

APPENDIX A

TOWN DECOMMISSIONING COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Bar Mills Dam Decommissioning Committee

Introduction

In the spring of 2025, a local Committee made up of representatives from the Town of Buxton and the Town of Hollis was formed to provide community input on the decommissioning of the Bar Mills Project. The following summarizes the Committee's goals, process and outcomes to date.

Committee Goals

- Serve as liaisons between Brookfield White Pine Hydro (BWPH) and residents.
- Provide comments on the Draft Study Report (DSR).
- Share perspectives, concerns and ideas regarding decommissioning.

Committee Process

- The Committee held three meetings with BWPH in August and September to review the DSR and discuss the decommissioning process.
- Committee meetings were facilitated by a neutral 3rd party and documented in a series of Outcomes Memorandums (see attached).
- The Committee process was established in hopes of establishing a partnership between BWPH and the Towns that promotes mutual understanding and cooperation on the decommissioning for the Bar Mills Project.

Outcomes To Date

In the near-term, BWPH and the Towns of Buxton and Hollis have committed to continue working together on the following items:

- Wells – Identifying adjacent residents' private drinking water wells that could be impacted by decommissioning and developing an appropriate mitigation strategy;
- Fire Suppression – Considering and pursuing alternative intakes or otherwise for the dry hydrants in the vicinity of the Bar Mills project that are impacted post dam removal;
- Public Access – Identify opportunities for future public access to the river, including access for flatwater paddling;
- Dam Removal – Evaluate full spillway removal versus partial spillway removal;
- Rogers Fibre Mill – Evaluate opportunities to fill and cap the old Fibre Mill foundation and site in full coordination with the Town of Buxton.

Each of these items will require collecting more information and evaluating potential mitigation options over the course of the next several months and years leading up to decommissioning.

Specific activities planned to advance these commitments are described in more detail section below.

Summary of Discussions

The following summarizes topics discussed by the Decommissioning Committee, comments and concerns expressed and responses from BWPH. Some of these items discussed pertain directly to the DSR, while others focus on the Decommissioning Plan.

Draft Study Report

Following consultation with federal and state resource agencies, stakeholders, and the general public in 2022 and 2023, BWPH published a draft study plan in May 2023 and a final study plan in August 2023. Unfortunately, the 2023 study season proved challenging due to higher-than-normal summer precipitation and the bulk of the study work was delayed until 2024.

Information in the DSR will be used to inform development of a Decommissioning Plan and Surrender Application, which are scheduled to be prepared in early 2026.

The following summarizes comments from the Decommissioning Committee regarding the DSR, and BWPH's response. Additional details can be found in the attached meeting Outcomes Memos.

- Full vs Partial Removal - The DSR is unclear at times about what removal is being discussed. The report should be more consistent and concise when discussing removal options.
 Response: The DSR has been revised to improve clarity. The intent is to provide information on both partial and full spillway removal.
- Sediments in the Power Canal - The DSR does not provide any information on sediments in the power canal or future flows/water in the canal.
 - Response: Sediment sampling was conducted in the canal. Section 3 of the DSR presents a summary of findings. There is no intent to dredge or otherwise disturb sediments in the canal. Information regarding future canal inundation is provided below under the Decommissioning Plan.
- Eel Passage – The DSR relies on data regarding Sea Lamprey to draw conclusion regarding impacts on American eels. These are very different fish species with distinctly different behaviors. Sea Lamprey are not a good surrogate for American eels.
 Response: The DSR has been revised to provide information specific to American Eels.
- Recreation Survey and Access to Still Water - Findings from the recreation survey are not representative due to the high flow conditions that were present at the time of the

survey. Recreational use is higher than reported in the DSR. The existing boat launch will not provide access for still water paddling.

Response: The DSR has been revised to acknowledge the limitations of the 2023 survey. BWPH is open to exploring alternative public access opportunities.

- Wells - There is limited information regarding wells that could be affected by decommissioning.

Response – BWPH is working with the Town of Buxton and the Town of Hollis to identify wells that could be impacted, and to implement a landowner survey to gather more information on these wells. BWPH is committed to mitigating for adverse impacts to wells, but needs sufficient information to ensure the impacts are related to decommissioning. It will be difficult to determine impacts until after the spillway is removed, but data on the status and condition of existing wells prior to removal will be important to assessing future impacts.

