

# Brookfield

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March 31, 2026

**Brunswick (FERC No. 2284)**  
**Lewiston Falls (FERC No. 2302)**  
**Pejepscot (FERC No. 4784)**

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Subject: Brunswick, Lewiston Falls and Pejepscot; Species Protection Plan Annual Reports**

Dear Secretary Reese:

The Lewiston Falls Project (FERC No. 2302) is licensed to Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC (BWPH). The Pejepscot Project (FERC No. 4784) is licensed to Topsham Hydro Partners, LP (THPLP). The Brunswick Project (FERC No. 2284), is licensed to BWPH.

BWPH and THPLP (collectively, "Licensees") herein submit the required annual reports pursuant to the Species Protection Plans (SPP) for each of the respective projects, which are all located on the lower Androscoggin River.

## **Brunswick and Lewiston Falls Projects**

An SPP and Biological Assessment (BA) for the Brunswick and Lewiston Falls Projects was filed with the Commission on December 31, 2019. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Biological Opinion (BO) and Incidental Take Statement (ITS) for the projects on December 28, 2021, which included Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs) and Terms and Conditions (T&Cs). FERC issued Orders Amending License to Modify and Approve Final Species Protection Plan for Atlantic Salmon, Atlantic Sturgeon, and Shortnose Sturgeon for the Brunswick and Lewiston Falls Projects on August 16, 2022. The SPP and BO is valid for a period coinciding with the license expiration dates for the current FERC licenses for the Projects or until such time as a new license is issued for either Project. The current FERC license for Brunswick expires on February 28, 2029 and the FERC license for Lewiston Falls expires on August 31, 2026.

The BO requires BWPH to submit an annual report summarizing the results of the proposed action. The SPP indicated that the annual reports will provide information "on fishway operation, discuss any monitoring and study results, and assess the need for any adjustments to fishway operations, or sturgeon handling (Brunswick) and stranding (Lewiston Falls) plans." The SPP states "A draft annual report will be provided to NMFS, USFWS, MDMR, and MDIFW by January 31 of each year, reporting on the prior year's activities. A final annual report will be filed with FERC and the fishery agencies by March 31 for the two Projects. The annual reports for the Brunswick and Lewiston Falls Projects may be combined with anadromous fish passage

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# Brookfield

Renewable N.A.

reports for other Androscoggin River hydropower projects if there is general concurrence with the other project licensees and the fishery agencies.”

## Brunswick

### *Upstream Passage Operations*

BWPH continued to operate the Brunswick upstream fish passage facility in coordination with MDMR in 2025. MDMR operated the facility from May 1 until July 31, and BWPH operated the fish passage facility for the remainder of the season. The fishway was closed for the season on November 17, 2025. The fish passage facility was also closed on May 9 to May 12 due to high river flows and for 14 days for routine seasonal maintenance (August 4–August 17). The fishway was dewatered again on October 1 and October 2 to clear the downstream fishway. Seven Atlantic salmon passed through the fish passage facility in 2025; one of these was passed while BWPH was operating the fishway on September 26, 2025. A riser was installed on the floor of the flume in front of the window previous to the 2023 fish passage season. Although the direct feed video monitoring system was in place, the remotely operated gate was not installed for instant operation from off site. After full time fish passage staff left the fishway operations area, the camera was monitored continually. If a salmon was observed on the remote camera, operations staff was on call to respond within a half hour.

### *Upstream Passage Studies*

The SPP and BO require BWPH to conduct effectiveness studies of upstream migrating adult Atlantic salmon at such time that 40 adult salmon are returning to the Androscoggin River and observed at the Brunswick Project in two consecutive years. Currently there are not enough returning adult Atlantic salmon to the Androscoggin River to conduct the upstream effectiveness studies.

In accordance with the BO, BWPH must install, operate, and maintain a PIT tag receiver near the entrance of the fishway and insert a PIT tag into all salmon trapped and handled at the Brunswick fishway to monitor movements of salmon and sturgeon in the project area annually throughout the term of the amended license and provide all PIT tag data to NMFS annually by December 31. A PIT tag detection system was installed in the fishway during the 2025 passage season, and no tags were detected. No salmon were “trapped and handled” during BWPH’s operation of the fishway. Consultation with NMFS and MDMR on the coordination of PIT tagging efforts determined that BWPH would not be tagging any salmon during the 2025 season. BWPH will consult with NMFS and MDMR on this effort for the 2026 season.

