

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20426  
January 29, 2025

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2302-101—Maine  
Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project  
Brookfield White Pine Hydro, LLC

**Subject: Scoping Document 1 for the Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project**

To the Parties Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is currently reviewing the final license application (FLA) filed on August 28, 2024, by Brookfield White Pine Hydro, LLC (Brookfield) for licensing the proposed Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project (Lewiston Falls Project) (FERC No. 2302) under the Traditional Licensing Process. The project is located on the Androscoggin River in the cities of Auburn and Lewiston and the town of Durham, in Androscoggin County, Maine.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Commission staff will prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) (collectively referred to as the “NEPA document”), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a new license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the NEPA document is thorough and balanced. The Commission’s scoping process will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS.

We invite your participation in the scoping process and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the Lewiston Falls Project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives identified in SD1 to be addressed in the NEPA document.

We will hold two public scoping meetings for the project to receive input on the scope of the NEPA document. A daytime scoping meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) and an evening meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. EST on February 19, 2025, at the Hampton Inn Lewiston/Auburn Hotel in Lewiston, Maine. We will also visit the Lewiston Falls Project site on February 20, starting at 8:00 a.m. EST.

SD1 is being distributed to both Brookfield's distribution list and the Commission's official mailing list (see section 8.0, *Mailing List*, of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov). In lieu of an email request, you may submit a paper request. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be added to, or removed from, the mailing list, and must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 2302-101.**

Please review SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 5.0, *Request for Information*. If you have any questions about SD1, the paper scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the NEPA document for this project, please contact Lauren Townson at (202) 502-8572 or [lauren.townson@ferc.gov](mailto:lauren.townson@ferc.gov). Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Lewiston Falls Project may be obtained from our website, <http://www.ferc.gov>. The deadline for filing scoping comments is **March 31, 2025**. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 1  
LEWISTON FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
PROJECT NO. 2302-101  
MAINE



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Office of Energy Projects  
Division of Hydropower Licensing  
Washington, DC

January 29, 2025

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## SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

### Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 2302-101

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),<sup>1</sup> may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On August 28, 2024, Brookfield White Pine Hydro, LLC (Brookfield) filed an application for an original license for the Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project (Lewiston Falls Project or project) (FERC Project No. 2302).

The project is located on the Androscoggin River in the cities of Auburn and Lewiston and the town of Durham, in Androscoggin County, Maine. The existing project boundary consist of 237.96 acres (Figure 1).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,<sup>2</sup> the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of licensing the project as proposed, and also consider reasonable alternatives to the applicant's proposed action. At this time, we intend to prepare a NEPA document that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the proposed action and alternatives. The Commission's scoping process will help to determine the required level of analysis and satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f).



**Figure 1.** Location and existing project boundary of the Lewiston Falls Project No. 2302 (Source: FLA).

## **2.0 SCOPING**

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the potential scope of the NEPA documentation and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the NEPA document; (2) a description of the applicant's proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues; (4) a request for comments and information; and (5) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans which are applicable to the project.

### **2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING**

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. In general, scoping should be conducted during the early planning stages of a project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Native American Tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the NEPA document;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the NEPA document;
- solicit from participants available information on the resources at issue; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

### **2.2 COMMENTS, SCOPING MEETINGS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW**

During the preparation of the NEPA document, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:



- during the public scoping process when we solicit oral and written comments on the scoping document;
- in response to the Commission's notice that the project is ready for environmental analysis, when we solicit comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions for the proposed project; and
- after issuance of the NEPA document when we solicit written comments on the document.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two public scoping meetings and an environmental site review in the vicinity of the project. We invite all interested agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public to attend any of the meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document. All interested parties are also invited to participate in the environmental site review. The times and locations of the meetings and environmental site review are as follows:

**Daytime Scoping Meeting**

DATE: February 19, 2025  
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. EST  
LOCATION: Hampton Inn Lewiston/Auburn Hotel  
ADDRESS: 15 Lincoln Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240

**Evening Scoping Meeting**

DATE: February 19, 2025  
TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. EST  
LOCATION: Hampton Inn Lewiston/Auburn Hotel  
ADDRESS: 15 Lincoln Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240

