DECOMMISSIONING SCOPING DOCUMENT

BAR MILLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

FERC No. 2194



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	BACKGROUND	1
2.0	PURPOSE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	3
3.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION3.1Dam3.2Intake Canal3.3Powerhouse3.4Tailrace3.5Bypass Reach3.6Land Ownership	
4.0	 PROJECT OPERATIONS 4.1 Existing Project Operations Description 4.2 Regulatory and Compliance Requirements 	7 7
5.0	PROPOSED ACTION AND ISSUES IDENTIFICATION 5.1 Proposed Action 5.1.1 Issues Identification	
6.0	PROCESS SCHEDULE	21

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Saco River Watershed	2
Figure 2	Bar Mills Project Features	4
Figure 3	Project Features to be Removed	14
Figure 4	Upstream Water Levels	
Figure 5	Water Depths at 762 cfs	
Figure 6	Water Velocities at 9,900 cfs	

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Bar Mills Project, owned and operated by Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC, (BWPH) is located on the Saco River (Figure 1) and consists of a dam structure, an impoundment, a powerhouse, and appurtenant features. The entire Project, including the impoundment and upstream flowage easements, extends approximately 5.3 miles along the Saco River from river mile 19, approximately 0.3 miles below Bar Mills Dam, to river mile 24.3, the lower extent of the West Buxton Project tailrace.

BWPH holds a license to operate the Bar Mills Project issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), on August 26, 2008. The FERC license is set to expire on August 1, 2048. The FERC license requires run-of-river operations and seasonal minimum bypass and downstream flows from the Project, consistent with the 1997 Flow Agreement¹, and the FERC approved Minimum Flow Monitoring Plan (2011). The Project is also subject to the 2007 Saco River Fisheries Assessment Agreement, amended in 2019, which sets the operational date for completion of upstream fish passage facilities at the Project (or alternative developed in consultation with fisheries agencies) to be May 1, 2025.

¹ The April 30, 1997 Instream Flow Agreement for Hydroelectric Projects on the Saco River was incorporated as appropriate into the individual project licenses for the Hiram, Bonny Eagle, and Skelton projects.



Figure 1 Saco River Watershed

2.0 PURPOSE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The purpose of this Scoping Document is to provide the federal and state agencies, abutting property owners, and the general public with:

- a summary of the existing Project, current license obligations and operational issues;
- a description of the proposed action to surrender the FERC project license and to decommission and partially remove the Bar Mills dam;
- a discussion of preliminary resource concerns identified by BWPH and the federal and state agencies associated with the proposed partial removal; and
- an opportunity to comment on the proposed action.

BWPH requests that any comments on this Scoping Document and the proposed action be submitted to <u>BarMills@KleinschmidtGroup.com</u> by September 1, 2022.

BWPH is holding a public informational meeting for the license surrender and decommissioning process for the Project at the Town of Buxton municipal office meeting room, located at 185 Portland Road, Buxton, Maine on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Additional opportunity for public comments will occur upon issuance of a draft surrender application in the Fall of 2022, prior to submittal to the FERC, as well as the state and federal permitting processes.

BWPH anticipates the schedule for distributing a draft surrender application to federal and state agencies for 90-day review and comment on or about October 31, 2022. BWPH will also provide a copy of this draft surrender application to abutting property owners and interested members of the general public for review and comment via link on the Bar Mills Decommissioning website: <u>https://barmills.brookfieldusprojects.com/</u>.

BWPH will file a surrender application and decommissioning plan with the FERC, likely on or before March 20, 2023. This schedule may be subject to change as ongoing agency and public consultation continues and BWPH will keep FERC and the public apprised of any changes to the schedule. Additional information regarding the surrender process is available at <u>https://barmills.brookfieldusprojects.com/</u>.

3.0 **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project structures include a concrete dam that spans the river, a granite headwork structure located at the entrance to the intake canal, a canal that conveys flow to the powerhouse, a downstream fish passage facility, a powerhouse, and appurtenant equipment (Figure 2).





