

PENOBSCOT RIVER RESTORATION TRUST

NEWS ADVISORY

Applications Filed to Move Penobscot River Restoration Project Forward

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AUGUSTA: Applications for permits to implement the Penobscot River Restoration Project have been filed with three state and federal permitting agencies. The Penobscot Project is a landmark private-public effort to restore the Penobscot River's once plentiful sea-run fisheries while also maintaining hydropower generation. The applications follow a public notice recently published in the Bangor Daily News, as well as notifications mailed to towns and abutting landowners. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection will review the applications and solicit public input.

In August, the Penobscot River Restoration Trust announced that it will purchase three lower Penobscot River dams – Veazie, Howland and Great Works – from PPL Corporation. “Submitting the permit applications is an important next step in this remarkable private-public partnership to rebalance hydropower energy and sustainable native sea-run fisheries on the Penobscot River,” stated Laura Rose Day, the Trust's Executive Director. “As the Trust and its many partners implement the project, we look forward to the continuing enthusiasm, constructive dialogue and commitment to restoring this great river.”

“We have reached yet another milestone in this landmark agreement that benefits the environment, the economy and the culture of eastern Maine. For example, as a result of the agreement, PPL has already been able to increase generation of renewable electricity from the Penobscot at other projects. We remain committed to realizing the vision of this project and moving forward as quickly as possible to get the necessary approvals to complete it,” said Dennis J. Murphy, vice president and chief operating officer for PPL's Eastern Fossil and Hydro Generation unit.

The Penobscot Project, a collaborative effort between dam owner PPL Corporation, the Penobscot Indian Nation, conservation groups, and state and federal agencies, aims to rebalance native sea-run fisheries and hydropower. Once permits are approved, project implementation will include the removal of the dams closest to the sea (Great Works and Veazie) and construction of a fish bypass around the Howland dam. In 2005, PPL began to increase energy generation at several of its dams as part of the project. Through increased energy at six dams, PPL will have the ability to maintain current energy generation. For more information, see www.penobscotriver.org.

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