

June 3, 2026

**Bear Swamp/Fife Brook  
FERC No. 2669-MA**

**Subject: Bear Swamp/Fife Brook Hydroelectric Facility  
Public Safety Flow Release Warning System Outreach**

Dear Stakeholder:

The following letter is intended to inform you of new requirements which the Bear Swamp Power Company (BSPC) must implement along the Deerfield River that may affect you or abutting property users.

**Background**

As you may know, BSPC operates the Bear Swamp Hydroelectric Project in Florida and Rowe, Massachusetts. The Project consists of the Bear Swamp Pumped Storage Development and the Fife Brook Hydroelectric Development located on the Deerfield River. After a ten-year relicensing process, on November 26, 2025, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new 40-year operating license authorizing continued hydroelectric operations for our facilities.

During the relicensing process, FERC, nongovernmental organizations, and state and federal natural resource agencies evaluated existing uses of the river and identified improvements they believe were warranted to authorize a new 40-year license for the Project's continued operation. One of the measures incorporated into the new license is the installation of a flow release warning system. The purpose of this system is to provide both visible and audible public safety alerts to notify anglers and other river users of water level changes at six locations beginning at the Fife Brook Dam and extending downstream to Zoar Picnic Area. This new requirement would be in addition to the "ramping"—or the deliberate, measured staggering of flow increases—that has historically indicated a change in upstream hydroelectric operations for river users.

These locations intended for the flow release warning system are shown on the attached map.

**License Conditions**

Article 304 of the new FERC license specifies this requirement and directs BSPC to complete installation within one year of license issuance and reads, in part, as follows:

*Within one year of license issuance, the licensee must install/implement the following Public Safety Plan improvements at the project:*

*(1) Install flow release warning systems at the Fife Brook Fishing and Boating Access Area, the Zoar Whitewater Access Area, the Zoar Picnic Area, Carbis Bend, and Bridge to Nowhere project recreation sites. These warning systems must utilize both audible siren and visual flashing light warnings and must be positioned on the bank of the river near the end of the access trail at each site, so as to be most visible and audible to people entering the water and those already in the river.*

*(2) Install signage of each warning system at the project recreation sites, in order to describe: (a) the flow releases from Fife Brook dam; (b) the safety warning system at the site, including the 15-minute pause in flow increases at 3 megawatts, as required by Article 403; and (c) how to react to the warning signals. Sequential activation of each warning unit should be timed to coincide with the downstream advancement of rising waters to provide a more accurate indication of when rising waters would arrive at a site. The licensee must*

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*also post a map at each project recreation site that displays the amount of time it takes for flows (e.g., whitewater flow releases of 800 cubic feet per second [cfs]) to reach each project recreation site downstream of the Fife Brook dam. ...*

During the relicensing process, BSPC agreed to evaluate a flow release warning system; however, FERC chose to mandate such a system in the terms of our new license.

## **Flow Release Warning System**

As part of reviewing the terms and requirements of our new FERC license, BSPC recognizes that the installation of a flow release warning system may affect the experience of recreators on the Deerfield River and abutting property owners and is reaching out to make them aware of this requirement.

For example, installation and long-term maintenance of the system will require the use of heavy equipment. Poles will need to be installed adjacent to the river to satisfy our license's requirements for the warning system to "be positioned on the bank of the river" and "be most visible and audible to people entering the water and those already in the river."

To safely install and service the poles, solar systems, and communication equipment over the 40-year license term, road access and vegetation management—including tree trimming or removal—will need to be maintained to allow bucket truck access at each of the six proposed locations.

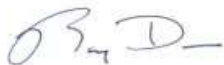
The flow release warning system will feature alarm speaker units that are expected to be exceptionally loud (approximately 120–130 decibels) to penetrate the ambient noise of the river and effectively alert river users of flow changes. The speakers, solar panels, and associated equipment will be mounted on poles approximately 50 feet in height, located as close to the river's edge as permitting allows, to ensure both audible and visual coverage through strobe lighting. Although typical flow changes occur once daily, they may occur at any time. BSPC's preference would be to only operate the system during daylight hours.

## **Next Steps**

BSPC recognizes the installation of a flow release warning system would affect stakeholders differently, therefore we would like to hear from all parties that may be affected. Comments should include, but not be limited to, potential positive and/or negative effects, potential unintended consequences, identification of user groups that would benefit from and stakeholders that would be negatively impacted by such a flow release warning system, potential environmental impacts, and alternative measures that could effectively manage the associated risks such a system is attempting to mitigate.

Please email any comments to [inquiriesMA@brookfieldrenewable.com](mailto:inquiriesMA@brookfieldrenewable.com) with the subject line "Warning System Comment". Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will be provided to FERC for consideration as we proceed with fulfilling this license obligation.

Sincerely,



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Senior Compliance Manager, Northeast/Rest of Country (LA, NC, TN)

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Enclosure: Map of Proposed Flow Release Warning System Locations

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SharePoint File: 2669|01



- RIVER MILE (RM)
- PROJECT RECREATION FACILITY
- NON-PROJECT RECREATION FACILITY
- ✚ EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM
- ▲ DOWNSTREAM FLOW LEADING EDGE
- [ - - ] PROJECT BOUNDARY
- POWER - NA
- POWER - EXISTING