3.1 Dam

The Project dam extends from the east side of the Saco River adjacent to the site of the former Rogers Mill in Buxton to the Project canal headworks on the Hollis (west) shore of the river. The main dam is founded on bedrock, with a maximum height of seven feet, topped with 6.75-foot-high hinged steel flashboard panels. The main dam includes a 50-foot long concrete wall on the east side and a 14-foot wide abutment connecting the wall to a 264-feet long spillway. There is a 14-foot wide sluice located in the center of the spillway. An approximately 14-foot wide concrete abutment is located on the western side of the spillway and joins the spillway to the canal headworks structure and canal wall/auxiliary spillway. An operating bridge spans the entire length of the spillway; an electric hoist located on the bridge is used for resetting the hinged flashboard panels. Beyond the canal headworks (discussed below), the dam includes an earthen embankment containing a buried 117.5-foot long concrete cut-off wall. The Project dam develops a head of 21 feet between the normal full headpond elevation (148.5') and normal tailwater elevation (127.5').

3.2 Intake Canal

An approximately 94-foot long headworks structure is located at the entrance to the canal. The headworks structure consists of four stone masonry piers and two concrete abutments which can be fitted with stoplogs to allow for the dewatering of the canal for maintenance. There are no gates at the headworks, and the structure is not used to control flow to the powerhouse during normal operations.

The canal extends approximately 735 feet from the headworks structure to the powerhouse and ranges in width from approximately 75 feet, near the headworks to approximately 180 feet, about mid-way in its length. The west side of the canal is earthen and the east side is composed of a 50-foot concrete overflow section adjacent to the Project dam (having a crest elevation of 148.5'), various masonry and concrete non-overflow sections approximately 311 feet long, and two 375-foot long concrete overflow sections near the powerhouse. The canal also includes a seven-foot-wide gate and sluice used for downstream fish passage immediately adjacent to the powerhouse. There is a deep 3-foot by 3-foot opening located at the base of the canal wall used for draining the canal. The opening has stoplogs that can be removed manually.

3.3 Powerhouse

The Project powerhouse substructure and a large part of the 40-feet wide by 80-feet long super-structure are constructed of reinforced concrete. The majority of the powerhouse is located below grade level and is not readily visible from the access road. A stiff leg 25-ton outdoor derrick crane is provided at the west end of the powerhouse to handle equipment (removal of the turbine generator units through the roof hatches during major maintenance efforts) and to lift and place the headgates.

The powerhouse substructure includes the two turbine water intakes and draft tubes, two headgates, and trashracks. The existing turbines are vertical-shaft, fixed-propeller Leffel units, each rated at 3,000 Hp (2.25 MW). Wicket gates control flow to each of the units. The combined maximum hydraulic capacity of the turbines is approximately 3,120 cfs.

3.4 Tailrace

The tailrace consists of an excavated channel extending from the powerhouse to the river and is approximately 200 feet long with a normal water elevation of 127.5'. The Project tailwater is influenced by the downstream Skelton Project headpond which, at a full pond of 127.5', backwaters into the Bar Mills tailrace.

3.5 Bypass Reach

The bypass reach consists of the natural river channel extending from the dam spillway to the powerhouse tailrace and is approximately 1,500 from the dam to the confluence with the tailwater with a normal water elevation of 127.5'. The bypass reach is likewise influenced by backwater effect of the downstream Skelton Project impoundment.

3.6 Land Ownership

Brookfield owns all lands within the FERC Project Boundary and holds flowage rights along the impoundment. Brookfield has identified abutting landowners for the purpose of providing public notice of the decommissioning process and opportunities for public comments on issues and process.

4.0 **PROJECT OPERATIONS**

4.1 Existing Project Operations Description

The Project is authorized by the FERC license for run of river operations. Generally, the Bar Mills impoundment levels will fluctuate once or twice daily up to 2-feet below normal full pond elevation of 148.5 USGS datum to accommodate flow releases from the Bonny Eagle Project, located upstream of the Bar Mills Project. According to the Project license and Minimum Flow Monitoring Plan², the flow requirements at Bar Mills, which are determined by flow releases made at the upstream Bonny Eagle Project are:

