

Howatt, Kathy

From: DiFranco, Jeanne L
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Howatt, Kathy
Subject: RE: Shawmut Hydroelectric WQC-Agency Review Request

OK, thanks Kathy, that's helpful and also makes sense to me. Just wanted to check and make sure the issue was addressed. I don't have any other concerns related to aquatic life or habitat at this point unless there's anything else you'd like to discuss.

Jeanne DiFranco, Aquatic Biologist
Biological Monitoring Program Manager
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 699-8345
www.maine.gov/dep/water/monitoring/biomonitoring

From: Howatt, Kathy <Kathy.Howatt@maine.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:04 AM
To: DiFranco, Jeanne L <Jeanne.L.DiFranco@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Shawmut Hydroelectric WQC-Agency Review Request

Hi Jeanne,

I don't believe we have that data. There was no study request to collect the data you ask for now, back when we were studying this project. DEP policy has been that a 1-foot fluctuation under normal operations does not dewater the littoral zone of the riverine impoundment in a fashion different from a natural water body and so is assumed to meet the aquatic life and habitat standard.

Kathy

Kathy Davis Howatt
Hydropower Coordinator, Bureau of Land Resources
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Phone: 207-446-2642
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From: DiFranco, Jeanne L <Jeanne.L.DiFranco@maine.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Howatt, Kathy <Kathy.Howatt@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Shawmut Hydroelectric WQC-Agency Review Request

Hi Kathy,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you on this review. I had a question related to the proposed operation impoundment water levels. I noted that Brookfield is proposing to continue it's current run-of-river operations and maintain the impoundment elevation within 1 foot of full pond (112.0

feet). The DEA states that while the NMFS and Maine DMR support this plan, the Department of Interior recommends operating in “instantaneous” run-of river mode and to maintain full pond elevation of 112.0 at all times. Regarding aquatic life habitat effects, do you have information on what percentage of the littoral zone is dewatered with a 1 foot fluctuation? I am assuming this was addressed for the current license, but checking just to be sure.

Thanks, and let me know if you'd like to discuss anything related to this project.

Jeanne

Jeanne DiFranco, Aquatic Biologist

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From: Howatt, Kathy <Kathy.Howatt@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:36 AM

To: Bacon, Linda C <Linda.C.Bacon@maine.gov>; Mohlar, Robert C <Robert.C.Mohlar@maine.gov>; DiFranco, Jeanne L <Jeanne.L.DiFranco@maine.gov>; Hopeck, John T <John.T.Hopeck@maine.gov>; IFWEnvironmentalreview <IFWEnvironmentalreview@maine.gov>; Seiders, Dwayne J <Dwayne.J.Seiders@maine.gov>; Kemper, Keel <Keel.Kemper@maine.gov>; Ledwin, Sean M <Sean.M.Ledwin@maine.gov>; Rogers, Peter J <Peter.J.Rogers@maine.gov>; Charette, Randy <Randy.Charette@maine.gov>; Gardner, David <David.Gardner@maine.gov>; Mohny, Kirk <Kirk.Mohny@maine.gov>; Wippelhauser, Gail <Gail.Wippelhauser@maine.gov>; matt.buhyoff <matt.buhyoff@noaa.gov>; Rosset, Julianne <julianne_rosset@fws.gov>

Subject: Shawmut Hydroelectric WQC-Agency Review Request

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
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Maine Department of Environmental Protection
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