### *Downstream Passage Operations*

The downstream fishway was opened on April 1. On April 19 the downstream fishway was clogged with a log and after multiple failed attempts to remove the obstruction, BWPH promptly consulted with NMFS staff about alternative downstream measures. NMFS staff determined that additional spill would be expected to be at least as protective for downstream migrating smolts.

# Brookfield

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While the fishway was clogged a minimum of 100 cfs was passed through Tainter Gate 1. The downstream passage was eventually cleared on October 2, 2025

BWPH implemented nighttime (2000–0700 hours) spill during May to enhance smolt passage. Spill flows at Brunswick are provided based on a set of unit operational guidelines driven by total river flow at the Project, with Unit 2 and Unit 3 prioritized over Unit 1. Unit prioritization measures were implemented and 100 cfs was passed into the bypass reach again for smolts during the 2025 passage season at Brunswick.

## *Downstream Passage Studies*

The SPP and BO for the Project requires BWPH conduct effectiveness studies of downstream migrating smolt at such time that studies are being conducted at the upstream Project (Pejepscot and Worumbo). The SPP and BO also require effectiveness testing for adult Atlantic salmon at such time that there are 40 adult salmon returning to the Androscoggin River and observed at the Brunswick Project in two consecutive years. No smolt studies were conducted at the upstream Projects in 2025. As with the upstream passage effectiveness studies, currently there are not enough returning adult Atlantic salmon to conduct the downstream passage effectiveness studies for kelts.

## *Stranding*

The BO requires BWPH to “develop, in consultation with NMFS, an appropriate schedule for regularly surveying the pool downstream of the Brunswick dam for both stranded Atlantic salmon as well as Shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon.” The annual consultation meeting for the Brunswick Project SPP was held on March 18, 2024. BWPH confirmed that periodic inspections following high flow events and in anticipation of closing the bypass gate would be conducted. These inspections were conducted daily during the 2025 passage season.

The BO required updates to the Sturgeon Handling and Protection Plan that were completed and distributed on February 7, 2025. No sturgeon were captured or handled during Brunswick fishway operations and none were observed stranded below the Project in 2025. No sturgeon were observed during annual maintenance of the units.

## Lewiston Falls

The Project does not have upstream or downstream fish passage facilities. Other than the implementation of an Atlantic salmon stranding plan for the bypass reach of the Lewiston Falls Project, there are no current actions for the Project. The SPP and BO require that an assessment of adult upstream salmon delay be conducted concurrently with upstream studies at the Brunswick Project; to date insufficient numbers of returning Atlantic salmon have prevented implementation of this effort. There were no stranding surveys conducted at Lewiston Falls in 2025 as there were no reported Atlantic salmon passing at the Worumbo Project in 2025.

# Brookfield

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## Pejepscot Project

THPLP consulted with the NMFS and USFWS to develop a draft BA and SPP to cover the period from 2017 to when a new license is issued. These documents were filed with FERC on December 22, 2015. A NMFS BO was filed with the Commission on August 30, 2017. On July 10, 2019, FERC approved the revised ISPP and incorporated the RPMs and T&Cs from NMFS BO into the existing Pejepscot license.

THPLP is required to follow the elements described in the revised SPP and the RPMs and T&Cs of the Pejepscot BO until such time as a new BO is issued.

A Final License Application, which included THPLP's proposed actions for Atlantic salmon passage and monitoring, and BA was filed with the Commission on August 31, 2020. In response to FERC's November 2, 2022, request, NMFS initiated Section 7 consultation on December 2, 2022 regarding the continued operation of the Project with proposed fish passage measures. NMFS issued a BO as it pertains to this consultation on June 16, 2023. FERC issued a new license incorporating the BO on September 21, 2023.