- from April 1 through June 30, the impoundment will be maintained within 1 foot of the full pond elevation (run of river); outflow approximately equal to inflow (run-of-river operations) and a minimum bypass reach flow of 100 cfs, or inflow, whichever is less, will be maintained;
- from July 1 through September 30, the impoundment will be maintained within 2 feet of the full pond elevation; a Project minimum flow of 400 cfs or inflow, whichever is less and a minimum bypass reach flow of 100 cfs, or inflow, whichever is less, will be maintained;
- from October 1 through October 31, the impoundment will be maintained within 2 feet of the full pond elevation and a Project minimum flow of 600 cfs or inflow, whichever is less and a minimum bypass reach flow of 100 cfs, or inflow, whichever is less, will be maintained;
- from November 1 to November 15, the impoundment will be maintained within 2 feet of the full pond elevation; and a Project minimum flow of 600 cfs or inflow, whichever is less and a minimum bypass reach flow of 50 cfs, or inflow, whichever is less, will be maintained; and
- from November 16 through March 31, the impoundment will be maintained within 2 feet of the full pond elevation; and a Project minimum flow of 250 cfs or inflow, whichever is less and a minimum bypass reach flow of 50 cfs or inflow, whichever is less.

Minimum flows, other than those specifically required for the bypass reach are generally conveyed through the powerhouse via generation. During time of unit outage, or during times of inflows in excess of station capacity, flows are conveyed to the bypass reach via the spillway.

² Approved by FERC on January 4, 2011.

Due to alkali-aggregate reaction (AAR) conditions observed in the powerhouse caused by construction materials utilized in the 1950s, Units 1 and 2 are considered out-of-service indefinitely as of May and Dec. 2017, respectively. Since this time, all flows at the Bar Mills Project have passed via the spillway and bypass reach and the headpond has been maintained at 148.5'.

4.2 Regulatory and Compliance Requirements

Project Operations

The impoundment and flow requirements described above are required under Article 401(A) of the August 2008 FERC license (which references Conditions 3A, 3B, and 3E of the Maine WQC). The WQC states, in part:

Except as temporarily modified by (1) approved maintenance activities, (2) extreme hydrologic conditions, as defined below, (3) emergency electrical system conditions, as defined below, (4) flashboard failure or maintenance, or (5) agreement between the applicant, the Department, and appropriate state and/or federal agencies, and in accordance with the 1997 Instream Flow Agreement³ for Hydroelectric Projects on the Saco River, the following minimum flows shall be released from the project:

- From April 1 through June 30 annually, outflow approximately equal to inflow (runof-river operations);
- From July 1 through September 30 annually, an instantaneous minimum flow of 400 cfs or inflow, whichever is less;
- From October 1 through November 15 annually, or for such alternative six week period as may be mutually agreed to by FPL Energy and state and federal fisheries agencies, an instantaneous minimum flow of 600 cfs or inflow, whichever is less; and
- From November 16 through March 31 annually, an instantaneous minimum flow of 250 cfs or inflow, whichever is less.

Except as temporarily modified by (1) approved maintenance activities, (2) extreme hydrologic conditions, (3) emergency electrical system conditions, (4) flashboard failure or maintenance, or (5) agreement between the applicant, the Department, and appropriate state and/or federal agencies, instantaneous minimum flows of 100 cfs from April 1 to October 31 and 50 cfs from November 1 to March 31 shall be released to the bypassed river

³ Instream Flow Agreement for Hydroelectric Projects on the Saco River (April 30, 1997)

reach below the project dam. This bypassed river reach flow shall be counted as part of the overall project minimum flow releases specified in Part A of this condition.

"Extreme Hydrologic Conditions" means the occurrence of events beyond the applicant's control such as, but not limited to, abnormal precipitation, extreme runoff, flood conditions, ice conditions or other hydrologic conditions such that the operational restrictions and requirements contained herein are impossible to achieve or are inconsistent with the safe operation of the Project.

"Emergency Electrical System Conditions" means operating emergencies beyond the applicant's control which require changes in flow regimes to eliminate such emergencies which may in some circumstances include, but are not limited to, equipment failure or other temporary abnormal operating conditions, generating unit operation or third-party mandated interruptions under power supply emergencies, and orders from local, state, or federal law enforcement or public safety authorities.

Impoundment Drawdowns for Maintenance. Unless necessary to address emergency situations or to address dam safety and/or public safety concerns, or except as temporarily modified by agreement between the applicant, the Department, and appropriate state and/or federal agencies, the applicant shall avoid maintenance drawdowns of the project impoundment during the months of May and June.

On April 1, 2009, and supplemented on June 2, 2009, the Licensee for the Bar Mills Project, filed the Project Impoundment Water Level Monitoring Plan and the Project Flow Monitoring Plan pursuant to the Order Issuing New License for FERC approval. FERC issued an order approving the Plans on Jun 12, 2009.

