

Hydropower Project License Summary

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, NEW YORK

ST. LAWRENCE-FDR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-2000)

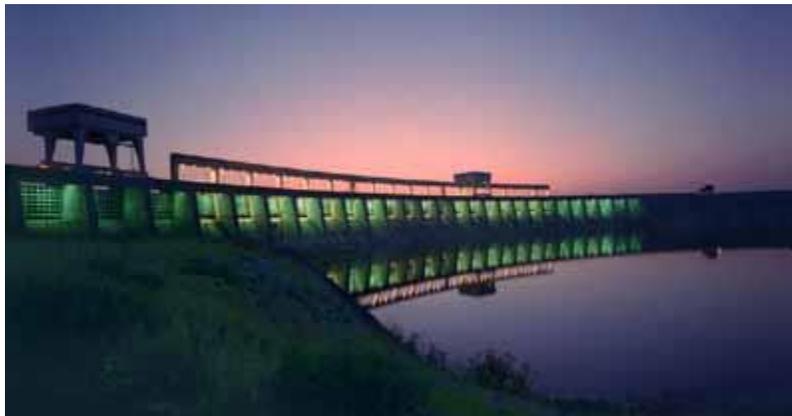


Photo: www.nypa.gov

This summary was produced by the
Hydropower Reform Coalition

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

ST. LAWRENCE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-2000)

A. SUMMARY

This 912 MW St. Lawrence-Franklin D. Roosevelt Power Project is located on New York's border with Canada. A 50 year license was issued by FERC on October 23, 2003 after NYPA reached a settlement agreement with multiple parties.

1. License Issued: October 23, 2003
2. Expiration: September 30, 2053
3. Waterway: St. Lawrence River
4. Capacity: 912 MW
5. Licensee: Power Authority of the State of New York (NYPA)
6. Project website: <https://www.nypa.gov/facilities/stlaw.htm>
7. Counties: St. Lawrence County
8. Project Components
 - The St. Lawrence Project is part of the International St. Lawrence Power Project (International Project), which spans the international portion of the St. Lawrence River. NYPA operates and maintains the Robert Moses Power Dam and other associated facilities.
 - The Moses-Saunders Dam is one continuous structure spanning the U.S.-Canada border on the St. Lawrence River between Massena, New York and Cornwall, Ontario.
 - In addition to the Robert Moses Dam and associated generating facilities, the Project includes the portion of Iroquois Dam within the United States, Long Sault Dam, and the Massena Intake. Iroquois Dam is located 28 miles upstream of the Moses- Saunders Dam and is 1,980 feet long (1,790 feet within the United States) and 72 feet high. It is a gated non-power dam used occasionally to control levels in Lake St. Lawrence and to help form a stable ice cover in winter. Iroquois Dam is operated only at the direction of the IJC.
 - Long Sault Dam is 2,960 feet long and 109 feet high and is located 3.5 miles upstream of the Moses-Saunders, and is entirely in the United States. It is also a gated non-power structure. There is typically no flow through Long Sault Dam because all flows pass through NYPA's and OPG's generating units. However, when the required regulation flow exceeds the capacity of NYPA's and OPG's generating units, the excess flow is released through Long Sault Dam into the 3.9-mile-long bypassed reach (the former south channel of the river).
 - The 721-foot-long, 108-foot-high Massena Intake closes off the former Massena Power Canal and provides process water to local industry as well as potable water to local communities.

9. Settlement Agreement: September 30, 2003 (FERC Accession No. 20031001-0244)

10. Parties to Settlement Agreement:

- NYPA
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- New York State Department of State (DOS)
- St. Lawrence Aquarium and Ecological Center, Inc. (A&E Center)
- New York Rivers United (NYRU), and
- Local Government Task Force (an association comprised of the following member entities: St. Lawrence County, New York; Town of Louisville, New York; Town of Lisbon, New York; Town of Massena, New York; Town of Waddington, New York; Village of Massena, New York; Village of Waddington, New York; Lisbon Central School District; Madrid-Waddington Central School District; and Massena Central School District)

B. RESOURCE ISSUES

Fisheries (American eel), Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

C. HRC INVOLVEMENT/ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

NYRU, a HRC Steering Committee member, is a signatory to the settlement. American Rivers replaced NYRU as a signatory in 2012.

D. IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF SA

The Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (FERC Accession No. 20030211-0037 consists of five separate agreements and a Letter of Understanding (LOU).

1. Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund Settlement Agreement (Fisheries Agreement)

- executed by NYPA and FWS
- establishes a Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund to provide mitigation in the amount of \$24 million to be administered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The fund is to be used for research, construction, operation, and maintenance of various projects benefitting fisheries in the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River basin affected by the Project and for research on species that may be affected by the Project, such as the American Eel.
- provides for NYPA to construct, operate, and maintain a ladder for upstream passage of American Eel at Robert Moses dam following approval by the Commission and FWS

2. Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Measures Settlement Agreement (Ecological Agreement)

- executed by NYPA, FWS, NYSDEC, and NYRU
- provides for NYPA to construct, operate, and maintain various Habitat Improvement Projects (HIPs) within the project boundary
- provides for NYPA to set aside approximately \$4 million for future, as yet unidentified, HIPs to be located on the St. Lawrence River or its tributaries that will benefit natural resources in the river basin.
- provides for funding of the St. Lawrence River Research and Education Fund in the amount of \$1,008,000.

3. Relicensing Settlement Agreement (Task Force Agreement)

- executed by NYPA and the members of the Task Force
- provides for NYPA to rehabilitate existing recreational facilities managed by counties and local communities
- requires NYPA to develop land management plan (LMP)
- provides for NYPA to stabilize eroding shoreline upstream and downstream of Robert Moses Dam over an eight to ten year period
- provides for the removal of approximately 1,340 acres of land from within the Project boundary

4. Agreement between NYPA and OPRHP (Recreation Agreement)

- executed by NYPA and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
- provides for NYPA to rehabilitate existing recreational facilities managed by OPRHP & NYSDEC

5. Agreement between NYPA and St. Lawrence Aquarium & Ecological Center Inc.

- establish a fund to benefit the St. Lawrence Aquarium and Ecological Center Project Facility in the amount of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000),

6. Letter of Understanding between NYPA and NMFS

- The LOU with NMFS states the signatories' understanding that the Secretary of Commerce intends to reserve authority to prescribe fishways at the Project during the license term pursuant to FPA Section 18, that the reserved authority will be exercised only after consultation with FWS, and that a downstream prescription will not be issued while certain studies are ongoing.

E. 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 page <http://www.hydroreform.org/projects/st-lawrence-fdr-p-2000>
- 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 Northeast. Zoom in towards the northern New York state. There are four balloons on the St. Lawrence River that separates the US from Canada. St. Lawrence-FDR project is the project west of the town of Massena, NY.