- Wetland and Wildlife Impacts - Concern was expressed regarding impacts to wetlands and wildlife due to lowered water levels post spillway removal (partial or full). The DSR is not explicit regarding plans for monitoring post removal.

Response – The DSR provides a detailed analysis of expected impacts to wetlands and wildlife. The Decommissioning Plan will include plans for post removal monitoring.

Decommissioning Plan

A formal Decommissioning Plan has not yet been developed. BWPH is currently collecting information, including agency and public input, that will inform the Decommissioning Plan. An initial proposal was developed in 2022 as the basis for determining the scope of the Draft Study Plan.

The following outlines elements of the initial decommissioning proposal, input received from the Committee on those elements and BWPH's response to that input. Additional details can be found in the attached meeting Outcomes Memos.

- Fire Suppression – Lowered water levels in the river post dam removal will impact existing fire hydrants near the dam. BWPH discussed options for mitigating this impact with the Committee and is currently working with the Fire Chiefs from both towns to identify options for replacing the existing fire suppression capability.
- Spillway Removal – BWPH's initial decommissioning proposal focused on a partial spillway removal strategy to ensure adequate depths for upstream fish passage and to reduce the risk of disturbing the adjacent Rogers Fibre Mill Superfund site. Public comments received in 2022 indicated concerns regarding the public safety and aesthetics of a partial spillway removal.

Response: The DSR includes analyses of both a partial and a full spillway removal. BWPH is currently collecting information on the costs of both removal strategies. No decision has been made regarding whether full or partial spillway removal will be proposed in the Decommissioning Plan.

- Powerhouse – Committee members expressed concern that the Town of Hollis could have a future liability and financial burden if the powerhouse is abandoned in the future (similar to the situation with the Fibre Mill in Buxton). Committee members also expressed concern regarding public safety (attractive nuisance) and potential environmental contamination if the powerhouse were abandoned in the future.

Response: BWPH understands and appreciates the Committee's concerns. The powerhouse has value to BWPH and as such BWPH does not intend to demolish the powerhouse structure. BWPH is committed to maintaining the powerhouse structure to ensure it's safe and secure. The powerhouse is structurally sound and does not contain any oil or other hazardous materials. There is a transformer on the roof of the powerhouse that contains oil. BWPH is considering removing the existing crane and securing the water passageways. BWPH is open to lowering or removing the existing headgates. BWPH is also open to installing security cameras and vegetative plantings to provide additional security and visually screen the structure.

- Power Canal and Canal Spillway – Committee members asked for more information on plans for the future of the power canal and the canal spillway located at the end of the power canal. Committee members asked if the canal could be filled and expressed concern regarding public safety associated with the canal spillway if it's left in place (i.e. could become an attractive nuisance).

- Response: The initial decommissioning proposal includes constructing a new concrete weir (2-3 feet high) at the entrance to the power canal to keep water in the main channel of the river to facilitate fish passage. At high flows, greater than 9,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), water would overtop the weir and enter the power canal. An existing pipe in the canal spillway would be maintained to facilitate draining of the canal. Flows greater than 9,000 cfs generally occur 2-3 times per year. The canal is expected to drain in roughly a day once weir overtopping ceases. The canal is expected to revegetate fairly rapidly after decommissioning. Due to the depth of the canal (over 12' in some places) filling the canal would be cost prohibitive. The canal spillway would remain in place, and fencing would remain to prevent public access.