Fish Passage

The 1994 Saco River Fish Passage Agreement established assessment criteria for implementing fish passage measures for Atlantic salmon, American shad, and river herring at the Saco River mainstem dams including a process for determining the need for, timing, and design of interim and permanent upstream passage facilities at the Bar Mills Project. Due to the uncertainty associated with anadromous fish populations above the Skelton Project, the need for, design, and schedule for implementing fish passage measures at the Bar Mills and upstream Projects was to be determined by a periodic assessment process.

The 2007 Saco River Fish Passage Assessment Agreement superseded several provisions of the 1994 Agreement and established a schedule for installing upstream and

downstream passage measures for anadromous fish and American eel, conducting fishway effectiveness studies, and performing other measures to enhance restoration of fish populations in the Saco River, including at the Bar Mills Project.

Article 401 references Conditions 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Maine WQC and the Section 18 mandatory fish passage prescriptions of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which mirror the terms of the 2007 Saco River Fish Passage Assessment Agreement, and requires the filing of fish passage plans and effectiveness study plans in support of the terms of the 2007 Settlement. Section 401 Water Quality Certification includes the provisions of the 2007 SRFAA. Condition 4 requires upstream eel passage installed and operational at the Bar Mills Project by June 1, 2014. Downstream eel passage is required to be operational by September 1, 2026 under Condition 5. Condition 6 requires upstream anadromous fish passage facilities to be installed and operational by May 1, 2016 and Condition 7 requires the licensee continue to operate and maintain downstream passage facilities at the Project.

The 2008 Project License and 2007 Agreement require upstream fish passage to be operational at the Bar Mills Project by May 1, 2016. On November 1, 2017, BWPH filed an extension of time request to May 1, 2020 to install and commence operation of an upstream anadromous fish passage facility at the Bar Mills Project. Previous extensions of time (to May 1, 2018 and May 1, 2019) had been granted to avoid interference with a Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) bridge replacement project that was occurring within the project boundary. In the 2017 request, BWPH clarified that discussions with the USFWS, NMFS, and MDMR had centered around alternative fish passage measures on the Saco River that may be more beneficial than a new fish passage facility at the Bar Mills Project. FERC approved the extension of time on January 18, 2018. By Order dated July 17, 2019⁴, FERC approved a 2019 Saco River Fisheries Agreement Amendment which revised the 2007 Fish Passage Assessment Agreement and the fish installation schedule contained therein. The operational date for upstream fish passage facilities at the Project (or alternative developed in consultation with fisheries agencies), under the terms of the 2019 Saco River Fisheries Assessment Agreement Amendment is May 1, 2025.

Downstream fish passage, constructed in 2000, operating in 2001, currently occurs via spill due to the powerhouse units being permanently offline. The fish passage facility

⁴ 168 FERC ¶ 62,035

consists of a seven- foot-wide gate leading to a metal flume which deposits downstream migrating fish into a permanently watered pool.

Recreation

Article 403 of the Project license required the Licensee to file, by February 28, 2009, documentation that the recreation facility improvements required by the license were completed, including:

- Improve the existing canoe portage take-out and parking area to accommodate trailered boats, including two trailered parking spaces, one accessible parking space, a concrete plank launch, and signage;
- Provide and designate an angler access trail to the upper bypass reach, including erosion control, vegetation clearing and signage;
- Provide steps and a landing at the existing canoe put-in site to enhance access to the tailrace area, including signage and erosion control; and
- Stabilize minor bank erosion near the canoe put-in site.

Documentation of completion of the recreation improvements for the Project was provided to FERC via letter dated January 5, 2010, which FERC approved via letter dated January 26, 2010. BWPH currently maintains the Bar Mills boat launch, bypass reach angler access trail, and the canoe portage trail and ingress.

Historic and Cultural Resources

Cultural resources investigations of the Bar Mills Project conducted during the relicensing effort resulted in the identification of three pre-European archaeological sites, possessing evidence for cultural occupations dating from the Late Paleoindian period to the Middle Ceramic period (ca. 10,200-950 years ago), as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No historic structures were determined to be affected by the Project.

An historic properties management plan (HPMP) for the Bar Mills Project was filed on December 27, 2004. Ordering paragraph (F) of the Project license approves the HPMP, and Article 404 requires the Licensee to implement the HPMP as well as the Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Maine Historic Preservation Officer (Maine SHPO) for Managing Historic Properties that May be Affected by a License for the Bar Mills Project. in York County, Maine (FERC No. 2194-020). The PA and HPMP specify how the three historic sites, as well as any new discoveries, would be managed during the license term.

