

David N. Doubleday, Kennebunk, ME.

## Protest against granting P-5362-021 - Kennebunk Light and Power District's Surrender Application for the Lower Mousam Hydroelectric Project

I live in and recreate throughout the Mousam River corridor. I am a biologist with graduate degrees. It is readily apparent that multiple outdated and useless dams along the once industrialized Mousam River have negatively impacted this riverine ecosystem in southern Maine.

Below the KLPD dams, a short free flowing reach to the ocean is scenic and productive habitat for fish and wildlife. This free flowing reach provides income from elver fishing and is highly attractive for a wide variety of recreational uses including birding, bicycling, canoeing, fishing, hiking, kayaking, and nature study among others. Historically the lower reach has produced many rare bird sightings. It also has one of Maine's only Purple Martin colonies. These are all factors that indicate high environmental value.

During an earlier era, the dams were valuable to the town of Kennebunk. Today we live in a different economy and need to undo harmful practices that no longer make sense. Biologically, the area above the free flowing reach has low environmental value as currently managed. The dams need to be removed.

Because of the dams, fish and other water dependent life forms are unable to migrate. It is very disturbing to annually see masses of shad, herring, eels, and other fish trapped at the base of the first dam. There are three dams; none serve a useful purpose. They prevent fish migration, they limit human recreational uses, and they contribute to flooding. Impoundments behind the dams retain deep accumulations of silt which changes the substrate negatively; the dams create ponds which results in river water temperature rising, and standing water is not aerated which results in dissolved oxygen levels dropping. None of this is good for organisms that should thrive in this river. Dams have drastically impacted water quality and the life forms in our back yard.

Kennebunk Light and Power District (KLPD) which once used the dams to generate power, find that it is now inefficient. They tried to sell the dams without success. After discovering that selling wasn't possible, they have now decided to walk away and wash their hands of their responsibility.

For the reasons stated I respectfully protest the granting of permission for KLPD to surrender its license.

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