

Brookfield
Renewable U.S.

June 26, 2025

Ripogenus Project
FERC No. 2572-ME

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Electronically Filed

Dear Secretary Reese:

Subject: Ripogenus Project (FERC No. 2572); Minimum Outage Flow Excursion Report

Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC (GLHA), licensee for the Ripogenus Project, is reporting an excursion from minimum outage flow requirements that occurred at the Project on June 17, 2025. Please see the attached excursion reporting form for details.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (207) 951-5006 or by e-mail at kevin.bernier@brookfieldrenewable.com.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bernier

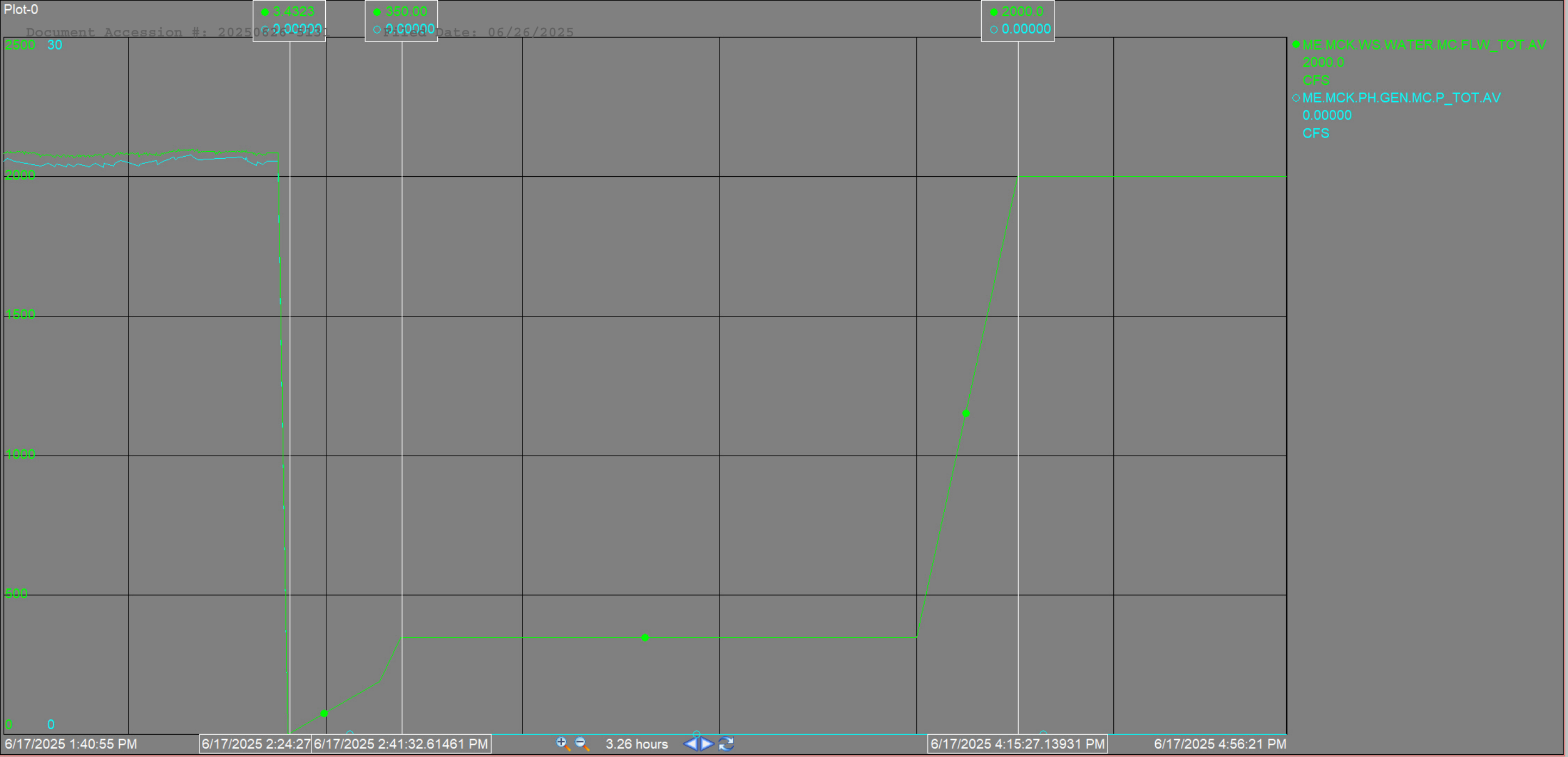
Kevin Bernier
Senior Compliance Specialist