**On-Site Environmental Site Review**

DATE: February 20, 2025  
TIME: 8:00 a.m. EST  
LOCATION: Meet at Hampton Inn Lewiston/Auburn Hotel to carpool to project  
ADDRESS: 15 Lincoln Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240

Persons planning on participating in the site visit must RSVP to Mr. Luke Anderson of Brookfield at [luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com](mailto:luke.anderson@brookfieldrenewable.com) or by phone at (207) 755-5613, **no later than February 10, 2025**, to register for the environmental site review. For administrative purposes, Brookfield prefers interested persons to RSVP by email. Attendees should wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear (i.e., long pants, long sleeve shirts and sturdy, closed-toe shoes) and are also encouraged to bring proper gear for inclement weather (i.e., rain jackets, boots, etc.).

At the start of each meeting, Commission staff will provide a brief overview of the meeting format and objectives. Individual oral comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter (with Commission staff present). This format is designed to receive the maximum number of oral comments in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted. If you wish to speak, Commission staff will hand out numbers in the order of your arrival. If all individuals who wish to provide comments have had an opportunity to do so, Commission staff may conclude the meeting a half hour earlier than the scheduled time. Please see Appendix A for additional information on the session format and conduct.

Scoping comments will be recorded by the court reporter and become part of the public record for this proceeding. Transcripts will be publicly available on FERC's eLibrary system. If a significant number of people are interested in providing oral comments in the one-on-one settings, a time limit of 5 minutes may be implemented for each commentor.

It is important to note that the Commission provides equal consideration to all comments received, whether filed in writing or provided orally at a scoping session. Although there will not be a formal presentation, Commission staff will be available throughout the scoping session to answer your questions about the environmental review process. Representatives from Brookfield will also be present to answer project-specific questions.

Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 5.0, *Request for Information*. These meetings are posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events> along with other related information. Click on the "Scoping Meeting" link on the left side of the page.

It is advised that participants review the license application to prepare for the scoping meetings. Copies of the license application may be viewed on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-2302, to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made on the level of analysis needed. If our preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the NEPA document.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue a SD2 to address any substantive comments received.

### **3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

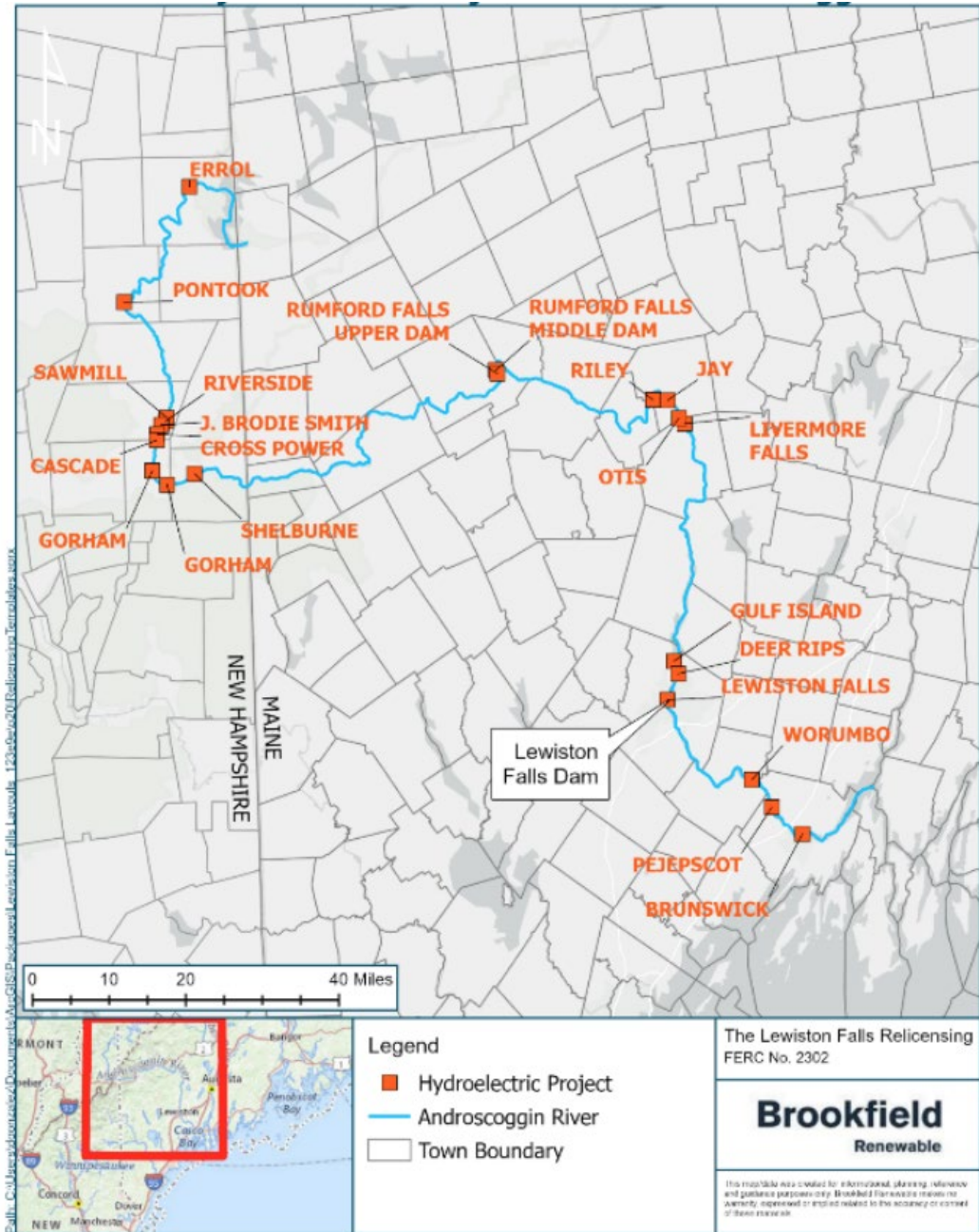
In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the applicant's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

