

October 22, 2025

Bar Mills Project
FERC No. 2194-ME

To: Distribution List

Subject: Bar Mills Project (FERC No. 2194-ME) Surrender License and Decommission –

**Draft Study Plan** 

Dear Recipient:

As you likely know, Brookfield White Pine Hydro (BWPH) is undertaking the planned decommissioning of the Bar Mills Hydroelectric Project (Project) on the Saco River, between the towns of Hollis and Buxton, Maine. The Project has significant operational challenges that have prevented the generating units from running for the last eight years. 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. Completion of this decommissioning will satisfy upstream and downstream migratory fish passage standards on this stretch of the Saco River.

The surrender of a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license and corresponding decommissioning is a complicated, iterative, and multi-year process. As part of this process, BWPH is issuing the attached draft study report (DSR) to summarize baseline data at the Project related to geology and soils, water quality and quantity, fish and aquatics, wildlife and botanical resources, recreation, land use, aesthetics, and historical structures. The DSR is not intended to contain specific details on BWPH's proposal for decommissioning the Bar Mills Project, and its contents will not change regardless of the proposed methodology. Rather, the DSR serves as a foundation for identifying protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures that will be addressed in a Draft Decommissioning Plan and License Surrender Application, which BWPH will issue for public review and comment in early 2026.

In the meantime, the DSR has been made available for a formal review and comment period to state and federal agencies, the public, and other interested parties. BWPH will then address comments received and issue a Final Study Report (FSR).

Once a FSR has been issued, you can expect that BWPH will begin the more formal decommissioning process. This process includes the development of a Preliminary Decommissioning Proposal/Draft Surrender Application, which includes a 90-day public comment period following its release. Those comments will inform the Final Decommissioning Plan and Surrender Application which will be submitted to FERC. They will then initiate the process of application review and conducting an environmental assessment (EA). It is anticipated that FERC will issue a draft EA for public comment prior to any approval of the surrender application.

BWPH will also submit state, federal, and local permit applications in the spring of 2026. During the federal and state agency review, public comments are encouraged and help guide the decisions of each respective agency. For example, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will issue a public notice seeking comments after an application is submitted. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection, under the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act, also encourages and accepts public comments throughout the permitting process.

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The key takeaways are that 1.) the completion of the DSR begins a multi-year, public, and transparent process overseen by local, state, and federal agencies that will provide ample opportunity for public input and comment, and 2.) there is much more information still to come regarding the planned decommissioning of the Bar Mills Project. In that spirit, BWPH is now distributing the DSR for a 45-day comment period and requests **written comments by December 6, 2025**.

If you have questions about the DSR or would like additional information, please contact David Heidrich at 207-755-5608 or by email at david.heidrich@brookfieldrenewable.com.

Sincerely,

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