



International Brotherhood Electrical Workers Local #1837 Utility / Broadcasting

NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE
680 Central Avenue, Suite 201
Dover, NH 03820
(603) 743-1652
Fax (603) 743-1654
nhlocal@ibew1837.org

Tony Sapienza, Business Manager
Michelle Crocker, President
Renee Gilman, Assistant Business Manager
Matthew Beck, Business Representative

MAINE OFFICE
16 Old Winthrop Road, Suite 1
Manchester, ME 04351
(207) 623-1030
Fax (207) 621-8384
union@ibew1837.org

August 12, 2021

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union #1837 is proud to represent 1,000 workers in Maine, including 29 dedicated employees of Brookfield Renewables at various locations including the lower Kennebec River's Shawmut Dam. We also represented those workers when the Shawmut Dam was operated by Central Maine Power Company before deregulation and then NextEra before it was sold to Brookfield.

We support Brookfield's Final License Application and the findings of the Draft Environmental Assessment on the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2322-069) that dam removal is not a reasonable option.

As Maine lost thousands of good-paying Union jobs in manufacturing throughout the state, it became harder to find jobs that allowed people to buy a home, raise a family and have enough financial security to retire with dignity. Decommissioning Shawmut and/or other dams would have unintended consequences that will be difficult to reverse. If the dams go away, many of those good jobs will go away, too. These are people's careers and livelihoods, in some families that go back two or three generations, working on the rivers of Maine.

Of course, the ripple effects of dam decommissioning on the surrounding communities should not be overlooked. In addition to their dedication to being good stewards of the Kennebec River and helping to maintain all the recreation opportunities for the 40-year license term including the Hinckley Boat Launch and the Shawmut Boat Canoe Portage, our members at Brookfield will continue to contribute to the local economies of those communities whenever they stop to buy something at a local store or fill-up their trucks at local gas stations. Decommissioning the Shawmut Dam would hurt the economic health of these small towns that help make our state such a special place.

I recently served as a member of the Energy Working Group of the Maine Climate Council. Maine's Four-Year Plan for Climate Action calls for a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 80% by 2050. This month's UN Climate Change "Code Red for Humanity" Report adds an even greater sense of urgency to this. Under the terms of the license application, carbon-neutral energy generated by Shawmut Dam will make an important contribution toward reaching Maine's goals while protecting our state's environmental resources.

Furthermore, Governor Janet Mills has proposed that we double the number of Maine's clean-energy and energy-efficiency jobs by 2030. Gov. Mills said: "These 30,000 jobs will fight climate change while providing new opportunities to Maine working men and women and advancing long-term prosperity for our state."

Decommissioning the Shawmut Dam or other dams on the Kennebec will move Maine in the opposite direction and be a setback for those critical environmental and economic goals.

Sincerely,

Matthew Beck
Business Representative, IBEW Local Union #1837

Serving Members in New Hampshire and Maine
www.ibew1837.org