ATTACHMENTS

MEMORANDUM

To: Bar Mills Dam Decommissioning Committee
From: Bruce DiGennaro, The Essex Partnership
Cc: Brookfield White Pine Hydro
Date: September 9, 2025 Final
Re: August 26, 2025, Bar Mills Decommissioning Committee Meeting

Meeting Attendees:

Renee Lewis (Committee Member)	Jamie Marshall (Committee Member)
Jim Boutin (Committee Member)	Terry Walters (Committee Member)
Mark Woodruff (Committee Member)	Matt LeBlanc (BWPH)
Mark Blier (Committee Member)	Ryan Nadeau (BWPH)
Paul Mattor (Committee Member)	Andy Qua (KA)
Dan Yarumian (Committee Member)	Hannah Flanagan (KA)
Heath Knight (Committee Member)	Kevin Cooley (KA)
David Field (Selectman - Buxton)	Bruce DiGennaro (Facilitator)

Action Items

- Wells - Committee members and Brookfield White Pine Hydro (BWPH) to work with the Town of Hollis and the Town of Buxton to implement a survey to obtain information on wells in the vicinity of the impoundment.
- Fire Suppression - Invite fire officials to a subsequent meeting to discuss fire suppression needs and options, or establish a subcommittee to meet with them and report back to the full Committee.
- Canal - Kleinschmidt to provide hydrologic modeling data regarding the frequency of canal inundation post dam removal and weir construction.
- Drawings – Committee members to identify specific drawings or information they would like to see and Kleinschmidt to explore options for making such information available to the Committee.
- Stakeholder and Public Outreach - Committee members to work with BWPH on communication and outreach. Discuss specifics at a subsequent meeting
- Previous Comments – Kleinschmidt to review and share comments regarding the draft study plan with the Committee

Outcomes

- Ground Rules - The Committee agreed to the following ground rules:
 - Commit to consistent participation.
 - Listen to each other – be curious.

- Use respectful language.
- Respect the agenda and people's time – be concise.
- Discussion Topics - The Committee identified the following list of items for discussion. The items shown in *red italics* were discussed at the meeting. Other items were tabled for discussion at future meetings.
 - *Process*
 - *Regulatory*
 - *Construction*
 - *Sediment – Risk Assessment*
 - Water levels
 - Property impacts upstream
 - Instream flow requirements
 - Water quality
 - *Wells*
 - *Fish passage*
 - *Invasive vegetation/revegetation*
 - *Recreation*
 - *Safety and practicality of boat launch at dam*
 - Public access
 - Public safety
 - *Fire suppression – dry hydrants*
 - Aesthetics
 - Lands
 - Future ownership
 - Future use of Brookfield lands
 - Historic structures
 - *Powerhouse*
 - *Potential future financial burden for towns*
 - *Canal*
 - *Future condition (how often wet?)*
 - Sediment
 - *Rogers Fibre Mill*
 - *Drawings*
 - Previous comments
 - *Communication with stakeholders and the public*
- Future Meetings - The Committee scheduled additional meetings as follows:
 - *September 8 from 4pm to 7pm* – site visit and meeting – meet at boat ramp at the dam at 4pm.
 - *September 26 from 8:30am to 11:30am*
- 9/8 Meeting Topics - The Committee agreed to focus on the following items at its next meeting scheduled for 9/8:
 - Recreation, including loss of flatwater opportunities
 - Public safety
 - Powerhouse, including future liabilities/burden to the towns

- Canal
- Wells – The Committee agreed to work with BWPH on implementation of a survey to obtain information on wells in the vicinity of the impoundment.
- Invasive Species – The Committee acknowledged that some invasive vegetation will populate shoreline lands exposed due to decommissioning, but that it's not practical to control invasive vegetation except through the use of herbicides, which is not desirable near waterbodies.

Discussion Highlights

- Committee Purpose and Goals:
 - BWPH's hope for the Committee process is to establish a partnership with the Towns of Hollis and the Town of Buxton that promotes mutual understanding and cooperation for the decommissioning for the Bar Mills dam on the Saco River.
 - Committee goals are to:
 - Serve as liaisons between BWPH and residents.
 - Provide comments on the Draft Study Report.
 - Share perspectives, concerns and ideas regarding decommissioning.
- Process and Timeline Going Forward
 - Committee to hold three meetings between August and November 2025.
 - Wrap up comments from Committee on Draft Study Report in September.
 - Revise Draft Study Report and release for public review by the end of September, or sooner if possible.
 - Hold a public meeting on the Draft Study Report (ideally in October 2025).
 - Use comments on the Draft Study Report, and other input from the Committee to inform BWPH's surrender application to FERC.
 - Submit the FERC license surrender application in early 2026 (target a draft in January and a final in March).
 - BWPH will submit their proposed final design as part of the surrender application. FERC will decide what the final design will be through their regulatory process, including stakeholder input.
 - The FERC process will include additional opportunities for public comment and is expected to take a year to complete with a final order expected in mid to late 2027.
 - Construction is anticipated to start in the fall of 2027 and expected to take 6 months to complete.
 - Committee members inquired about the factors that would be considered in deciding on a partial vs a full spillway removal. BWPH indicated the primary factors would be environmental considerations, cost and public input.
- Initial Comments on Draft Study Report
 - The report is unclear at times about what removal is being discussed. Some sections discuss full spillway removal, while other sections discuss a partial spillway removal. The report should be more consistent and concise when discussing removal options.