The location and nature of the historic sites is privileged. The sites have been monitored for potential erosion as part of the HPMP.

5.0 **PROPOSED ACTION AND ISSUES IDENTIFICATION**

5.1 Proposed Action

The Bar Mills Project has significant operational challenges that have prevented the generating units from running for the last five years. These challenges are associated with an unavoidable condition called Alkali Aggregate Reactivity (AAR) which occurs when certain aggregates used in the concrete for the dam and/or powerhouse absorb water and cause expansion and cracking over a period of many years. There is no long-term remedy for AAR except full reconstruction.

BWPH determined that surrendering the FERC Project license and decommissioning the Project through a partial breach is the most viable solution in balancing operational, environmental, and future dam safety needs.

Without an economically viable solution to return the generating units to an operable condition, Bar Mills is uniquely suited for the surrender of its license and a pathway to decommissioning. In order to address fish passage requirements as part of the decommissioning, BWPH has consulted with state and federal agencies to evaluate removal alternatives. BWPH proposes partial removal of the dam to an extent that addresses agency design criteria for upstream fish passage. Components of existing facilities that would be removed include the right (East) half portion of a submerged timber crib dam upstream of the Bar Mills dam, the right half of the main spillway, and the canal spillway and headworks (Figure 3). The current conceptual layout would also include a new diversion weir (approximately two to three feet high) at the upstream end of the canal to direct flow and downstream migrating fish away from the canal, and a drain gate opening at the downstream end of the canal to allow the canal to drain after high flow conditions.



Figure 3 Project Features to be Removed

5.1.1 Issues Identification

In developing a preferred alternative for the proposed action, BWPH has identified the following issues to be addressed as part of the surrender and decommissioning process:

- Effects of partial dam removal on flows and water levels
- Effects of partial removal on upstream and downstream migratory fish passage
- Effects of partial dam removal on existing recreational facilities
- Effects of partial dam removal on land use and ownership: Project Boundary encumbrance (surrender) and additional lands created by removal (decommissioning)

Effects of removal on other resources (e.g., water quality, terrestrial, and historical resources) will be addressed in the surrender application, as necessary. Additional issues raised through agency consultation and public comment periods will also be addressed, as appropriate, in the surrender application process.

Decommissioning via partial breach also requires several federal (US Army Corps of Engineers), state (Maine Department of Environmental Protection Maine Waterway Development and Construction Act), and local (Saco River Corridor Commission) permits, depending on the nature of the decommissioning.

Flow and Water Levels

The Bar Mills Project was formerly operated in a daily cycling mode; however, following the shut-down of the generating units, operation was transitioned to run-of-river, with inflow approximating outflow. Due to this type of operation, flows following the decommissioning of the Project are not likely to be seriously impacted and will be allowed to return to their near natural levels.

Normal water levels (50% exceedance or 2,725 cfs) in the river upstream of the Project are anticipated to be reduced by approximately 2.5 feet (Figure 4) following partial removal of the dam; however, the effects of the reduced water levels will be lessened due to the natural topography of the riverbed. Flow durations will not change as inflow to this segment of the river will not be affected by the proposed partial removal of the dam.





Fish Passage

As part of BWPH conceptual designs, developed in consultation with fisheries agencies, removal criteria considered zone of passage and velocities at a range of flows (5, 50, and 95% exceedance conditions⁶) for Atlantic salmon, American shad, blueback herring, alewife, and sea lamprey. In evaluating partial and full removal BWPH utilized *Federal Interagency Nature-like Fishway Passage Design Guidelines for Atlantic Coast Diadromous Fishes* (Turek, J., A. Haro, and B. Towler. 2016) and 1- and 2-dimensional hydraulic modeling. BWPH is proposing partial dam removal utilizing nature-like fishway design criteria to provide volitional passage that will provide effective fish passage with a natural channel configuration that is preferable over a lift or ladder in the particular situation. Hydraulic modeling demonstrated that under modeled conditions for 95% exceedance (high flow conditions) flow velocities in the target criteria range exist over a significantly wider zone (Figure 5), while at 5% exceedance (low flow conditions) provide a wider zone of suitable depths for upstream passage (Figure 6).

