

Kenneth DeCoster, Kennebunk, ME.

COMMENTS

Project # P-5362-021, Maine, Lower Mousam Project, Kennebunk Light and Power District

Dear Secretary Bose,

I'm a resident of Kennebunk and have been following FERC's licensing process of the three local dams for years now. The problem is Kennebunk Light and Power District, KLPD, has decided to surrender its license and leave the dams in place. Too often when an industry abandons a part of its business, it leaves behind its obsolete structures. The dams will no longer perform any function besides impeding the flow of the river, draining the oxygen from the impounded water and blocking fish from migrating upstream. In the future, large maintenance costs to repair the disintegrating dams will be passed on to the KLPD ratepayers.

I strongly believe that removing the dams and returning the lower Mousam to a free flowing river makes the best ecological and economic sense. We need to look at the larger picture and restore the health of the Mousam watershed to improve the fisheries in the Gulf of Maine. The shad and alewives could all migrate upstream to spawn in the cleaner, cooler, oxygenated waters. Economic benefits would include more commercial bait fish and sport fishing as well as recreational kayaking. If fish ladders were installed at all three dams, the fish would have many hurdles to swim upstream through backed up oxygen poor water. This doesn't sound like an improved riparian habitat. We can do a better job.

A couple months ago on national public radio, someone had looked at all the dams spread across America and determined most of them could be removed for the benefit of nature and no harm done to the public. I've enjoyed paddling the Mousam below the dams for years. I'm looking forward to paddling the free flowing river upstream of the removed dams soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kenny DeCoster

West Kennebunk, Maine

(207) 985-2144