

Outreach:

AI Workshop. The next Maine conservation community event will be a workshop: Using AI to Strengthen Conservation Advocacy. Please mark your calendars for: Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This hands-on workshop is designed to help conservation organizations close the resource gap by using AI tools to work more effectively across communications, fundraising, regulatory advocacy, and scientific research. The emphasis is practical and immediately usable—real workflows, examples, and tools that organizations can apply right away. Major topics and speakers are: PR & Media: sharpening messages and reach with AI - Kyle Hadynia; Grant Writing & Management: efficient AI workflows - Michael Brandimarte; FERC, hydropower, and regulatory advocacy: Practical AI uses – Steve Heinz; and, Applying AI to conservation science and research - Jeff Walker. Preregistration is required:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9No7gyj3RYGxV_aJLYCkdw

West Branch Relicensing Presentation. Steve gave a presentation on the West Branch relicensing to the Cape Cod Chapter at their Chapter Meeting on March 11. Twenty-five people attended. The presentation was well received.

Lower Kennebec Dams. The Kennebec River Restoration Trust continues to be described as “being formed” rather than operational. See [The Nature Conservancy and Brookfield Reach Deal for Four Lower Kennebec River Dams](#)

Aziscohos Project. Legal review of the MOA by Brookfield’s lawyers is now complete. ARCOs counsel will be reaching out to Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust’s counsel shortly to discuss.

Ripogenus and Penobscot Mills Projects. FERC issuance revised Ready for Environmental Analysis date to June 10. MDIFW Fisheries Division Director Liz Latti wants a follow-up meeting with Neal, I and MDIFW staff will meet to discuss the Draft West Branch Angler Survey and Economic Assessment Report in Bangor on May 7. FERC issuance (attached) asks Brookfield why they cannot implement the request for a USGS gauge in the Telos Bridge vicinity, 400 cfs buffering flow from Ripogenus Dam, and a dam keeper. Neal and Steve are working to get Town support for flows of more than the 200 cfs flows below Stone Dam that Brookfield is offering, as well as access to the area below the dam. Steve is working to schedule a stakeholders’ teleconference in early May.

Brunswick Project. FTA plans stakeholder outreach at the Maine Fishermen’s Forum (Rockland) on May 7 (alewife and elver communities). FTA comments on the Intermediate Study Plan Report pushed for expanded alternatives, including dam removal feasibility and nature-like fish passage, consistent with the 2020 NOAA Fisheries Androscoggin plan finding that improved passage at Brunswick is necessary for watershed-scale restoration.

Legal Defense Fund. \$21,292.60 total for this drive to date. **Thank you to the Council and individual Council members for their donations.** Steve gave a presentation on the West Branch relicensing to the Cape Cod Chapter at their Chapter Meeting on March 11. Support will be forthcoming.

Mousam Project. FERC EA supported the KLPD proposal; MDMR and MDIFW continue advocating fish passage improvements. Mousam-Kennebunk Alliance (inc. Sebago TU) filed a letter with FERC asking it to reject KLPD’s request for a 180-day extension of time to file an application for a Water Quality Certification. FERC granted KLPD’s request, WQC now required by 7/7/2026. In a February letter, over 100 Kennebunk residents and ratepayers urged the KLPD to address long-standing water quality violations and a complete lack of fish passage at its three dams. Citing a July 2024 Maine DEP notification, the signatories state the river fails state standards and demand immediate action to restore native fish populations and ecological health.

Worumbo Project. Federal shutdown delayed consultations. Project license extended for an additional year pending issuance of a new license on December 16, 2025 REA (Ready for Environmental Analysis) issued January 14, 2026. Maine TU Council filed a Motion to Intervene to intervene with protests.

Upper Barkers Project. Maine TU Council filed in support of the City of Auburn's request for river walk and other recreational features. Operator Krueger Energy Inc. filed fish passage plans.

Royal River Dams. On January 7, 2025, MNRCP approved a \$1 million grant enabling Bridge Street Dam and fishway removal in summer 2026. World Fish Migration Day event is planned for May 23 at the Sparhawk Mill in Yarmouth from 12 to 3pm this year. Steve will be giving site tours.

Lewiston Falls Project. EA (Environmental Analysis) schedule revised; new EA target date is June 15, 2026; stakeholder coordination ongoing.

Dundee / Eel Weir Projects. FERC continues to closely track Relevate's license compliance. From the latest FERC issuance: "As described above, you remain out of compliance with these various license requirements of your projects. You must file the requested information within the directed timelines and provide photographic documentation of completion to regain compliance." Signage, and fishing access below Eel Weir Dam were among the issues raised.