- The report is missing information regarding plans for the power canal, including information on sediments in the canal and future flows/water in the canal.
- Clarify plans regarding the existing boat launch adjacent to the dam. How far into the water will it extend, practicality of extension, safety, etc.
- The Fish Passage section of the report relies on data regarding Sea Lamprey to draw conclusion regarding impacts on American eels. These are very different fish species with distinctly different behaviors. Sea Lamprey are not a good surrogate for American eels.
- Findings from the recreation survey are not representative due to the high flow conditions that were present at the time of the survey. Recreational use is higher than reported in the Draft Study Report.
- Sediment
 - The Committee briefly discussed sediments upstream of the dam.
 - Kleinschmidt explained that testing indicates that there are very few fine sediments behind the dam.
- Wells
 - There is limited information regarding wells that could be affected by decommissioning.
 - The Committee agreed that the towns are in a better position to reach out to landowners regarding existing wells in the vicinity of the impoundment.
 - Kleinschmidt has prepared a draft survey for well owners.
 - Committee representatives agreed to work with BWPH and the towns to implement the survey (**Action Item**).
 - BWPH is committed to mitigating for adverse impacts to wells, but needs sufficient information to ensure the impacts are related to decommissioning.
 - It will be difficult to determine impacts until after the spillway is removed, but data on the status and condition of existing wells prior to removal will be important to assessing future impacts.
- Recreation – Flatwater Boating
 - Committee members expressed concern that there will be a loss of flatwater boating opportunities once the dam is removed.
 - Concern was also expressed that the existing boat ramp adjacent to the dam in Hollis may not be safe, or practical as a hand carry launch. There is currently soft sediment/mud in this area that could be a problem for water craft, and the current may be quite strong at or near the launch post removal. The site would not provide access to flatwater, and would not be conducive to paddling upstream.
 - An alternative access site, upstream of the bridge pilings would be better, and would provide opportunities for flatwater paddling.
 - There is land behind the Hollis Town Hall that is owned by the Town of Hollis that might be an option for an alternative boat launch/take-out location.
 - Committee members stated the impoundment receives more recreational use, including use by flatwater paddlers than is reflected in the Draft Study Report, which is based on survey data collected during abnormally high water levels and is therefore misleading.

- Committee members inquired about debris in the river upstream of the dam, particularly wood and bolts associated with old anchors used for historic log drives. Members expressed concern that these features could be hazards if exposed and not removed.
- Kleinschmidt clarified that the current plan does not anticipate removing these historic features.
- Fish Passage (upstream)
 - Committee members asked for clarification on why the Draft Study Report concludes that partial removal would be better for fish passage.
 - Kleinschmidt staff explained that a partial removal would result in a narrower river with deeper water at the dam location, which would be better for fish passage.
 - The Draft Study Report concludes that fish passage would also be viable under a full spillway removal scenario.
 - Committee members noted that fish successfully passed upstream through the area prior to the dam being built.
- Fire Suppression (dry hydrants)
 - There are two existing hydrants that will be impacted by decommissioning
 - Committee members suggested working with local fire officials on options for fire suppression and alternative hydrant locations.
 - Alternative hydrants should be determined based on need.
 - The Committee could invite fire officials to a subsequent meeting to discuss, or a subset of the Committee could organize a subcommittee to meet with them and report back to the Committee (**Action Item**).
- Rogers Fibre Mill
 - BWPH clarified that the intent is to avoid disturbing the foundation of the Rogers Fibre Mill under either a partial or a full spillway scenario.
 - The spillway on the Buxton side of the river would be removed up to the existing Fibre Mill foundation.
 - Committee members asked if it would be possible to fill/cover, or demolish the Fibre Mill foundation while construction was occurring onsite.
 - BWPH indicated it would be willing to discuss options with the Town of Buxton, if the Town was able to secure funding for work on the foundation and protect BWPH from any liability associated with the superfund site.
 - It may be easier to remove the Fibre Mill foundation once the spillway is removed as it will be in the dry.
- Powerhouse
 - BWPH intends to keep and maintain the powerhouse for storage or other future uses.
 - Committee members expressed concern that the Town of Hollis could have a future liability/financial burden if the powerhouse is abandoned in the future (similar to the situation with the Fibre Mill in Buxton).
 - Committee members also expressed concern regarding public safety (attractive nuisance) and potential environmental contamination if the powerhouse were abandoned in the future.