Attachments

Cc. L. Paye, C. Briggs; MDEP
T. Obrey, D. Kane, J. Perry; MDIFW
P. Dockens, A. Cross, B. Sojkowski; USFWS
J. Bishop; EPA
D. Bates, C. Goodhart, M. Osborne, N. Weaver, T. Mapletoft, R. Dill, P. Wainwright, R. Smith,
P. McDonough, D. Heidrich, J. Grevstad, R. Dorman, S. Hill, M. Scarzello, J. York,
K. Pocquette; GLHA

GLHA File: HSSE 19a/ii/Penobscot

Brookfield		COMPLIANCE EXCURSION REPORT			
Project No(s):	FERC No. 2572		Project Name(s):	Ripogenus Project	
Licensee(s):	Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC (GLHA)		Facility:	McKay Station	
SUBJECT:	Outage Flow Excursion				
BACKGROUND (e.g. License Article/ Requirement; Permit Condition; Operating Procedure, etc.):	Article 402 of the Ripogenus Project license in part requires, "Outage flows (during failure of generating units at McKay Station) of 400 cfs, with scheduled minimum flows to be resumed as quickly and practically as possible by releases from Ripogenus Dam if necessary, but in no event in more than three days following the initial outage. These specified minimum flows shall be the minimum flows for each hourly period (measured on the basis of an hourly average)". In addition, any modifications from these flow requirements must be reported to the Commission within 10 days of the incident.				
DATE OF EVENT:	June 17, 2025	TIME OF EVENT:	14:24 hrs	DURATION:	1 hour, 41 minutes
DESCRIPTION:	Due to a trip of McKay Station, flows from the Ripogenus Project dropped below the required outage flow (400 cfs) for 1 hourly period on Tuesday, June 17, 2025; a low hourly flow of 350 cfs was recorded during this excursion (see attached graph). Although the minimum flow system at McKay Station functioned properly during the event on the two units that were in operation (#1 and #3), the third unit (#2) was inoperable due to a maintenance outage for replacement of a thrust bearing oil cooler. As a result, automated flows were only passed through two of the station's three units during the outage, resulting in an outage flow excursion until a gate could be opened at Ripogenus Dam.				
CAUSE:	The station outage was caused by a fault on the Ripogenus Project transmission line, which in turn was caused by a broken cross-arm on a transmission line structure.				
CORRECTIVE MEASURES:	IMMEDIATE ACTION	The Brookfield System Operator promptly dispatched local Operations staff to the Ripogenus Project, who upon arrival (and after making a downstream public safety check and sounding the siren warning system) were able to open a crest gate at Ripogenus Dam to restore river flows.			
	LONG-TERM ACTION	GLHA expedited repairs to the Ripogenus Project transmission line, which were completed on Thursday, June 19, thereby allowing McKay Station to be brought back online.			
OBSERVED OR REPORTED EFFECTS:	Although GLHA did not conduct any field surveys downstream of McKay Station during this event (as the local technicians were busy restoring river flow), it is likely that impacts to aquatic life occurred in the West Branch of the Penobscot River consistent with impacts observed during an October 2022 simulated station trip and fish stranding study for relicensing of the Project (see Initial Study Report dated April 24, 2023). In addition, the downed powerline resulted in a small forest fire, which was extinguished by Maine Forest Service and local fire department crews during the evening of June 17th.				
AGENCIES NOTIFIED (attach correspondence):	Method of Initial Notification: ☐ Phone ☒ Email ☐ Letter Date of Notification: <u>6/18/25 (attached)</u> Federal Agencies: ☒ USFWS ☐ NMFS ☐ USACE ☒ FERC ☒ Other(s): <u>EPA</u> State Agencies: STATE: <u>Maine</u> ☒ Env. Prot ☒ F&W ☐ Dam Safety ☒ Other(s) LUPC__ Other Agencies/NGOs: _____				
RESOURCE AGENCY COMMENTS:	None				
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION /COMMENTS:	GLHA has previously informed the Commission (in letters dated January 19 and June 21, 2024) of its long-term plan for repairing and upgrading the Ripogenus Project transmission line as a pre-emptive measure for reducing trips of McKay Station. As part of this long-term plan (which was implemented in 2008 and is ongoing), the transmission line structure with the failed cross-arm was scheduled for replacement in 2026.				
EXCURSION REPORT BY: (please print)			DATE:		
Kevin Bernier – Senior Compliance Specialist			June 25, 2025		



