



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

March 20, 2025

Susan Lessard
Manager, Town of Bucksport
slessard@bucksportmaine.gov

Gina Bushong
Selectperson, Town of Orland
ginabushong@gmail.com

Scott Miller
Selectperson, Town of Blue Hill
smiller@bluehillme.gov

Mary Allen
Selectperson, Town of Surry
chair@townofsurrymaine.com

Harold Hatch
Selectperson, Town of Penobscot
Hahatch60@gmail.com
VIA EMAIL

RE: Bucksport, Orland, Surry, Penobscot, and Blue Hill Inquiry Regarding Department Application #L-31353-36-B-N, Bucksport Mill LLC Petitions for Release from Dam Ownership

Dear Town Representatives:

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) received three petitions for release from dam ownership (Petitions) from Bucksport Mill LLC (Petitioner) on October 18, 2024. The Petitions were found to be acceptable for processing on November 1, 2024. Bucksport Mill LLC is currently in the consultation process outlined in 38 M.R.S. § 902.

This letter is in response to your inquiry regarding the timeline of the Department's evaluation of the report on the consultation process that will be submitted under 38 M.R.S. § 902(4-A). Specifically, your towns asked whether § 902 allows the Department to defer issuing a decision on its evaluation of the report under § 902(5) if a town vote cannot occur on the issue until Election Day in November 2025.

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
207-941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

The Department stated previously that it will place the Report filed under § 902(4-A) on our website for a 30-day public comment period after it is submitted and will consider any comments along with those already received during the consultation period.

The Department has no time constraint for evaluating the report under § 902(5), and it would be reasonable for the Department to delay a decision on the report if there is ongoing consultation with parties that may be willing to assume ownership of one or more of the dams in the petitions. Waiting on the results of a town election would be considered continued consultation to determine if a party would like to take ownership of a dam.

Please feel free to contact me at (207) 219-9563 or via email at Laura.Pay@maine.gov if you have any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Paye". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Paye
Hydropower Coordinator
Bureau of Land Resources

CC: Bucksport Mill LLC