- Committee members expressed interest in a Phase 1 assessment and the possibility of a bond.
- BWPH indicated that, like other private property owners in the Town, they have discretion regarding their property so long as they are not violating any laws.
- Kleinschmidt pointed out that there are case studies that the Committee could look at where powerhouses have been left in tact and maintained following decommissioning (e.g. Fort Halifax).
- Canal
 - Committee members noted that there is no information in the Draft Study Report on the nature of the sediments in the canal.
 - Kleinschmidt clarified that there is no intent to dredge or otherwise disturb sediments in the canal.
 - Committee members expressed interest in understanding how often the canal would be wet post dam removal.
 - Kleinschmidt indicated that there is hydrologic modeling data that could be shared with the Committee to better understand the frequency of inundation, which would occur during high flow event when the weir is overtopped (**Action Item**).
 - Kleinschmidt clarified that filling the canal would require a tremendous amount of material (the canal is up to 12' deep in places) and would be cost prohibitive. The current plan is to construct a weir to keep water out of the canal except for extremely high-water events, and to maintain a drainage pipe at the downstream end of the canal which would keep the canal largely dry. The canal is expected to revegetate fairly rapidly after decommissioning.
- Drawings
 - Committee members expressed interest in seeing FERC Exhibit F and G drawings that are referenced in the Draft Study Report.
 - Kleinschmidt indicated that some of these drawings are classified as Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) and not available to the public for safety reasons.
 - It may be possible to share some of the drawings, or specific information from the drawings with the Committee (**Action Item**).
- Communication with Stakeholders and the Public
 - Committee members asked about plans to engage the public and other stakeholders.
 - BWPH indicated that it intended to hold a public meeting on the Draft Study Report, and that the FERC process included a number of opportunities for additional agency, public and stakeholder engagement.
 - Committee members offered to work with BWPH on communication and outreach, and agreed to discuss this issue more at a subsequent meeting (**Action Item**).
 - Specific stakeholders that were mentioned by the Committee were: the Saco River Corridor Commission and the Buxton and Hollis Fish and Game Club.
- Background
 - The project has been off-line since 2017 due to expanding concrete that is affecting the generating units.

- The project's existing FERC license was set to expire in 2024.
- Upstream fish passage was anticipated as a condition of a new FERC license.
- Addressing the concrete issue and the fish passage issue render the hydro project uneconomical.
- BWPH notified FERC of its intention to surrender the license in Nov 2020.
- With the project off-line, BWPH has maintained the dam and river flow.
- BWPH initiated a draft study planning process, including soliciting public comments in 2022.
- Studies were delayed due to high water in 2024.
- A Draft Study Report was prepared and provided to the Town Committee members in August 20

MEMORANDUM

To: Bar Mills Dam Decommissioning Committee
From: Bruce DiGennaro, The Essex Partnership
Cc: Brookfield White Pine Hydro
Date: September 30, 2025 Final
Re: September 8, 2025, Bar Mills Decommissioning Committee Meeting

Meeting Attendees:

Renee Lewis (Committee Member)	Cindy Fanning (Committee Member)
Jim Boutin (Committee Member)	Terry Walters (Committee Member)
Mark Woodruff (Committee Member)	Chris Young (Hollis Fire Chief)
Mark Blier (Committee Member)	Nathan Schools (Buxton Fire Chief)
Paul Mattor (Committee Member)	Matt LeBlanc (BWPH)
Heath Knight (Committee Member)	Ryan Nadeau (BWPH)
Jaime Marshall (Committee Member)	Andy Qua (KA)
Dan Yarumian (Committee Member)	Bruce DiGennaro (Facilitator)

Action Items

- Wells - Committee members Lewis and Woodruff will help to identify landowners that should be contacted and receive a survey, and will provide advice on how best to contact individuals. Kleinschmidt will provide a draft survey.
- Fire Suppression – Committee member Walters will participate with Brookfield staff in a follow-up meeting with the Hollis and Buxton fire chiefs to discuss alternative locations for new hydrants to replace the hydrants that will be dry as a result of removing the dam.
- Recreation/Public Access – Committee Member Walters to work on an initial proposal for future public access and recreation in concert with discussions regarding access for Fire Suppression.
- Drawings – Kleinschmidt to bring drawings of the Powerhouse and Fibre Mill to the next Committee meeting.
- Survey Information – Brookfield to locate and share property survey information for the project area with the Committee.
- Canal - Kleinschmidt to provide hydrologic modeling data regarding the frequency of canal inundation post dam removal and weir construction (action from 8/26)
- Previous Comments – Kleinschmidt to review and share comments regarding the draft study plan with the Committee (action from 8/26)

Outcomes

- **Draft Study Report** - The Committee recommended that more time be devoted to discussing decommissioning plans and questions raised by the Committee prior to releasing the Draft Study Report to the public. Some Committee members would also like more time to review the Draft Study Report.
- **Public Engagement** – The Committee recommended that details regarding the decommissioning plan be developed before engaging with the broader public. Such plans should be made available in concert with the Draft Study Report so there is more context for the report. Information on the topics being discussed by the Committee should also be shared with the public. The Committee suggested engagement with the Committee possibly in November.
- **Topics for 9/26 Meetings** - The Committee identified the following topics for discussion at the upcoming meeting on 9/26/25:
 - *Fire suppression (report back from follow-up discussions with the fire chiefs)*
 - *Recreation*
 - *Lands*
 - *Powerhouse*
 - *Water levels (wetlands)*
 - *Drawings*
 - *Previous comments*
 - *Decommissioning proposal*

Discussion Highlights

- **Draft Study Report**
 - Brookfield White Pine Hydro (BWPH) representatives clarified that the Draft Study Report is an informational document intended to inform the decommissioning plan. The decommissioning plan and surrender application to FERC will be a separate document that will provide details on the proposed approach to decommissioning.
 - Committee members recommended that release of the Draft Study Report include additional context on the process and decommissioning plan, either in the form of a preface or cover letter, to avoid confusion.
 - The Committee further recommended that BWPH have more discussions regarding decommissioning with the Committee before releasing the Draft Study Plan to the public.
 - Some Committee members expressed a desire for more time to review the Draft Study Plan before public release.
 - The Committee suggested planning for public engagement in November rather than October.
- **Powerhouse**
 - Committee members reiterated concerns about future liability associated with the Powerhouse if it's abandoned and left to the town to deal with in 30 or 40 years, similar to the Fibre Mill situation.