From: [Bernier, Kevin](#)
To: [Obrey, Tim](#); [Perry, John](#); [Doug Kane \(douglas.kane@maine.gov\)](#); [Bryan Way \(Bryan.C.Way@maine.gov\)](#); [Theriault, Billie J](#); [Godsoe, Benjamin](#); [Rob Mohlar \(robert.c.mohlar@maine.gov\)](#); [Cross, Amanda S](#); [Bryan Sojkowski](#); [Dunham, Kevin \(Kevin.Dunham@maine.gov\)](#); [Gallant, Kevin](#); [Paye, Laura](#); [Mark Caron \(mark.caron@maine.gov\)](#); [Patrick Dockens \(patrick_dockens@fws.gov\)](#); [Claire.Briggs@maine.gov](#); [Bishop, Joseph](#); [John Spain](#); [Noel J. Aglubat](#)
Cc: [Weaver, Nick](#); [Osborne, Michael](#); [Dill, Richard](#); [Bates, David S](#); [Scarzello, Michael](#); [Mapletoft, Thomas](#); [Dorman, Randy](#); [Heidrich, David](#); [Wainwright, Paul](#); [Grevstad, Justin](#); [Burnett, Amy](#); [York, Jason](#); [Mcdonough, Patrick](#); [Pocquette, Kayla](#); [Stevens, Nate](#); [Brenton, Paul](#); [Fradique, Andrea](#); [Goodhart, Cameron](#)
Subject: West Branch flow excursions and forest fire
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 2:13:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)

At 14:24 hrs yesterday afternoon, several of Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC's (GLHA) hydro stations on the West Branch of the Penobscot River (McKay, North Twin, and Millinocket) tripped offline due to a transmission line failure, which in turn caused a minimum flow excursion at the Ripogenus Project (FERC No. 2572) and a run-of-river and minimum flow excursion at the Millinocket Development (Penobscot Mills Project, FERC No. 2458). In response to the McKay Station trip, which is part of the Ripogenus Project, the System Operator dispatched a local operator to the Project. Following a public safety check and activation of the siren warning system, the operator opened a crest gate at the dam to re-establish river flows. Local operators were also dispatched to the North Twin and Millinocket Developments (both part of the Penobscot Mills Project) to re-establish river flows. After public safety checks were made downstream and siren warning systems activated, a Taintor gate was opened at the North Twin Development and the inflatable flashboard system was deflated at Stone Dam (part of the Millinocket Development) to restore river flows.

Article 403 of the Penobscot Mills license requires that the Millinocket, Dolby, and East Millinocket Developments be operated in a run-of-river mode while providing an instantaneous minimum flow of 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the West Branch of the Penobscot River at Millinocket. As the result of the Millinocket station trip, river flows at Millinocket dropped below the 2,000 cfs minimum until the inflatable flashboard system could be opened approximately 58 minutes after the trip.

Article 402 of the Ripogenus license requires an outage flow of 400 cfs during generating unit outages at McKay Station, with scheduled minimum flows to be resumed as quickly and practically as possible. Although the minimum flow system at the Station functioned properly on two units currently in operation (#1 and #3) during yesterday's outage, the third unit (#2) is currently inoperable due to ongoing replacement of a thrust bearing oil cooler. As a result, approximately 350 cfs was passed through McKay Station and into the West Branch during the event, resulting in an approximate 101-minute minimum flow excursion until the gate could be opened at Ripogenus Dam.

GLHA has determined that the station trips resulted from a cross-arm failure on the Ripogenus Project transmission line, which in turn resulted in a small forest fire. The fire was extinguished by Maine Forest Service and local fire department crews last evening.

GLHA is still investigating and collecting information on this event, which will be detailed in a report to FERC within 10 days. I will copy everybody on this report, but in the meantime, please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Kevin Bernier

Senior Compliance Specialist

Brookfield Renewable U.S.

Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC

1024 Central Street, Millinocket, ME 04462

C 207 951 5006

kevin.bernier@brookfieldrenewable.com

www.brookfieldrenewable.com



This message, including any attachments, may be privileged and may contain confidential information intended only for the person(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient or have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply email and permanently delete the original transmission from the sender, including any attachments, without making a copy. Thank you.

Document Content(s)

20250626 To FERC Ripogenus flow excursion report.pdf.....1