

November 26, 2025

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



Via online submission to: <http://www.ferc.gov>

Subject: Preliminary Report on West Branch Penobscot River Study Activities for the Ripogenus (P-2572) and Penobscot Mills (P-2458) Relicensing

Dear Secretary Reese,

Maine Council of Trout Unlimited (TU) submits this preliminary report summarizing the study activities completed during our six-month 2025 investigation of the West Branch of the Penobscot River between Ripogenus Dam and Abol Bridge. This study was conducted to address key information gaps identified in the Ripogenus–Penobscot Mills hydropower relicensing process and to support FERC’s determination of readiness for environmental analysis.

Field activities were carried out from April through September 2025 and included: (1) stratified angler-use surveys; (2) creel interviews documenting effort, catch, and angler behavior; (3) deployment of continuous water-temperature recorders; (4) flow and operational observations tied to hydropower generation; and (5) collection of economic expenditure data necessary to quantify the fishery’s regional economic value. These activities generated comprehensive data describing spatial and temporal angler effort, catch composition, environmental conditions, and flow-related influences on fishery performance.

This letter provides notice to FERC that full methodological detail, analytical results, and TU’s recommendations will be included in the complete study report that TU expects to file no later than January 2026. That filing will address all study objectives and provide the information necessary to inform environmental review and future license terms and conditions.

TU appreciates the Commission’s attention to this work and looks forward to submitting the full report early next year.

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Heinz

Maine TU Council FERC Coordinator

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