

# Monitoring The Lower Mousam River Hydroelectric Project Licensing Process

# Agenda (for Selectmen's meeting on 7/16/19)

- > Lower Mousam River Hydroelectric Project Overview
- > Overview of the FERC Licensing Process
- > Status of the Lower Mousam River Project Licensing Process
- > Next Steps in the Lower Mousam River Project Licensing Process
- > How You can Participate
- > Questions/Close Out



# Background

The Lower Mousam River Hydroelectric Project (P-5362) is undergoing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing process.

- > Project license expires on March 31, 2022.
  - Project is currently owned and operated by Kennebunk Light & Power District
  - Kennebunk Light has opted not to apply for a new FERC license.
  - America First Hydro, LLC is applying for a new FERC license.
  
- > Kleinschmidt is assisting the Town by monitoring and advising on the licensing process.



# Overview of Lower Mousam River Project

Project consists of 3 developments, total capacity of 600 Kilowatts (kW), and located on the Mousam River.

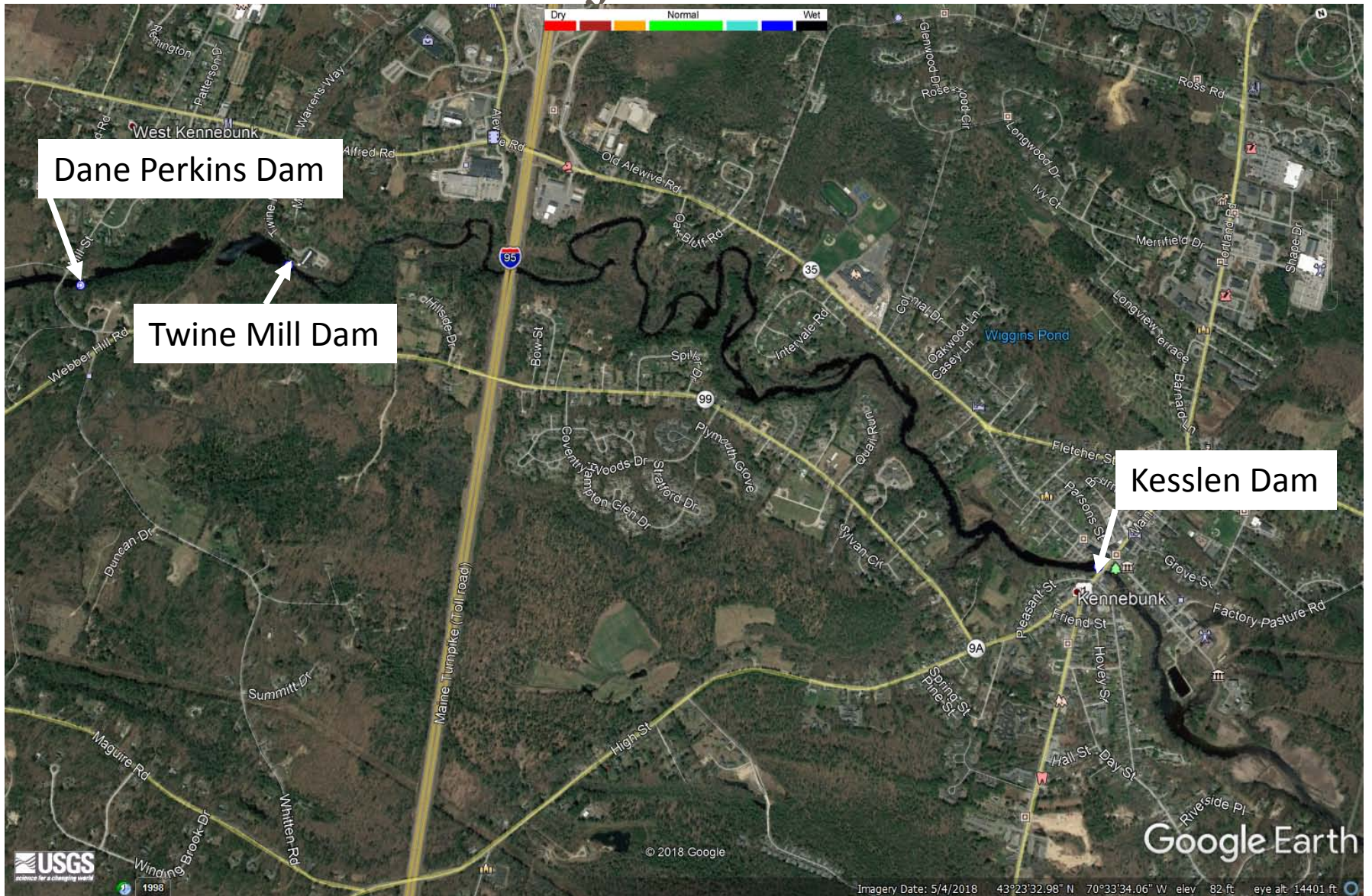
- > Dane Perkins Development
  - 12' high concrete dam with 2.5' high flashboards
  - Powerhouse containing one turbine-generator unit rated as 150 kW
- > Twine Mill Development
  - 18' high concrete dam with 3' high flashboards
  - Powerhouse containing one turbine generator unit rated at 300 kW
- > Kesslen Development
  - 18' high concrete dam with 1.5' high flashboards
  - Powerhouse containing one turbine generator unit rated at 150 kW