#### **3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

Under the no-action alternative, the Lewiston Falls Project would continue to operate as required by the current project license (i.e., there would be no change to the existing environment). No new environmental protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures would be implemented. We use this alternative to establish baseline environmental conditions for comparison with other alternatives.

##### **3.1.1 Existing Project Area**

The project is located at river mile 30.8 on the Androscoggin River and it is one of the 22 hydroelectric dams on the mainstream of the Androscoggin River. The Androscoggin River basin is 3,530 square miles and the drainage area at the project is approximately 2,907 square miles. The project is one of the 22 hydroelectric dams on the mainstream of the Androscoggin River (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Location of hydroelectric projects upstream and downstream of the Lewiston Falls Project (Source: FLA).

### 3.1.2 Existing Project Boundary

The existing project boundary for the Lewiston Falls Project extends approximately 0.28 mile downstream of the powerhouse (Monty Station) and 2.5 miles upstream of the dam. The boundary encompasses the dam, powerhouse, impoundment, two gatehouse buildings, and the tailwater area.

### **3.1.3 Existing Project Facilities**

The existing Lewiston Falls Project consists of: (1) a dam consisting of 5 distinct sections: (a) a 154-foot-long stone masonry section topped with a single rubber dam for a total elevation of 169.07 feet,<sup>3</sup> (b) a 279-foot-long stone masonry section topped with a single rubber dam for a total elevation of 169.07 feet, (c) a 161-foot-long stone masonry section topped with a single rubber dam for a total elevation of 168.60 feet, (d) a 162-foot-long stone masonry section topped with a single rubber dam for a total elevation of 168.60 feet, and (e) a 57-foot-long concrete section topped with 1.34-foot-high flashboards for a total elevation of 168.17 feet; (2) a 2.5-mile-long, 169-acre impoundment at a full pond elevation of 168.17 feet; (3) an 85.16-foot-long, 60-foot-high reinforced concrete intake with 3.25-inch spaced trashracks; (4) four 16.8-foot wide intake tubes, each pair converging into one; (4) a reinforced concrete powerhouse containing two vertical Kaplan turbine generators for a total installed capacity of 28.44 megawatts; (5) a 400-foot-long, 75-foot-wide excavated tailrace; (6) a 111.6-foot-long, 26.3-foot-wide masonry canal gatehouse located at the southeast corner of the impoundment diverting flow to a canal system; (7) a 12.5 to 34.5-kilovolt (kV) transformer; (8) a 125-foot-long underground transmission line connected to Central Maine Power's distribution system; and (8) appurtenant facilities. The project average annual generation between 2013 and 2023 was 157,614 megawatt-hours (MWh).

