

America First Hydro LLC

c/o Ian Clark, Managing Member

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July 19, 2019

Via eFiling

Hon. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy
Regulatory Commission 888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426.

RE: Lower Mousam Project
America First Hydro, LLC FERC Project No. 14856-000

Study Status Report No. 1

Dear Secretary Bose:

This letter is the Initial Study Report for America First Hydro (AFH) and the relicensing efforts taking place for P-14856.¹ AFH has been working with the current licensee and utility, Kennebunk Light & Power, local community members support the project, and our consultants to implement the seven (7) studies approved for by FERC in its letter of July 20, 2018 (ELibrary Accession No. 20180720-3006, Letter order accepting America First Hydro, LLC's Study Plan Determination for the Lower Mousam Project,

Water Quality Study

- As part of the fish assemblage study, the deepest parts of the project reservoirs was determined and these sites will serve as the sample location for temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring. Proposed sampling locations will be reviewed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) prior to data collection.
- Water levels in June were unusually high and precluded effective reconnaissance surveys.
- 2019 sampling for temperature and dissolved oxygen will focus on the August low-flow period, which is presumed to be the most restrictive period for water quality.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Study

- Benthic macroinvertebrate samples will be collected and analyzed by Lotic, Inc., in August, pending approval of sample locations by MDEP.

¹ Pursuant to CFR 5.15(c)(1) AFH must file an initial study report describing its overall progress in implementing the study plan and schedule and the data collected.

Fish Assemblage Study

- Electrofishing surveys were conducted as planned, but required some adjustments in the field in response to heavy rain and high-water levels. The dates for the Study were later than originally planned due to excessive high-water events and coordination with the utility for repairs to the dam.
- A fish assemblage report is in preparation.

Eel Passage Siting and Design Study

- Conditions were not conducive for eel migration in June due to heavy rains, and field surveys confirmed little activity.
- Eel surveys continue and conditions are now more conducive for eel passage.

Downstream Passage and Fish Entrainment Study

- Compilation of physical and operational data for the project dams is being initiated and evaluation of this information will commence in August.
- This variance to the schedule was required due to high water events and coordination between the utility and AFH for dam repairs

Recreation Needs Study

- Recreational use of the study area is being monitored.
- Recreational facilities in the project area are being evaluated in conjunction with recreational use studies.

Historic Assessment Study

- Phase 1 History/Architecture surveys are in the planning phase and will be conducted during the summer-fall time period.
- A Phase 1 archaeological survey is being planned and will be conducted during the 2019 field season.

AFH believes the studies are progressing well and more data will be shared as reports are finished up. Given the high-water events of this spring, consultant schedules, and utility repairs being made, certain studies were started later than initially anticipated.

Pursuant to CFR 5.15(c)(2), AFH is to hold a meeting to discuss the study results and any proposals from either AFH or other participants. This meeting is to be conducted within 15 days following the initial study report. The meeting details are as follows:

Date: July 30, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM

Place: 4 Factory Pasture Lane, Kennebunk, ME 04043

AFH encourages anyone interested in attending to email AFH prior to the meeting.

This letter constitutes the requisite status report.

Sincerely,

Ian Clark

Ian Clark
Managing Member,
America First Hydro LLC

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Cc: Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MeSHPO)
Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MeDEP)
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MeDIFW)
Maine Department of Marine Resources (MeDMR)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
U.S. Department of Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Keep the Kennebunk Dams Save the Mousam, LLC (KKDSM)
Trout Unlimited / Sebago Chapter (TU/SC)
Trout Unlimited (TU)
KLP
Town
Paul V. Nolan