Project is operated in run-of-river mode.





# Lower Musam River Project Location







0 230 460 920 1,380 1,840 Feet





# FERC Licensing Process

## What is FERC?

- > Established by Congress in 1920 to coordinate hydropower projects under Federal control.
- > “An independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity. FERC also regulates natural gas and hydropower projects” (FERC website).
- > The 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires FERC and resource agencies to analyze environmental impacts and alternatives to be considered and to provide appropriate mitigation measures.





# FERC Licensing Process

A large scale environmental impact assessment that consults with resource agencies, Indian tribes, Non-Governmental Organizations, and members of the public to find a balance between environmental resources and energy production.

- > Evaluates protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures for the following resources:
  - Recreation
  - Cultural
  - Aesthetic
  - Wildlife/Botanical
  - Wetlands
  - Socioeconomics
  - Fisheries
  - Water Quality and Quantity



# FERC Licensing Process

## General Process Layout

- > Pre-Application Document
- > Study Scoping
- > Studies
- > Draft License Application
- > Final License Application
- > FERC Analysis/Environmental Assessment
- > FERC Issuance or Denial of License



# Lower Mousam River Licensing Activities to Date

## Pre-Application Document (PAD)

- > On September 11, 2017, America First filed a PAD
  - Propose to continue operating the Project in a run-of-river mode
  - Do not propose to construct or modify any project facilities





# Lower Mousam River Licensing Activities to Date

## Study Determination and Studies

- > On July 20, 2018, FERC issued a Study Plan Determination requiring America First to conduct the following studies
  - Water Quality Study
  - Benthic Macroinvertebrate Study
  - Fish Assemblage Study
  - Eel Passage Siting and Design Study
  - Downstream Passage and Fish Entrainment Study
  - Recreation Needs Study
  - Historic Assessment Study
- > America First is currently wrapping up their first full year of studies.



# Immediate Licensing Milestones

Entity	Action	Date
America First Hydro	File Initial Study Report	7/21/2019
America First Hydro	Hold Initial Study Report Meeting	8/5/2019
America First Hydro	File Initial Study Report Meeting Summary	8/20/2019
America First Hydro	Second Study Season	7/21/2019 – 7/20/2020



# Upcoming Licensing Milestones

Entity	Action	Date
America First Hydro	File Draft License Application	11/2/2019
Stakeholders	File Comments on Draft License Application	1/31/2020
America First Hydro	File Final License Application	3/31/2020
America First Hydro	File Updated Study Report	7/20/2020
America First Hydro	Hold Updated Study Report Meeting	8/4/2020
America First Hydro	File Updated Study Report Meeting Summary	8/19/2020
FERC	Issue Environmental Assessment	2/8/2021*
FERC	Issue or Deny License	3/3/2022*
	License Expiration	3/31/2022



# How You Can Participate

- > Monitor/subscribe to FERC's E-library Site for the Project
  - To casually monitor:  
<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp>
  - To subscribe:  
<https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp>
  - Project Number: P-5362 (Kennebunk Light); P-14856 (America First)
- > Attend Public Meetings
  - Initial Study Report Meeting = 8/5/2019
  - Updated Study Report Meeting = 8/4/2020
- > Provide Comments in E-library Docket  
<https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>



# Thank You!

# Questions?

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