

Hydropower Project License Summary

PRESUMPSCOT RIVER, MAINE

EEL WEIR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-2984)



Eel Weir Dam

Photo Credit: Friends of Sebago Lake

This summary was produced by the

Hydropower Reform Coalition

and

River Management Society

PRESUMPSCOT RIVER, ME

EEL WEIR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-2984)

DESCRIPTION:

The Eel Weir Project is located at the outlet of Sebago Lake near the cities of Standish and Windham, in Cumberland County, about 14 miles northwest of Portland, Maine. The Presumpscot River originates at the outlet of Sebago Lake and flows in a southeasterly direction for about 25 miles before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean at Casco Bay.

A. SUMMARY

1. License application filed: March 29, 2002
2. License Issued: March 23, 2015
3. License expiration: February 28, 2055
4. Capacity: 1.8 MW
5. Waterway: Sebago Lake on the Presumpscot River
6. Counties: Cumberland County
7. Licensee: S.D. Warren Company (S.D. Warren)
8. Licensee Contact: Brad Goulet
Hydro Manager
Tel: 207-856-4083
Email: brad.goulet@sappi.com
9. Project Facilities:
The project consists of:
 - 12-mile-long, 28,771-acre Sebago Lake (natural lake)
 - 6,700-foot-long bypassed reach
 - 1,350-foot-long, 22-foot-high dam that controls the Lake
 - a 90-foot-long fish screen with ¾-inch clear-bar spacing located immediately upstream of the canal intake gatehouse
 - a 69-foot-wide, 32-foot-long powerhouse containing three turbine-generator units rated at 600 kilowatts (kW), for a total installed capacity of 1.8 MW
 - 3.5-mile-long, 11-kilovolt (kV) transmission line

B. IMPORTANT PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS IN LICENSE

The license includes the following conditions and provisions.

1. Flows [Reference: License Article 402 and Water Quality Certification]

The license requires the release of minimum flows into the bypassed reach as follows:

Timeframe	Release in cfs (cubic feet per second)
November 1 through March 31	75
April 1 through October 31	125

The license requires SD Warren to file a Minimum Flow Release Plan by May 2015 and a Bypassed Reach Monitoring Plan by August 2015. These plans shall be prepared in consultation with Maine DEP, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Condition 2 of the Water Quality Certification issued by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires S.D. Warren to: (1) release a minimum total project flow of 270 cfs at all times except between June 1 and September 30 when the minimum total project flow release will be 408 cfs to facilitate spillage at the downstream Dundee and Gambo Dams to maintain dissolved oxygen in the Presumpscot River; (2) release a minimum flow of 75 cfs into the bypassed reach downstream of the dam at all times; and (3) develop a minimum flow monitoring plan.

Condition 3 requires S.D. Warren to limit flow releases from the project to 1,000 cfs or less during the landlocked Atlantic salmon spawning season (i.e., October 16 through November 15).

2. Water Quality Certification [Reference: License]

Each year from March 19, 2002, until January 25, 2011, S.D. Warren withdrew and refiled its water quality certification application (for a total of nine times). On August 30, 2011, the Maine DEP issued certification for the Eel Weir Project that includes 12 conditions.

3. Fish Passage [Reference: Water Quality Certification Conditions 4 and 5]

Conditions 4 and 5 of the Water Quality Certification require SD Warren to install and operate upstream and downstream eel passage facilities within 2 years of license issuance. The license requires SD Warren to submit Final Upstream Eel Passage Design and Operational Plan, Upstream Eel Passage Effectiveness Testing Plan, Final Downstream Eel Passage Design and Operation Plan and Downstream Eel Passage Effectiveness Testing Plan by March 2016 and at least 60 days prior to commencing the construction or operation of the facilities.

4. Flood Management [[Reference: License Article 405]

By August 2015, SD Warren is required to file a protocol, for approval by FERC that describes how SD Warren will communicate and coordinate with upstream pond owners in order to manage floods within the Presumpscot River basin.

5. Land Use and Recreation Management [License Article 407]

By August 2016, the license requires SD Warren to file a Land Use and Recreational Management Plan for approval by FERC. Among other things, the plan must include the following:

- a description of how project land will be managed, including considerations for maintaining the aesthetic character of project land;
- measures for maintaining angling access to the Eel Weir bypassed reach
- including:

- a description of existing parking areas, paths, access areas, and signage to support angling access to the bypassed reach, including operation and maintenance measures; and
- maps showing and labeling all recreation facilities and areas used by anglers to access the bypassed reach; and
- measures for improving public boat access to Sebago Lake based on the results of the public boat access study required by water quality certification condition 8.

C. MAP

There are two convenient ways to become familiar with this project on the Hydropower Reform Coalition website, www.hydroreform.org.

- Go directly to the project <http://www.hydroreform.org/projects/eel-weir-p-2984>
- To understand the geographical context of the project, visit the *On Your River* section of the site. This link (<http://www.hydroreform.org/on-your-river/East>) will take you to the section for rivers in the East. Zoom in toward Portland, Maine. Eel Weir project is the marker at the outlet of the Sebago Lake flowing into the Presumpscot River.