

Tim Sommers, Kennebunk, ME.

May 17, 2021

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st St NE
Washington, DC 20426

Reference: Lower Mousam River Project #P-5362-021

Dear Ms. Bose,

The three dams included in Lower Mousam project have been in place for 30 years and have provided little power generation to show for it, but the impacted on the Mousam River watershed for the last 30 years has been severe. Thousands of sea-run fish are blocked from 9 miles of the river every year, the water quality is poor due to reduced dissolved oxygen content, warming and stagnation of the water in the impoundments, native cold-water fish are prevent from connectivity to the river systems many brooks, and recreational activities such as fishing and canoeing are impacted. These impacts have been documented through various studies conducted by the State of Maine, the Wells Reserve National Estuarian Research center, and through the observations of the thousands of users of the river, including myself.

There are high value public resources, public lands, and commercial fisheries within, and affected by, this project including:

- 1.) The Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge which sees the estuary water and fish species degraded by the dams which has impacts up and down the food chain.
- 2.) A commercial elver fishery that exists a few hundred yards from the first dam, but the dams prevent access to 9 miles of additional habitat for american eels
- 3.) The Kennebunk Plains wildlife management area which contains 3 miles of frontage on the impoundments that would otherwise be connected to the ocean and provide habitat to countless native species.
- 4.) The only two native brook trout ponds in York County where native trout are blocked from 9 miles or river, including the inability to migrate in and out of saltwater as so many native brook trout in Maine do.
- 5.) A commercial alewife fishery in the Gulf of Maine used locally as lobster bait. This project blocks access to 9 miles of historical spawning habitat for alewives, eels, atlantic salmon, american shad, and lampreys, among others.
- 6.) A recreational striped bass, bluefish and shad fishery at the mouth of the river where forage fish are reduced by the presents of the dams.
- 7.) A large and important estuary that has been documented as degraded by the low dissolved oxygen, and warm, stagnate water that comes from the upper section of the river.

With so much at stake, FERC cannot simply allow KLPD to fence off these dams to be left in perpetuity, degrading our natural resource. It is not responsible for FERC, any Government Agency, or citizen to allow industry to keep legacy relics that impact the ecosystem for future generations to deal with.

I am a citizen of Kennebunk, an abutter of the Kennebunk Plains Wildlife Management Area, a Kennebunk Light and Power (KLPD) Rate Payer, and I spend a large portion of my recreation time in and around the Mousam river. I can personally attest to the negative impacts the dams have on the river eco-system. I was taught the ethic of "leave it better than you found it" at an early age and teach my kids the same. KLPD made it clear the project is not, and will not be economically viable and they are done using the river for power. KLPD, and indeed we as rate payers of KLPD, need to leave the river better than we found it. The river is a public resource and FERC has the responsibility to ensure industry cleans up public resources when they are through utilizing them.

Please direct KLPD to remove the three dams that are part of this project so the river can be restored to its natural state.

Sincerely,

Tim Sommers

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Kennebunk, ME