- Committee members requested more information on plans for removing, or otherwise dealing with various elements at the powerhouse such as the crane and headgates.
- Committee members asked about the structural integrity of the building and seepage/stains on the exterior wall adjacent to the river. BWPH staff noted that the building was structurally sound and that concrete movement has been monitored since 1969, with no movement since 2015. Staff further indicated that alkali and rust stains on the exterior walls were not indicative of any structural issues and were a common occurrence on concrete structures in the Northeast.
- Committee members asked if there was a cost estimate for removing the powerhouse and requested that a Phase 1 evaluation be done.
- BWPH reiterated its intent to retain, utilize and maintain the powerhouse post project decommissioning.
- Canal and Dam
 - During the site visit, Committee members expressed concern about the liability of people accessing the remnants of the dam if there is a partial spillway removal, and the canal spillway near the powerhouse if it's left in place, as currently proposed.
 - Committee members also expressed concern about dam remnants under partial removal collecting debris which could be an eyesore.
 - Committee members noted that remnant elements could become an attractive nuisance, and a public safety hazard.
 - Committee members expressed interest in having the canal spillway demolished as part of decommissioning.
- Fire Suppression
 - During the site visit, which included participation by the fire chiefs from the towns of Hollis and Buxton, there was discussion regarding the impact of dam removal and the lowering of the impoundment on existing fire hydrants.
 - BWPH staff agreed to have further discussions with the fire chiefs and Committee members regarding options for relocating the affected hydrants, or otherwise providing for access to the water for fire suppression.
- Existing Boat Launch at Dam
 - During the site visit, the Committee discussed concerns regarding the viability of the existing boat launch for hand carry boats. Committee members reiterated earlier concerns that the site would not provide a lot of value for boaters as it would no longer provide access to flatwater and would be in the middle of fast moving water post dam removal. The site also currently contains soft mud that could be an issue for boaters. There is existing access for boaters below the powerhouse that could be sufficient for boaters and tubers.
 - The Committee recognized that the existing site would have value for anglers and other recreationist looking to get to the water, and could be attractive for tubers.
 - The Town Fire Chiefs noted that the existing boat ramp is an important access point for public safety in the event of a rescue situation.

- The site could also have value as an access point to water for fire trucks, but it could be a distance to the water post removal, and any ramp or road to the water would need to be sufficient to handle the weight of a fire truck.
- Wetland and Wildlife Impacts
 - A Committee member expressed concern regarding impacts to wetlands and wildlife due to lowered water levels post spillway removal (partial or full), and requested an opportunity for more input on this issue.
 - The Committee member also asked for more details regarding post removal monitoring that is mentioned in the Draft Study Plan.
- Rogers Fibre Mill Site
 - Committee members reiterated interest in exploring opportunities to collapse and fill the old foundation at the Fibre Mill.
 - BWPH staff clarified that the mill foundation is considered part of the dam and is owned by Brookfield. The remainder of the old mill site is owned by the Town of Buxton.
 - The Committee noted that any activity related to the Fibre Mill would require consultation and coordination with Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including any activity that would affect the existing drainage pipe on the site.
 - Committee members noted that the site could potentially be used as a disposal site for material from the dam.
 - A Committee member noted that the site could possibly be used for a water holding tank for fire suppression.

MEMORANDUM

To: Bar Mills Dam Decommissioning Committee
From: Bruce DiGennaro, The Essex Partnership
Cc: Brookfield White Pine Hydro
Date: October 21, 2025 Final
Re: September 26, 2025, Bar Mills Decommissioning Committee Meeting

Meeting Attendees:

Renee Lewis (Committee Member)	Terry Walters (Committee Member)
Jim Boutin (Committee Member)	Matt LeBlanc (BWPH)
Mark Woodruff (Committee Member)	Ryan Nadeau (BWPH)
Paul Mattor (Committee Member)	Kayla Pocquette (BWPH)
Heath Knight (Committee Member)	Andy Qua (KA)
Jamie Marshall (Committee Member)	Kevin Cooley (KA)
Dan Yarumian (Committee Member)	Hannah Flanagan (KA)
Cindy Fanning (Committee Member)	Bruce DiGennaro (Facilitator)

Action Items

- Fire Suppression – BWPH to share outcomes from meetings with the Buxton and Hollis Fire Chiefs with Committee members.
- Wells – Towns to distribute surveys to identified property owners with wells in the vicinity of the project.
- Property Survey Information – BWPH to share current property survey information for the project area with the Committee, including a map showing the existing FERC project boundary.
- Summary of Committee Discussions – Bruce to prepare summary of Committee discussions to date as context for the public.

Outcomes

- Fire Suppression – BWPH will continue to work with the Fire Chiefs for Buxton and Hollis to identify suitable locations for replacement hydrants or holding tanks. Several possible alternatives to the existing hydrants that will be affected by decommissioning have been identified.
- Alternative Boat Launch Locations – BWPH will continue to work with the towns regarding public access as the decommissioning plan is developed. Committee member Walters has identified several possible locations for an alternative hand carry launch location for

access to still water on the Hollis side of the river, including the cemetery, a private non-profit landowner and Town property behind the Town Hall.

