

November 16, 2023

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

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL

Dear Mr. Olcott,

Please accept the following public comments for the record by the Town of Rumford in regards to the application by Rumford Falls Hydro (RFH) to the Department for their Water Quality Certification for the Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2333).

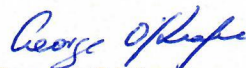
1. Support for Certification: The Town of Rumford strongly supports approval of the Water Quality Certification as proposed by the applicant (RFH).
2. Credit for Quality of Lower Canal Water Quality Conditions: It is the Town's considered opinion that based on the manner of operation of the Lower Canal that there is substantial benefit to water quality and aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife. The Town believes that credit for this aquatic habitat should be considered in respect to comments made by certain organizations which fail to acknowledge the excellent water conditions provided by thriving aquatic grasses, undisturbed mud shallows, and certain portions of wild shoreline owned by the applicant. There is ample evidence of rainbow trout, deer, ducks, beaver, and other pinnacle species that would otherwise be sensitive to impaired water quality conditions.

Given the above the Town strongly supports the application for Water Quality Certification and appreciates the Department's consideration and service to our community.

Most Respectfully,



Stacy Carter
Town Manager



George O'Keefe
Economic Development Director

