



October 12, 2026

VIA E-FILING

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Brunswick Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2284). Free the Andro Coalition Complaint regarding **River Herring Fish Kill** from failure of Brookfield White Pine Hydro, LLC Downstream Fish Passage on October 11.

Dear Secretary Reese:

A significant fish kill of river herring, predominantly alewife young of the year, has occurred on the Lower Androscoggin River due to turbine mortality from the Brunswick Dam Hydro Facility.

Dead alewives began appearing along the southern shoreline at sunrise on October 11. They remain readily visible as shoreline debris at the time of this writing. They can be observed along a half-mile stretch from the hydro facility downstream along river right. The dead fish show obvious signs of mutilation from turbine blade impingement and pressure bruises from cavitation as shown in the attached photos. A rough estimate for cadavers on the shoreline along one stretch known as Pinette's Landing of approximately 100 yards is 3,000 fish.

The facility is currently in the relicensing phase, and the owner has submitted a Draft License Application. Alternative designs for upstream and downstream fish passages have been provided by the licensee and are under discussion.

While the owner has reported that they were notified of potential alewife passage via drawdown of an upstream lake (Sabattus Public Works Department) and were monitoring for mortality from turbine passage and following license protocols, this large fish kill is further evidence of the need

to markedly improve diadromous fish passage capability at the site. It is one more piece of evidence collected and well-documented over the last 40 or more years that current fish passage infrastructure and operational protocols under the current FERC license do not work.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Spies III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being more legible than the last name "Spies".

Charles James Spies III

President, Free the Andro Coalition

Resident of Water Street, Brunswick, Maine

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