



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

FEB 22 2011

Mr. Kevin Bernier
Brookfield Renewable Power Inc.
1024 Central Street
Millinocket, Maine 04462

RE: Hydro-Kennebec and Mattaceunk Projects

Dear Mr. Bernier:

This responds to your letters to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposing to develop Interim Species Protection Plans (SPP) for the Hydro-Kennebec Project (FERC No. 2611) and Mattaceunk Project (FERC No. 2520) on the Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers in Maine, respectively, to address potential effects of project operation on the endangered Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of Atlantic salmon and its critical habitat. Specifically, Brookfield Renewable Power Inc. (Brookfield), licensee of both projects, proposes an approach and schedule for protecting listed Atlantic salmon at each project through preparation of a Biological Assessment and SPP and subsequent initiation of Section 7 consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Brookfield anticipates that the Section 7 consultation with FERC will provide for authorized incidental take of Atlantic salmon for adverse impacts that cannot be avoided or minimized at the projects

NMFS's Northeast Regional Office has reviewed the proposed approach for addressing Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance at the Hydro-Kennebec and Mattaceunk Projects and affirms that the approach you have outlined is a reasonable path forward. We look forward to working with you on these issues. Jeff Murphy (Jeff.Murphy@noaa.gov or 207-866-7379) will be your primary point of contact for Atlantic salmon and the ESA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary A. Colligan".

Mary A. Colligan
Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division

Ec: Murphy, Crocker, Damon-Randall – F/NER3

