

Penobscot Mills Project

FERC No. 2458

Millinocket/East Millinocket, ME

Dam owned by: Brookfield Renewable Energy

Highlights

Installed:

- Millinocket- 1900
- East Millinocket- 1906
- North Twin- 1846
- Dolby- 1907
- Millinocket Lake- 1883

Characteristics:

- Privately owned
- No fish passage facilities
- **Not** LIHI certified
- Also referred to as Great Northern Paper Mill

Ownership History

1970: Great Northern Paper Company merged with Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Co. becoming Great Northern Nekoosa Corp.

1989: The Great Northern Paper Mill was taken over by Georgia-Pacific Corp. but the dams were still owned by Great Northern Nekoosa Corp. Shortly afterward Bowater Corp. of South Carolina purchased Great Northern's mills and timberland from Georgia-Pacific.

2001: Brookfield acquired the Mill dams⁷.

2002: Great Northern paper mill filed for bankruptcy.

2003: Great Northern paper mills in Millinocket and East Millinocket were purchased by Brascan Corp. and the company was renamed Katahdin Paper Company⁶.



Pictures of the Great Northern Paper Mill

Top: Undated. Bottom: 2011, 2 years before closing down.

Top: <https://freepressonline.com/Content/Features/Magic-City-Series/Article/Magic-City-in-the-Wilderness-Part-1/52/771/34657>

Bottom: <http://www.pressherald.com/2014/12/02/california-investment-firm-submits-winning-bid-for-great-northern-paper-mill/>

Upcoming Decisions

- ❖ FERC license expires 2026.
- ❖ Pre-application process begins in 2021.

Stakeholders

Not a comprehensive list

1. Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) - *Responsible for granting hydropower operation licenses*
2. Brookfield Renewables – *Owner of the dam.*
3. Penobscot Nation – *Sovereign Tribal Nation that depends on and uses the river*
4. U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
5. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
6. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW)
7. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries
8. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
9. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
10. Penobscot River Restoration Trust
 - American Rivers
 - Atlantic Salmon Federation
 - Maine Audubon
 - Natural Resource Council of Maine
 - Trout Unlimited
11. Great Northern Paper Mill
12. Town of Millinocket - *Manages what happens within the boundaries of Medway, ME.*

Technical specifics, cont'd³

Operations: Store-and-release operation, in conjunction with the Ripogenus Dam upstream.

Additional Information: Total hydropower capacity for this 5-dam project is 70.6 MW, with an total average annual generation of 375,500 MWh.



Picture of the Dolby Dam on the Penobscot River only 1.9 miles upstream from Great Northern Paper Mill Dam.
<https://maineimaging.smugmug.com/Aerials/Maine/Maine-northern/Millinocket-Maine/i-inJtiGV>

Technical specifics³

North Twin: 51 ft long, 35 ft tall earth-filled gravity dam

Turbines: 2 Vertical Francis, 1 Vertical Kaplan

Power capacity: 6.97 MW

Millinocket: 1,262 ft long, 27 ft tall concrete and stone gravity dam

Turbines: 8 Horizontal Francis

Power capacity: 35.78 MW

Dolby: 1,395 ft long, concrete and earth-filled gravity dam

Turbines: 3 Horizontal Francis, 2 Tube Inclined, 1 Vertical Kaplan

Power capacity: 20.89 MW

East Millinocket: 571 ft long, 28 ft tall concrete and earth-filled gravity dam

Turbines: 6 Horizontal Francis

Power capacity: 6.94 MW

Millinocket Lake: Non-powered 635 ft long concrete and earth filled dam with pump station

Important Media Coverage

- ❖ “Hydro dispute may test state role in private business deals” by Whit Richardson Posted on March 17, 2014 in the Portland Press Herald.
http://www.pressherald.com/2014/03/17/hydro_dispute_may_test_state_role_in_private_business_deals/
- ❖ 126th Maine Legislature LD 1792.
http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?paper=HP1283&PID=undefined&snum=126&sec0
- ❖ “LePage signs bill to help Maine paper mill reopen” by Whit Richardson Posted on April 8, 2014 in the Portland Press Herald.
http://www.pressherald.com/2014/04/08/lepage_signs_bill_to_help_maine_paper_mill_reopen/
- ❖ “Lawmakers pass bill aimed at restarting East Millinocket paper mill; awaits LePage’s signature” by Nick Sambides Jr. Posted on April 2, 2014 in the Bangor Daily News.
<http://bangordailynews.com/2014/04/02/politics/lawmakers-pass-bill-aimed-at-restarting-east-millinocket-paper-mill-awaits-lepages-signature/?ref=search>
- ❖ “Officials say Brookfield won’t agree to East Millinocket mill restart deal unless conditions met” by Nick Sambides Jr. Posted on April 5, 2014 in the Bangor Daily News.
<http://bangordailynews.com/2014/04/05/business/officials-say-brookfield-wont-agree-to-east-millinocket-mill-restart-deal-unless-conditions-met/>

Important Events

2008: Great Northern Paper Mill was closed down.

2017: Our Katahdin bought the mill site (not the dam) from Cate Street.

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List of references

¹<http://www.eastmillinocket.org/town-history.aspx>

²Lucy Van Hook of Our Katahdin

³[file:///C:/Users/Katie/Downloads/1991_12_17%20Exhibit%20A%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Katie/Downloads/1991_12_17%20Exhibit%20A%20(1).pdf)

⁴Donald Dow of NOAA

⁵http://www.eastmillinocket.org/PHDInventory/documents/234479/234479_20527_984.pdf

⁶<http://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1264&context=findingaid>s

⁷http://www.pressherald.com/2014/03/17/hydro_dispute_may_test_state_role_in_private_business_deals/