

Howatt, Kathy

From: Matt Buhyoff - NOAA Federal <matt.buhyoff@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 01, 2021 7:31 PM
To: Howatt, Kathy
Cc: Bacon, Linda C; Mohlar, Robert C; DiFranco, Jeanne L; Hopeck, John T; IFWEnvironmentalreview; Seiders, Dwayne J; Kemper, Keel; Ledwin, Sean M; Rogers, Peter J; Charette, Randy; Gardner, David; Mohney, Kirk; Wippelhauser, Gail; Rosset, Julianne; dan.tierney
Subject: Re: Shawmut Hydroelectric WQC-Agency Review Request
Attachments: NMFS DEA Comments_p2322.pdf

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kathy -

Thank you for the opportunity to review the application for water quality certification for the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project. NMFS expects to conduct a formal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the licensing proposal contained in this application for water quality certification. We expect to proceed with ESA consultation upon FERC's formal request. As such, we do not believe that it would be appropriate to comment on the proposal until we have completed our analysis pursuant to our statutory responsibilities under the ESA. We did provide comments on FERC's July 1, 2021 Draft Environmental Assessment for the Shawmut Project, which I have attached for reference. We also expect to review and comment on FERC's anticipated draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and final EIS associated with this project, expected August 2022 and February 2023, respectively. As always, if you have any specific questions about Atlantic salmon and/or our recovery goals for the species, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Dan Tierney at Dan.Tierney@noaa.gov.

Best regards,

Matt

Matt Buhyoff (he/him)
Atlantic Salmon Recovery Coordinator | Merrymeeting Bay
NOAA - Fisheries
17 Godfrey Dr., Orono, ME
cell: 540.239.4508

On Wed, Oct 27, 2021 at 10:38 AM Howatt, Kathy <Kathy.Howatt@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The Department has received a new application for water quality certification for the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project, located on the Kennebec River in Fairfield and Benton, and is requesting your agency review and, as appropriate, comments for consideration in its assessment of impacts from the Project on the State's resources. Application materials can be found at the Department's FTP folder, located here: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/HYDRO/WaterQualityCertifications/Shawmut2021/>. We appreciate your attention to this review request, let me know if you have any questions.

Kathy Davis Howatt

Hydropower Coordinator, Bureau of Land Resources

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Phone: 207-446-2642

www.maine.gov/dep

Correspondence to and from this office is considered a public record and may be subject to a request under the Maine Freedom of Access Act. Information that you wish to keep confidential should not be included in email correspondence.