### *Upstream Passage Operations*

The upstream fishway was opened for the season on May 1 and closed on November 15, 2025 as required. There were several occasions throughout the season that the fishway did have to shut down due to high river flows: from May 6 to May 12, on May 19, and May 20, 2025. A total of two Atlantic salmon were observed passing upstream at the Pejepscot Project on camera recordings during the 2025 season. There are two cameras at the Project, one fixed on the hopper discharge and one fixed on the flume viewing window. The footage from the cameras is regularly reviewed and shared among the Brookfield fisheries biologist team to confirm identification of salmon passed upstream.

### *Upstream Passage Studies*

The SPP and BO require BWPH to conduct effectiveness studies of upstream migrating adult Atlantic salmon at such time that there are 40 adult salmon returning to the Androscoggin River and observed at the Brunswick Project for two consecutive years. Currently there are not enough returning adult Atlantic salmon to the Androscoggin River to effectively conduct the upstream effectiveness studies.

### Proposed 2026 Upstream Fishway Lifting Schedule

- As river conditions allow, the upstream fishway will open on May 1 or once fish are released from the Brunswick fishway into the Brunswick headpond, as determined through consultation with the downstream Brunswick Project.
- From May 1 to May 7, the lift will be operated once every 30 minutes from 6am to 9pm (sunrise to sunset), unless Atlantic salmon are detected at the

# Brookfield

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Brunswick Project, in which case the lift should proceed with 15-minute operation cycles.

- From May 8 to June 14, the fish lift will be operated once every 15 minutes from 5am to 9pm (sunrise to sunset).
- From June 15 to July 15, the fish lift will be operated once every 15 minutes from 5am to 9pm. During this period fish lift timing frequency may be reduced, in consultation with the agencies, according to the following guidelines:
  - No Atlantic salmon have been detected at the Pejepscot or Brunswick Projects during the passage season.
  - No sea-run fish have passed the Brunswick fishway for 3 consecutive days.
  - 15-minute lift frequencies would resume should any sea-run species pass the Brunswick Project.
- After July 15, the Pejepscot fish lift timing frequency may be reduced, according to the following guidelines:
  - If Atlantic salmon are detected at any point in the season at Pejepscot or Brunswick, lifts will occur every 30 minutes until the conclusion of the passage season.
  - If no Atlantic salmon are detected at Pejepscot or Brunswick before July 15, lift timing frequency can be reduced, in consultation with the agencies, unless salmon are detected, in which case, lifts will occur every 30 minutes, as defined above.
- As river conditions allow, the upstream fishway will operate at night once every hour from 9pm to 5am starting on May 15 or once lamprey are released from the Brunswick fishway into the Brunswick headpond. After June 14 night operations may be discontinued if no sea lamprey have passed the Brunswick fishway for 3 consecutive days.
- Pejepscot fishway staff will communicate daily passage numbers with the MDMR staff at the Brunswick fishway once river herring are detected until July 15 (or until herring and shad are no longer detected).

## *Downstream Passage Operations*

The downstream fishway was opened on April 1, 2025 and closed early on December 10, 2025 due to icing. Throughout the downstream passage season, the fishway was closed 2 times due to high river flow events, ranging in duration from two to 15 days and 3 days in September for in water dive work. Nighttime smolt spill of 500 cfs per night was conducted during the month of May.

## *Downstream Passage Studies*

# Brookfield

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As with the upstream passage effectiveness studies, currently there are not enough returning adult Atlantic salmon to the Androscoggin River to conduct downstream passage effectiveness studies for kelts. Future Atlantic salmon studies are addressed in the Final License Application filed for the Project on August 31, 2020, as well as within an Offer of Settlement between THPLP and NMFS filed with FERC on February 18, 2022.

## *Stranding*

Three stranding checks were conducted of the ledges below the project when spill stopped during the 2025 season. The checks occurred on August 28, September 3 and September 9, 2025 with no observed strandings. Per Article 405, BWPH filed a final stranding plan with the Commission on April 30, 2024.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (207) 313-1173 or [Adam.Brown@brookfieldrenewable.com](mailto:Adam.Brown@brookfieldrenewable.com).

Sincerely,



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