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Mr. Kyle Olcott
Hydropower Coordinator
Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

**RE: Shawmut Hydroelectric Project, L-019751-33-I-N
Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis: Kennebec River Dams**

Dear Kyle,

On behalf of Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC (BWPH), licensee of the Shawmut Project, attached for inclusion in the administrative record for the Shawmut Project water quality certification proceeding is a report prepared for the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce entitled *Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis: Kennebec River Dams*. This report is relevant to the Department's analysis because, *inter alia*, 12 M.R.S. § 407 requires that comprehensive river resource management plans "must provide a basis for state agency...permitting decisions."

The comprehensive river resource management plan for the Kennebec River explains that the state's "flow management strategy" includes "maximiz[ing] benefit for power production for industrial and private consumption" and "provid[ing] process water for a variety of industrial operations." The foregoing policies, established in the plan for the Kennebec River, must be part of the Department's calculus when reviewing BWPH's application for water quality certification for the Shawmut Project. *See* 12 M.R.S. § 407. The attached report quantifies just how important it is to the economy of Maine that river flows are not disrupted by the Department's water quality certification decision and that the impoundment behind Shawmut, in particular, remain at current levels.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Sharon G. Newman

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