There are three project recreation sites within the project boundary: (1) the Lewiston Falls Impoundment Boat Launch, (2) the West Pitch Park Overlook, and (3) the Durham Boat Launch which is located approximately 7 miles downstream of the project.

### **3.1.4 Existing Project Operation**

Brookfield currently operates the project in a run-of-river mode by typically limiting impoundment drawdowns to no more than 1 foot below the normal elevation of 168.17 feet. However, the project is licensed to operate with up to four feet of impoundment drawdowns. The current license requires Brookfield to release a minimum flow of 1,430 cfs or inflow, whichever is less. Brookfield states that it meets this requirement by releasing 50 cfs from the impoundment to the Lewiston Canal System and 1,380 cfs to the river downstream of the project. The maximum hydraulic capacity of the project's generating units is 6,600 cfs and the minimum hydraulic capacity of a single unit is approximately 800 cfs.

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<sup>3</sup> All elevations are referenced to a vertical datum of National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.

When inflow to the project exceeds the minimum hydraulic capacity of one of the units and the 50-cfs minimum canal release (i.e., 850 cfs), the project generates electricity. As inflow increases above minimum operating capacity, Brookfield diverts as much flow as possible into the powerhouse up to the combined 6,600-cfs maximum hydraulic capacity of the powerhouse. When inflow exceeds the maximum powerhouse capacity, Brookfield passes the additional flow over the spillway.

The inflatable rubber bladders on Dams 1, 2, 3, and 4 serve as crest gates and are designed to maintain the existing normal pond elevation of 168.17 ft. The gates will also automatically deflate when the impoundment elevation reaches approximately 20% overtopping of the rubber dam at an approximate elevation of 169.95 ft.

Lewiston Falls Project is remotely monitored and operated by Brookfield's National System Control Center (NSCC). Local operating crew is also available during weekdays, and weekends as necessary. The project is operated in coordination with the Gulf Island-Deer Rips Project located approximately five miles upstream. The Lewiston Falls Project impoundment has no storage capacity. Under flood conditions, the units are operated at maximum hydraulic conditions and the rubber bladder sections on the dam spillway are lowered to help manage impoundment water levels.

## **3.2 APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL**

### **3.2.1 Proposed Project Boundary Modification**

The licensee is proposing to remove an existing building from the project boundary. The building is a non-project facility and is located near the Canal Gatehouse. The building is privately owned and serves no project purpose, according to Brookfield's application. In total, this change will remove 0.08 acre from the project boundary, resulting in a total of 237.88 acres remaining within the project boundary.

### **3.2.2 Proposed Environmental Measures**

Brookfield proposes the following environmental protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures:

#### **Operations**

- Implement the Operations Monitoring Plan filed as Appendix E-8 of the FLA.

#### **Water Resources**

- Continue to operate the project as essentially run-of-river with impoundment drawdowns of one foot or less, on a daily basis, but with the ability to drawdown the impoundment up to four feet (between 168.17 and 164.17), except during the bass spawning season (May 15 through June 30) when Brookfield will target a drawdown limit of no more than one foot to protect bass spawning.
- Continue to provide a minimum flow of 50 cfs to the Lewiston Canal System and 1,380 cfs to the river, or inflow if less.
- Provide six aesthetic flow releases from the dam, from preferably Dam 1 or 3, with a target flow ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 cfs, during the period July through September, between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM on days/schedule to be determined in consultation annually with the Cities of Lewiston and Auburn. The licensee will post via SafeWaters (or a comparable website) the proposed scheduled aesthetic flow events and any cancellations, in the event sufficient flow or circumstances arise in which these flow releases cannot be provided.

### **Aquatic and Fisheries Resources**

- Implement a species protection plan (SPP) for endangered Atlantic salmon.<sup>4</sup>
- Provide upstream and downstream fish passage measures for American eel in accordance with a fish passage plan and schedule to be developed in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the other fisheries agencies that is consistent with the Settlement Agreement with FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service for the Modified Fishway Prescriptions for the Pejepscot Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 4784).

