



TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE

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November 17, 2021

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land and Water Quality
Attn: Director Brian Kavanah
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Shawmut Hydroelectric Project FERC no. 2322-060, Section 401 Water Quality Certification –
DEP application #L-19751-33-H-N

Dear Director Kavanah:

The Town of Winslow recently became aware of the denial of the water quality certificate (WQC) for the Shawmut Dam relicensing by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We have been following the issue closely, and we have some very serious concerns about the effect this WQC denial would have on our community. We also understand that after the DEP denied the WQC for the Shawmut dam, the application was withdrawn and then resubmitted by Brookfield Renewables for a WQC for the Shawmut Dam. We urge the DEP to grant the new WQC application for the Shawmut Dam.

This issue over the future of the dams in our region has played out over some time and the impact to our community cannot be understated. Although this is directly impacting the Shawmut Dam, the Lockwood and Kennebec Hydro facilities are directly in our jurisdiction and the overall Kennebec River Management Plan has significant economic impact on our town.

We all value the native diadromous fish that navigate the Kennebec, and none of us favor extinction as an acceptable cost of doing business. That is why Brookfield Renewable's proposed fish passage enhancements contained in the application are designed to meet 96% upstream fish passage and 97% downstream fish passage - we believe this supports the environment and our community. The stringent 99% standard proposed by the Department of Marine Resources is a burden the license applicant will not be able to meet, and they will lose their license renewal which is not acceptable for our region.

The economic impact of the four dams in our region is significant – the town of Winslow has two of the four dams in the Kennebec region in our jurisdiction – as mentioned above, those are the Lockwood and Kennebec Hydro facilities. These two dams represent \$642,526 in annual tax revenue, equating to 1 mil in property taxes. In addition to the potential impact to our taxpayers, local residents

are employed by both the dams and other large businesses that rely upon the water features resulting from the dams. Local contractors supply the goods and services utilized by these entities. There is a very real potential for an economic ripple effect throughout the community should any of these dams be decommissioned, particularly when the impact to Sappi Fine Paper is considered.

We thank you in advance for our consideration - the harm to our region is clear if the WQC for the Shawmut Dam is denied and we urge you to approve the WQC for the Shawmut Dam.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica LaCroix".

Erica LaCroix, Town Manager