

Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
c/o Laura Paye, via email to [DEP-Hydropower@maine.gov](mailto:DEP-Hydropower@maine.gov)  
*Hydropower Coordinator*  
*Bureau of Land Resources*

May 21, 2026

Comments on Ellsworth Hydroelectric Project (FERC P-2727) Draft Water Quality Certification

Coordinator Paye,

As a member of the public with a strong connection to the Union River and deep belief that its health is essential to the well-being of the people, animals, plants, and environment that sustain us here on the edge of the Gulf of Maine I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft order as well as the thoughtful review and care that the Department has given the most recent application for water quality certification from the owner and operator of the Ellsworth Hydroelectric project. It is clear that same thoughtfulness was not shared by Brookfield, the dam owner.

It has been over six years since the first denial of water quality certification for this project and as the Department noted the *“current WQC application differs from its [Brookfield’s] prior WQC application, which was denied, in relatively few respects.”* As the Department clearly shows in the draft order in the years since the last denial Brookfield submitted no new data or data support proposals for how this project could meet Maine water quality standards.

In my comments of 8/15/2025 to the Department I noted that the *“Department has a unique and profoundly important opportunity to assure that the right things are done on the Union River if Brookfield chooses to continue operating its hydroelectric project. I believe that Brookfield’s proposal as written does not provide such protections and only by the application of thoughtful conditions from the Department can this project meet water quality standards. Without these conditions, the Department will have sentenced the river to another human generation of exploitation and harm.”* Nine months later I see nothing new that makes me believe Brookfield will ever make serious effort or provide ideas that will bring their dams into compliance with water quality standards. Without that effort and appropriate conditions applied to this certificate the Department has made the right choice in denying Brookfield’s application. Let’s hope that Brookfield accepts this order and saves us and the river from further years of inaction and delay. The river has suffered long enough and its renewal will bring good to things to the fish and all of us.

Thank you,



Brett Ciccotelli  
Sullivan, Maine