### **Recreation Resources**

- Continue to operate and maintain the three project recreation sites: the Impoundment Boat Launch, West Pitch Park Overlook, and the Durham Boat Launch.
- Implement the Recreation Management Plan (filed as Appendix E-7 of the

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<sup>4</sup> The final plan was filed with the Commission in December 2019 and is available online [https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession\\_number=20191231-5229&optimized=false](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20191231-5229&optimized=false).



FLA) that includes the following upgrades to the project recreation sites:

- (a) *Impoundment Boat Launch and Portage Route*: (1) extend the concrete boat ramp approximately 8 feet further into the impoundment by adding additional concrete planks; (2) extend the asphalt apron at the site entrance into the parking lot by approximately 10-15 feet to help alleviate the creation of parking lot potholes at the entrance area; (3) re-grade the driveway and parking area, add material as needed, add parking stops and/or signage to delineate parking spaces and to dedicate spaces for vehicles with trailers, add two dedicated ADA spaces located closest to the picnic area; (4) install two anti-theft picnic tables, one of which will be ADA-compliant; (5) provide an ADA-compliant access path to the ADA-compliant picnic table; (6) install two benches; (7) replace the Part 8 sign with an updated version to include a map depicting project recreation sites and clarifying site rules; (8) replace the site identification sign at the driveway entrance; (9) install signage at the impoundment boat launch depicting the available downstream boat launches and delineating the portage route; (10) install directional and wayfinding signage in consultation with the City of Auburn along the portage route utilizing existing infrastructure and leading to the Festival Plaza boat launch);
- (b) *West Pitch Park Overlook*: (1) replace and relocate the Part 8 sign to overlook platform entrance and include site rules and a map depicting project recreation sites; (2) replace the existing overlook platform wood planks with “wood look” composite decking; (3) replace the existing chain link fencing enclosing the overlook platform with decorative fencing designed to blend better with the natural setting of the overlook and to be consistent with the black ornate fencing currently in place in the area of the overlook; (4) reposition the warning sign on the platform fencing to improve the view of the falls; and (5) replace the safety fencing below the overlook with black-coated chain link or comparable safety fencing when the existing chain link safety fencing requires replacing); and
- (c) *Durham Boat Launch*: (1) replace the FERC Part 8 sign with an updated version to include a map depicting project recreation sites and clarifying site rules; (2) dedicate two parking spaces as ADA spaces, including parking space designation signage to be located closest to the picnic area; (3) install two anti-theft picnic tables, one of which will be ADA-compliant; (4) provide an ADA-compliant access path to the ADA-compliant picnic table, and install benches.

## Cultural Resources

- Implement a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) to manage and protect historic properties identified within the project's area of potential effect (APE) (draft provided in Appendix E-9, filed as privileged, of the FLA).

### **3.3 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION**

Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by the Commission, the agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public.

## **4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES**

### **4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (50 C.F.R. 1508.1(i)(3)), cumulative effects are effects on the environment that result from the incremental effects of the action when added to the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

#### **4.1.1 Resources that could be Cumulatively Affected**

Based on our review of the license applications and preliminary staff analysis, we have identified fisheries resources, specifically the catadromous American eel and anadromous Atlantic salmon, as resources that may be cumulatively affected by the proposed operation and maintenance of the Lewiston Falls Project.

#### **4.1.2 Geographic Scope**

The geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected resources is defined by the physical limits or boundaries of: (1) the proposed action's effect on the resources, and (2) contributing effects from other hydropower and non-hydropower activities within the Androscoggin River Basin. We have identified the geographic scope for our cumulative effects analysis for fisheries resources to include the Androscoggin River Basin from the project impoundment downstream to the Androscoggin River confluence with Merrymeeting Bay. We chose this geographic scope because the construction, operation,

and maintenance of the project, in combination with other dams and diversions, and other developmental and non-developmental uses in the basin (e.g., forest practices; residential, commercial, and industrial development) have cumulatively affected these migratory fish species.

### **4.1.3 Temporal Scope**

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the NEPA document will include a discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and their effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of a new license, the temporal scope will look 30 to 50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect on the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

## **4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES**

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the NEPA document. We have identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the license application and the Commission's record for the Lewiston Falls Project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains those issues raised to date that could have substantial effects. After the scoping process is complete, we will review this list and determine any need for studies and the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the NEPA document. Those issues identified by an asterisk (\*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and site-specific effects.

