

# Ripogenus Dam

FERC No. 2572

Town/City, State

Dam owned by: Brookfield Renewables

## Highlights<sup>1</sup>

- Built in 1916, single development on the West Branch of the Penobscot River
- Privately owned
- Hydropower Capacity: 37.53 MW
- No fish passage facilities
- **Not LIHI certified**



## Ownership History

**1996: Great Northern Paper** is the owning/operating company listed in the renewed FERC license

## Upcoming Decisions

- ❖ FERC license expires in 2026
- ❖ FERC Pre-Application process begins 2021



<http://maineencyclopedia.com/ripogenus-dam/>

## Technical specifics:

**Dam Height:** 83 ft

**Turbines:** 3 hydroelectric generating units

**Hydropower capacity:** 37.53 MW

**Annual electricity generation:** ~234,000 MWh

**Fish passage facilities:** None.

**Operations:** Store-and-release operations in tandem with the Penobscot Mills Project (series of 5 dams) downstream

### Additional Information:

In [2015 Maine Hydropower Study](#) Kleinschmidt Associates estimate that a possible 7.47MW of capacity could be added to Ripogenus Dam with an additional turbine unit.

The impoundment above the dam is not listed as Essential Fish Habitat for any endangered species.

# Stakeholders<sup>1</sup>

*Not a comprehensive list*

1. Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) - *Responsible for giving licenses to dams to be operational.*
2. Brookfield Renewables – *Owner of the dam.*
3. Penobscot Nation (PN) – *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. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service
7. Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
8. Association in Support of a Sustainable Supply of Energy and Timber
9. Eastern Maine Development Corporation
10. Medway Chamber of Commerce
11. Green Lake Waterpower Company
12. Katahdin Regional Development Corporation
13. Katahdin Region Tourism Council
14. Maine Conservation Rights Institute
15. Maine Leaseholders Association
16. Maine Professional River Outfitters
17. Maine Sporting Camp Association
18. Millinocket Chamber of Commerce
19. Paper Industry Information Office
20. Town of East Millinocket/Town of Millinocket
21. United Paperworkers International Union
22. American Whitewater Affiliation
23. Appalachian Mountain Club
24. Conservation Law Foundation
25. Fin and Feather Club
26. American Rivers
27. Atlantic Salmon Federation
28. Maine Audubon
29. Natural Resource Council of Maine
30. Trout Unlimited
31. The Nature Conservancy



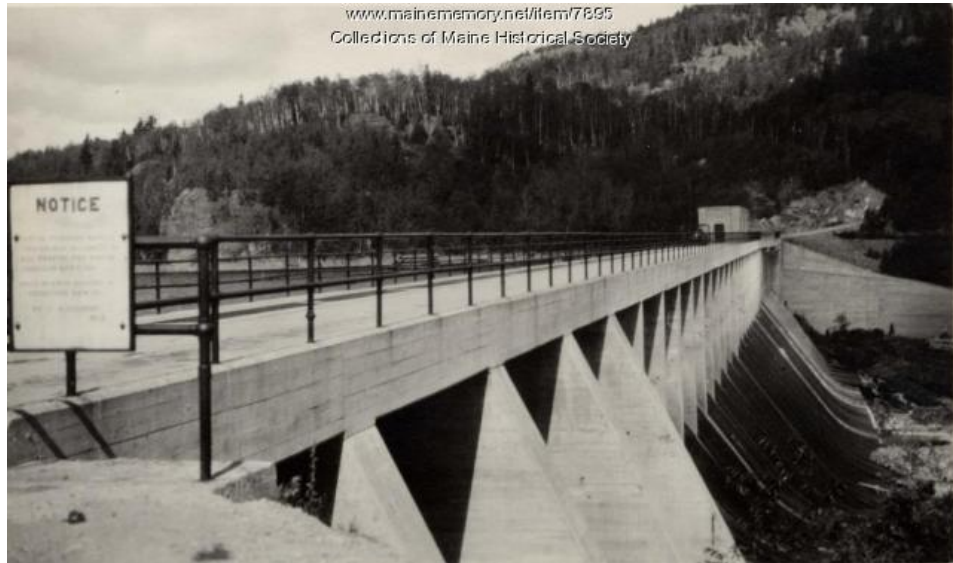
## Important Events

**December 1, 1994:** the commissioned staff issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing the Penobscot Mills and Ripogenus relicensing applications and requesting public comment. Staff held a public meeting for additional comments on the DEIS in Millinocket, Maine, on January 25, 1995.

**1996:** FERC issued a renewal of the license at Ripogenus Dam requiring “conditions that protect tribal resources, including requiring minimum flows for the fisheries, recreation opportunities, and other environmental conditions.”

## Important Media Coverage

- “Divers Die while Repairing Dam” by an unknown author posted to UPI on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1989 - This article explains the tragic death of two men working for and under water construction firm who were killed by water flowing through a gate while they were trying to do maintenance on the Ripogenus dam in 1989.  
<https://www.upi.com/Archives/1989/01/12/Divers-die-while-repairing-dam/8719600584400>
- “Flooding hitting sections of Golden Road and Millinocket” by Nick Sambides Jr. posted to Bangor Daily News on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - This article talks about flooding in Millinocket in 2017 due to large amounts of snowmelt and Brookfield releasing large amounts of water through the Ripogenus dam.  
<https://bangordailynews.com/2017/05/04/news/penobscot/flooding-hitting-sections-of-golden-road-and-millinocket/>



## References

<sup>1</sup>Ripogenus License