Brush Mill Dam. \$494,008.17 raised. Additional grant applications pending to reach the project goal of \$615,000. Demolition slipped to 2027.

Libby's Camp Dam. Millinocket Lake Storage Dam Potential TU-Led/Assisted Dam Removal Project — Northern Maine. Structure: ~234 ft long, ~9 ft high timber-crib / rock-filled dam with gated section located at Eastern outlet of Millinocket Lake, north of Baxter State Park near Libby's Camps. KVTU is interested in helping, Greg Ponte is in contact with the Libby's who will accept TU help.

Mayo Mill Dam. Progress on the multi-year effort to remove the Mayo Mill Dam on the Piscataquis River in Dover-Foxcroft continues. Formal documentation related to the project was filed with the FERC on March 5. Updated Project Timeline: April 2026: Target for the final submission of the dam surrender application; 2027: Expected completion of the permitting phase; Summer 2028: Earliest projected start for actual dam removal construction.

Hackett Mills Project. Intervention filed; no new developments.

Ellsworth Project. New WQC proposes improved lake management; still awaiting MDEP decision.

Androscoggin Reclassification. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay had a local legislator submit an amendment to LD- 2187 (implements Triennial Review recommendations, etc.) to upgrade Androscoggin from C to B upstream of Worumbo Dam. The public hearing was held February 25. Steve gave the attached testimony that is consistent with past testimony to MDEP and MBEP after coordinating with the Advocacy Committee. The legislative committee approved LD2187 WITHOUT the Andro upgrade. FOMB contemplating next steps.

Note. Steve will be vacationing most of the month of April. Please contact Matt Streeter if something pressing arises. There will be no formal FERC Committee report for the April Council Meeting.

Maine FERC Active Project Status Report. The next report will be distributed in May.

Attachments

FERC Compliance Issuance on West Branch Trip Events

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2572-142-Maine
Ripogenus Hydroelectric Project
Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC

March 3, 2026

VIA FERC Service

Randall Doorman
Senior Compliance Manager
460 Civic Center Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

Subject: Request to Respond to Trout Unlimited January 16, 2026, Comments

Dear Mr. Doorman:

On August 5, 2025, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) staff issued a letter requesting additional information and initiating a compliance investigation into the outage incident that occurred on June 17, 2025 at the Ripogenus Hydroelectric Project P-2572.^{1,2} The outage incident resulted in deviations from Article 402 and 403 that you reported to the Commission on June 26, 2025. Initially, the Commission received public comments regarding the outage incident that were filed on June 28, 2025, and July 21, 2025. Additionally, on January 16, 2026, Trout Unlimited filed further comments regarding the outage incident that occurred on June 17, 2025.³ Therefore, in order to complete the ongoing compliance investigation regarding the June 17, 2025, outage incident, Commission staff are requesting you to respond to the recommendations contained in the January 16, 2026, filing from Trout Unlimited.

In summary, Trout Unlimited's filing alleges that your current Plan for Monitoring and Providing Minimum Flows under Article 403 does not meet the intent of Article 403 of the current license. This allegation is based on data they provide in the filing. Trout Unlimited requests that in order to remedy the alleged failure to meet the intent of Article 403 that you should be required to install, at your expense, a USGS-standard flow/temperature gage in the Telos Bridge area so that future events can be evaluated using accurate, independent data. Furthermore, Trout Unlimited states that in the absence of a

¹ Order Issuing New License (77 FERC ¶ 61,066) issued October 22, 1996.

² Order Modifying and Approving Plan for Monitoring and Providing Minimum Flows (88 FERC ¶ 62,157) issued August 19, 1997.

³ Accession number 20260116-5019

USGS flow/temperature gage, you should direct the continuous release of 400 cubic feet per second (cfs) through a deep gate to buffer and mitigate the effects of future trip events, and direct you to return a dam keeper to Ripogenus Dam to reduce outage duration as per their prior request.

Your response should include an assessment of the proposals' feasibility along with the potential benefits and drawbacks to implementing the proposed recommendation to install a gaging station, and the alternative proposal to require a 400 cfs release from the dam and returning a dam keeper onsite. If you do not propose adopting either of the recommendations, then you must include the reasons, based on project specific information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please file your response by **April 17, 2026**. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 202-502-8041 or michael.calloway@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael Calloway
Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance