



**Notification/Request for Project Review**

**TO:** Barry Mower, Linda Bacon, Rob Mohlar, Jeanne DiFranco, DEP DEA; John Perry, Jason Seiders, Keel Kemper, DIFW; Craig King, Sean Ledwin MDMR; Whitney McKay, MEMA; Randy Charette, MDACF; Brian Burne, MDOT; Kirk F. Mohney, MHPC

**DATE:** September 29, 2020

**FROM:** **Kathy Howatt, Project Manager and Hydropower Coordinator**  
Kathy.Howatt@maine.gov , (207) 446-2642

This constitutes notification and a request for your agency's review of the project identified below and your submission of comments in accordance with our Memorandum of Agreement on Project Reviews. Questions may be directed to **Kathy Howatt**

**This is a Water Quality Certification application.**

**The deadline for agency comments is: *October 30, 2020***

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**DEP Application: #L-19751-33-H-N**

**Project Name:** SHAWMUT  
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

**Contact:** Randy Dorman, Licensing  
Manager:

**Location:** Fairfield-Benton

randy.dorman@brookfieldrenewable.com

**Applicant Name:** Brookfield White Pine  
Hydro LLC

**Tel #:** (207) 755-5605

Application documents are available electronically at:  
<https://www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/HYDRO/WaterQualityCertifications/Shawmut/>

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**Notes to Reviewers:**

**The Applicant proposed to operate the 8.65 MW Shawmut Hydroelectric Project under a new FERC license and plans to install and operate upstream and downstream fish passage facilities at the site of the Shawmut dam. The proposed project is located on the Kennebec River in the towns of Fairfield and Benton.**

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After a thorough review of our agency's standards, programs and responsibilities, the following comments are submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection.

*Please see attached.*

(Comments must be signed and dated in order to be accepted by this Department. If additional space is needed, please attach another sheet).

**SIGNATURE**

**DATE**



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

October 21, 2020

Ms. Kathy Howatt  
Maine DEP  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Project: MHPC #1517-20      Shawmut Hydroelectric Project;  
Water Quality Certification Application  
Location: Fairfield, ME

Dear Ms. Howatt:

In response to your recent request, I have reviewed the information received September 29, 2020 to initiate consultation on the above referenced project in accordance with the requirements of Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

In February 2020, our office issued a response letter regarding the Phase I historic archaeology survey report and the recommendations for a Phase II survey. Please see attached.

In March 2020, our office issued a response letter to Brookfield White Pine Hydro concerning the Phase I prehistoric archaeology survey report. Please see attached.

We look forward to continuing consultation with you. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Megan M. Rideout of this office with questions at [megan.m.rideout@maine.gov](mailto:megan.m.rideout@maine.gov).

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney  
State Historic Preservation Officer



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

February 21, 2020

Frank H. Dunlap  
Brookfield Renewable  
Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC  
150 Main Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240

Re: MHPC #1368-15; Review of the Phase I Post-Contact Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey for the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project Relicensing (FERC No. 2322), Somerset and Kennebec Counties, Maine. Prepared by Gray & Pape for Kleinschmidt Group.

Dear Frank,

Thank you for submitting the above referenced report for review. Gray & Pape did an excellent job in conducting the archeological survey, including determining testing locations and in reporting results. I want to thank you and Gray & Pape for your willingness to add the metal detecting survey, which succeeded in identifying at least two historic loci that may be associated with Arnold Expedition camps.

We agree with the recommendation that the Noble's Ferry West site is potentially significant and that it should be subjected to a Phase II archaeological investigation for the purpose of determining National Register eligibility. As is noted in the Section 6.3 proposal, the focus of the Phase II should be assessment of overall site condition including presence of intact features, determination of period of occupation and site boundaries. Testing to date has already provided important information. A one percent sample of the site is recommended in the proposal for the Phase II investigation. If the site is determined to be NR eligible, it is important to leave the site as intact as possible for future research. Given the importance of minimizing impacts and site preservation, excavation of 25 m<sup>2</sup> may be more than is necessary to make a NR determination. This amount of testing will also result in the potential removal of a substantial number of artifacts that will then have to be stabilized (iron) and curated. Given these issues, I would encourage Gray & Pape to remain focused on the overall objective and to excavate only what is necessary to perform the assessment.

Sincerely,

J. N. Leith Smith Ph.D.  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
[leith.smith@maine.gov](mailto:leith.smith@maine.gov)  
207-287-8304



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
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JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

March 2, 2020

Mr. Frank Dunlap  
Brookfield White Pine Hydro Llc  
150 Maine Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240

re: comment on Phase I prehistoric archaeological survey report, Shawmut project (FERC 2322)

Dear Frank:

I have read the Phase I Archaeological Investigation report for the Shawmut project by Richard Will and Karen Mack, TRC Ellsworth, dated January 28, 2020 (received here February 3<sup>rd</sup>).

The report is acceptable in all respects. We accept the recommendation that Phase II archaeological testing is necessary for sites 53.97, 70.42, 70.43, and 70.44 to determine National Register eligibility and site boundaries.

Phase I archeological survey for this project is not complete. We accept the recommendation that test areas (TA) 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 14 be included in the future historic properties management plan with a periodic request for access to the landowners for access to complete the archaeological survey.

Sincerely,

Arthur Spiess  
Senior Archaeologist

[arthur.spiess@maine.gov](mailto:arthur.spiess@maine.gov)

cc: Richard Will and Karen Mack, TRC