### **4.2.1 Aquatic Resources\***

- Effects of continued project operation on water quality, including temperature and dissolved oxygen, in the project impoundment and river downstream.
- Effects of continued project operation, including impoundment fluctuations, on resident and migratory fish species and habitat in the project impoundment, ledges beneath the dam, and river downstream.
- Effects of continued project operation on upstream passage of migratory fish species in the Androscoggin River.
- Effects of project operation on essential fish habitat (EFH) for Atlantic salmon.

- Effects of project operation on fish impingement, entrainment, and downstream passage survival in the Androscoggin River.

#### **4.2.2 Terrestrial Resources**

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on riparian, littoral, and wetland habitats and associated wildlife.
- Effects of the project on the spread and control of invasive species.

#### **4.2.3 Threatened and Endangered Species**

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the Northern long-eared bat which is federally listed as endangered; the tri-colored bat which is federally proposed as endangered; and monarch butterfly which is federally proposed as threatened.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the federally endangered Atlantic salmon and its designated critical habitat.

#### **4.2.4 Recreation and Aesthetics Resources**

- Effects of project operation and maintenance activities on recreational use, facilities, and opportunities.
- Adequacy of existing recreational facilities to meet existing and future recreational demand and capacity requirements.
- Effects of project operation (i.e. spill) on aesthetic resources.

#### **4.2.5 Cultural Resources**

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities on historic or archaeological resources, or traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **4.2.6 Developmental Resources**

- Effects of the proposed project and alternatives, including any protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures, and recommended environmental measures, on project economics.

## 5.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative effects associated with licensing the Lewiston Falls Project. The types of information we request includes, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;
- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed licensing of the Lewiston Falls Project;
- existing information and any data that would help characterize the existing environmental conditions and habitats and in the assessment of effects on environmental resources;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs) along with any implementation schedules;
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and the public; and
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration.

The requested information and comments on SD1 should be submitted to the Commission **no later than March 31, 2025**. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: **Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project (P-2302-101)**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to these or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov).

Intervenors – those on the Commission's service list for this proceeding – are reminded that if they file comments with the Commission, they must also serve a copy of their filing on each person whose name appears on the official service list. Note that the list is periodically updated. The official service list can be obtained on the Commission's web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) - click on Documents and Filing and click on eService – or call the Office of the Secretary, Dockets Branch at (202) 502-8715. In addition, if any party files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on the resource agency.

Any questions concerning how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Lauren Townson at (202) 502-8462 or [lauren.townson@ferc.gov](mailto:lauren.townson@ferc.gov). Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Lewiston Falls Project may be obtained from the Commission's website, [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov).

## **6.0 CURRENT PROCESSING SCHEDULE**

The decision on whether to prepare and EA or EIS will be determined after we fully understand the scope of effects and measures under consideration. The NEPA document will be distributed to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the Lewiston Falls Project. The NEPA document will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as environmental protection and

enhancement measures that should be part of any license issued by the Commission. The comment period will be specified in the notice of availability of the NEPA document.

The application will be processed according to the following anticipated processing schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

<u>Major Milestone</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
Scoping Document 1 Issued	January 2025
Acceptance and Scoping Notice Issued	January 2025
Scoping Document 1 Comments Due	March 2025
Issue Scoping Document 2 (if needed)	April 2025
Issue Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis Comments, Recommendations and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions Due	August 2025
Applicant's Reply Comments Due	October 2025
Commission Issues Draft NEPA Document	November 2025
Commission Issues Final NEPA Document	April 2026
	October 2026

## 7.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal or state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. Staff has preliminarily identified and reviewed the plans listed below that may be relevant to the Lewiston Falls Project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 C.F.R. section 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <https://cms.ferc.gov/media/comprehensive-plans>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the Lewiston Falls Project.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1999. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. (Report No. 35). April 1999.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). (Report No. 36). April 2000.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Technical Addendum 1 to Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. February 9, 2000.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2008. Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel. Arlington, Virginia. October 2008.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2009. Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. May 2009.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2010. Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. February 2010.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2013. Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel. Arlington, Virginia. August 2013.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2014. Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel. Arlington, Virginia. October 2014.



