

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

October 1, 2003

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project Nos. 2721, 2312, and
10981-Maine
Howland, Great Works, and
Basins Mills Projects
PPL Maine, LLC

Subject: Meeting to discuss settlement agreement and request for a 60-day extension of time to file comments, recommendations, terms and conditions and prescriptions for the Howland Hydro Project

To the Parties Addressed:

By letter dated September 24, 2003, PPL Maine, LLC (PPL), on behalf of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Penobscot Indian Nation, the State of Maine Planning Office, and the U.S. Department of Interior (parties) have requested a 60-day extension of time to file comments, recommendations, terms and conditions and prescriptions for the Howland Hydro Project. The parties also requested a meeting with Commission staff regarding the outcome of recent settlement talks aimed at resolving the Howland Project relicensing. The meeting will be held on October 14, 2003 at the Commission's headquarters at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. A proposed agenda and additional information are enclosed.

Regarding the extension request, while the Commission encourages parties to pursue settlement agreements that will serve the public interest, we are also committed to processing license applications in a timely manner. Consistent with the procedural schedule set forth in our August 8, 2003 notice in this proceeding, we intend to issue a final environmental assessment by December 2003 and have a Commission decision on your application by early 2004. However, in light of the pending meeting and potential settlement, the October 7 deadline for filing comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions is suspended. Based on the outcome of the October 14 meeting, we will revise the Howland Project licensing schedule.

If you have any questions, or if you wish to participate in the meeting via telephone, please call Ed Lee at (202) 502-6082, or E-mail ed.lee@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Robinson
Director
Office of Energy Projects

Enclosure

cc: Service List for P-2721,P-2312, and P-10981

**Project Nos. 2721, 2312, and
10981-Maine
Howland, Great Works, and
Basins Mills Projects
PPL Maine, LLC**

- a. Date and Time of Meeting: October 14, 2003, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
- b. Place: FERC
Meeting Room 6J-04
888 First Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426
- c. FERC Contact: Ed Lee at (202) 502-6082 or by e-mail at ed.lee@ferc.gov
- d. Purpose of the Meeting: PPL Maine, LLC (PPL), and intervenors Atlantic Salmon Federation, Penobscot Indian Nation, the State of Maine Planning Office, and the U.S. Department of Interior will brief Commission staff regarding the terms of the settlement agreement for the Howland Project No. 2721.
- e. Proposed Agenda
 - A. Introduction of Participants
 - B. Settlement Agreement presentation
 - C. Follow-up actions
- f. All local, state, and Federal agencies, Indian Tribes, and interested parties, are hereby invited to attend this meeting as participants. If you want to participate by teleconference, please contact Ed Lee at the number listed above.