⁵ Station 0 is the upstream extent of the Bar Mills project boundary at the West Buxton tailwater.

⁶ 5, 50, and 95% exceedance values are calculated to be 9,900 cfs, 2,725 cfs, and 762 cfs, respectively.

Partial Removal w/ Low Flow Channel

Full Removal







Partial Removal



Full Removal





Recreation Facilities

The recreation facilities around the Bar Mills Project will remain available for public use. Because the reduced water levels are likely to reduce accessibility by motorized watercraft, the existing boat launch that had been hand-carry and was modified in 2010 to accommodate trailered boat access will be returned to a hand-carry facility to accommodate canoe and kayak access. Access to Usher Island and the associated trails will remain, as well as the current canoe portage.

Land Ownership/Use

There are two considerations for landowners abutting the Project lands: Project boundary encumbrance associated with the license surrender, and additional lands created by decommissioning and removal.

The Project Boundary encompasses lands and waters necessary for the operation of the hydro facility, this includes lands and flowage rights up to El. 148.5 ft MSL around the impoundment that may or may not be owned in fee by BWPH, as well as several BWPH-owned parcels containing the powerhouse, recreation sites, and appurtenant facilities. Upon license surrender, the Project Boundary will no longer exist, and the lands within the former Project Boundary not owned by BWPH will no longer be encumbered by eminent domain rights under the FERC license, no longer needing BWPH permission for structures such as docks, etc. Lands and structures owned by BWPH will remain retained by the Company.

Additionally, a new normal waterline for the Saco River will be established following the partial removal of the dam, creating additional acreage for landowners adjacent to the former impoundment. These lands would previously have been subject to BWPH's flowage rights, but would become part of the adjacent landowner's property, held in fee, at least up to the bank of the Saco River, following the Project decommissioning.

Cultural Resources

The Bar Mills Project was extensively rebuilt in the 1950's, resulting in a finding of no significant historic architectural properties within the area of potential effect (APE), as concluded by MHPC in a February 4, 2002 letter during the relicensing of the Bar Mills Project. This finding is due to the non-unique design and construction materials used for the redevelopment of the Project, having not been particularly representative of a specific time period.

A 2002 Phase I Archeological Study identified nine potential sites of interest, necessitating a Phase II Study. The Phase II Study indicated there are three pre-European sites that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places for which an Historic Properties Management Plan was developed pursuant to Article 404 of the Project License.

The three sites are located upstream of the Bar Mills Dam and have benefited from stable water elevations, which will not be adversely affected by the reduction in river elevation back to its natural level.

6.0 **PROCESS SCHEDULE**

BWPH has been developing a preliminary plan for decommissioning the dam and surrendering the Project license and has been consulting with state and federal agencies since 2019 including:

- BWPH filed the 2019 Amendment to the 2007 Saco River Fish Passage Settlement Agreement which called for fish passage (or an alternative including dam decommissioning) at the Bar Mills Project with a target date of May 2025, which was approved by FERC on July 17, 2019.
- On December 17, 2021: BWPH held a meeting with resource agencies to discuss preliminary plans for decommissioning of the dam and surrender of the license.
- On January 12, 2021: BWPH held a pre-application meeting with Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) staff to determine the statutory and regulatory requirements that apply to Bar Mills Project surrender and decommissioning.
- On May 19, 2023: BWPH held a follow-up meeting with federal and state resource agencies to discuss preliminary plans for a partial breach and removal and solicited agency comments.
- August 2022: BWPH will hold a Public Informational Meeting in accordance with the MWDCA requirements and to inform the FERC surrender application and decommissioning plan; BWPH will post a brief scoping document for review on our website
- Summer 2022: BWPH will accept public comment on the preliminary decommissioning plan/scoping document and hold additional Public Informational Meetings, as requested and necessary
- Late 2022: BWPH will provide a draft FERC surrender application and decommissioning plan to federal and state agencies and make the application available to the general public on our website for 90-day review and comment.
- Early 2023: BWPH will file the final surrender application and decommissioning plan with FERC, a USACE permit, and an MWDCA application with the MDEP; all three applications will be publicly noticed
- 2023: Federal and state agencies and the general public will have opportunities to comment on the final FERC application, USACE application, and MDEP MWDCA application; additional public meetings may be requested for these processes
- Summer of 2024: BWPH intends to commence construction activities to decommission Bar Mills Dam