- Wells – The Towns will take the lead in distributing a survey in the next 2-3 weeks to landowners whose wells may be impacted by decommissioning. The Towns will follow-up with individuals that do not respond to the survey.
- Draft Study Report (DSR)
 - The DSR will be revised to reflect comments received from the Committee.
 - The revised DSR will be released as a draft for agency and public review in mid-October.
 - The Committee suggested providing a 45-day comment period.
 - Additional information will be provided with the report documenting recent discussions with the Committee, including ongoing work regarding fire suppression and wells, and Outcomes Memos from Committee meetings will be made available.
- Public Meeting – BWPH will host a public meeting near the end of October to provide an update on decommissioning and to request comments on the DSR.

Discussion Highlights

- Canal Inundation
 - Current decommissioning plans include constructing a concrete weir approximately 3 feet high at the entrance to the existing power canal to keep water in the river for fish passage except at very high flows.
 - The weir would overtop at 9,000 to 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), which generally occurs 1-3 times a year.
 - The duration of canal inundation would depend on how long the river stayed above 9,000 or 10,000 cfs. The canal is expected to drain in roughly a day once the river drops below the elevation of the weir.
- Powerhouse
 - BWPH clarified that the powerhouse has value to the company and that it does not plan to demolish the powerhouse.
 - The Committee expressed continued concern regarding potential abandonment in the future, by BWPH or a future owner, which would create a burden and liability on the Town of Hollis.
 - The Committee suggested that BWPH clarify what features associated with the powerhouse would be removed as part of decommissioning (e.g. crane).
- Previous Comments – The Committee suggested that previous comments submitted on the Draft Study Plan be reviewed in anticipation of a public meeting to see if any of the comments have since been addressed, and to identify if some comments may be addressed during permitting.
- Wells Subgroup
 - The Subgroup has met 3 times since the last meeting to discuss approaches to getting additional information on wells that may be affected by decommissioning.

- The Subgroup opted for looking at a corridor along the river rather than a radius and identified roughly 150 property owners by overlaying a parcel map on the corridor.
- The Subgroup recommends that a one-page survey with a cover letter from the towns will be distributed to identified property owners in the next couple of weeks.
- The Buxton Selectboard has already discussed and approved distributing the survey.
- Approval for the Town of Hollis should be discussed with the Town Manager.
- Committee members suggested including a self-addressed stamped envelope to improve response rates. Surveys would be returned to Kleinschmidt.
- Based on results from the survey, BWPH expects to identify a smaller subset of landowners that will need to be contacted for follow-up.
- Committee member Mattor agreed to serve as an alternate to Committee member Lewis to assist with survey implementation and follow-up.
- Public Meeting Approach and Format
 - BWPH clarified that it needs to distribute the DSR soon to get agency and public input so it can move forward with developing and filing a Decommissioning Plan in early 2026.
 - The Committee expressed concern about the public being confused about the DSR versus the Decommissioning Plan, which is yet to be developed.
 - The Committee expressed concern that the public may ask the same questions that the Committee has asked, and has been discussing.
 - The Committee suggested that BWPH:
 - provide more context in, or with the DSR, as well as at the public meeting, including a summary of recent discussions with the Town Committee.
 - be clear that information is still being collected, including cost estimates, and that final decisions on the decommissioning plan have not been made.
 - be clear about the format for the public meeting, and that there will be several additional opportunities to comment in the future.
 - include an opportunity for public questions and comments. A sign-up sheet or comment cards are okay as a means of identifying how many people may want to speak and allocating time accordingly.
 - provide materials and information ahead of the meeting.
- Rogers Fibre Mill Site – BWPH clarified that it does not want to disturb the superfund site, but that it is open to considering filling and capping the old mill foundation as part of the dam removal and bank stabilization.
- Public Safety on Route 4A – Committee member Walters noted that it's dangerous crossing Route 4A where the ingress/egress is for the existing boat launch and powerhouse. Walters noted that this is not necessarily a BWPH issue, but something that the towns should be concerned about.