainability of clean hydro-electric power generation in Rumford. We appreciate the hard work from all parties and look forward to completion of this process in the near future.

Most Respectfully,



Stacy Carter
Town Manager



George O'Keefe
Economic Development Director