Maine Atlantic Sea-Run Salmon Commission. 1984. Strategic plan for management of Atlantic salmon in the State of Maine. Augusta, Maine. July 1984.

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry. Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2014-2019. Augusta, Maine.

Maine Department of Conservation. 1982. Maine Rivers Study-final report. Augusta, Maine. May 1982.

Maine State Planning Office. 1987. Maine Comprehensive Rivers Management Plan Vols 1-3. Augusta, Maine. May 1987.

Maine State Planning Office. 1992. Maine Comprehensive Rivers Management Plan. Volume 4. Augusta, Maine. December 1992.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 2018. Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Salmon. Hadley, Massachusetts. January 2019.

National Park Service. 1993. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1989. Atlantic salmon restoration in New England: Final environmental impact statement 1989-2021. Department of the Interior, Newton Corner, Massachusetts. May 1989.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American waterfowl management plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

## 8.0 MAILING LIST

The list below is the Commission’s official mailing list for the Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project. If you want to receive future mailings for this proceeding and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov). In lieu of an email request, you may submit a paper request. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All written or emailed requests to be added to the mailing lists must clearly identify the following: **Lewiston Fall Hydroelectric Project No. 2302-101**. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

### Official Mailing List for the Lewiston Falls Hydroelectric Project

Brookfield White Pine Hydro, LLC Mr. Luke T. Anderson Licensing Manager 150 Main Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240	City of Auburn City Manager 45 Spring St. Auburn, Maine 04210
Bates Fabrics, Inc. Irvin Friedman Brann & Isaacson PO Box 3070 Lewiston, Maine 04243-3070	Grow L+A River Working Group Peter Rubins, Chair 247 Blanchard Rd. Cumberland, Maine 04021
City of Lewison City Administrator 27 Pine Street Lewison, Maine 04240	Anthony Buston Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau, Pachios & Hal PO Box 1058 Augusta, Maine 04332-1058

<p>Maine Department of Environmental Protection                  Kathy Davis Howatt, Hydropower Coordinator                  17 State House Station                  Augusta, Maine 04333-0017</p>	<p>Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife                  John Perry, Environmental Review Coordinator                  284 State Street                  41 SHS                  Augusta, Maine 04333-0041</p>
<p>Maine Department of Marine Resources                  Lars Hammer                  32 Blossom Lane                  Augusta, Maine 04330</p>	<p>Maine Department of Marine Resources                  Casey P Clark                  172 State House Station                  Augusta, Maine 04333</p>
<p>Maine State Planning Office                  Kathleen Leyden, Director of Maine Coastal Program, Maine Department of Agriculture, Cons. &amp; Forestry                  93 State House Station                  Augusta, Maine 04333-0038</p>	<p>NOAA                  Sean P McDermott, Supervisor Fisheries Biologist                  222 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave                  43                  Anchorage, Alaska 99513</p>
<p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                  Jay Clement                  675 Western Avenue                  Manchester, Maine 04351</p>	<p>W.S. Libbey Company                  Irving &amp; Brian Isaacson                  PO Box 3070                  Lewiston, Maine 04243-3070</p>

## **APPENDIX A. FERC Scoping Session Format and Conduct**

### **Session Format**

FERC is conducting the session to solicit your scoping comments. There will not be a formal presentation by Commission staff; however, FERC staff is available to answer questions about the environmental review process. The session format is as follows:

- Tickets are handed out on a “first come, first serve” basis starting at the time listed in the Notice.
- Individuals are called in ticket number order to provide oral comments to be transcribed by a court reporter for the public record.
- Time limits on oral comments may be enforced to ensure that all those wishing to comment have the opportunity to do so within the designated session time.
- Additional materials about FERC and the environmental review process are available at information stations at the session.

### **Session Conduct**

Proper conduct will help the sessions maintain a respectful atmosphere for attendees to learn about the FERC Environmental Review Process and to be able to provide comments effectively.

- Loudspeakers, lighting, oversized visual aids, or other visual or audible disturbances are not permitted.
- Disruptive video and photographic equipment may not be used.
- Conversations should be kept to a reasonable volume. Attendees should be respectful of those providing oral comments to the court reporters.
- Recorded interviews are not permitted within the session space.
- FERC reserves the right end the session if disruptions interfere with the opportunity for individuals to provide oral comments or if there is a safety or security risk.