

# Request for Proposals for Revitalizing the Mayo Mill Dam and Appurtenant Facilities Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

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Issued By: The Town of Dover-Foxcroft  
Dated: May 4, 2022

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Proposal, pre-submittal questions, and comments are requested to be submitted via email and addressed to:

The Town of Dover-Foxcroft  
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Dover-Foxcroft, Maine 04426  
207.564.3318

**Email: MayoMill@natelenergy.com**  
**Email- jclukey@dover-foxcroft.org**

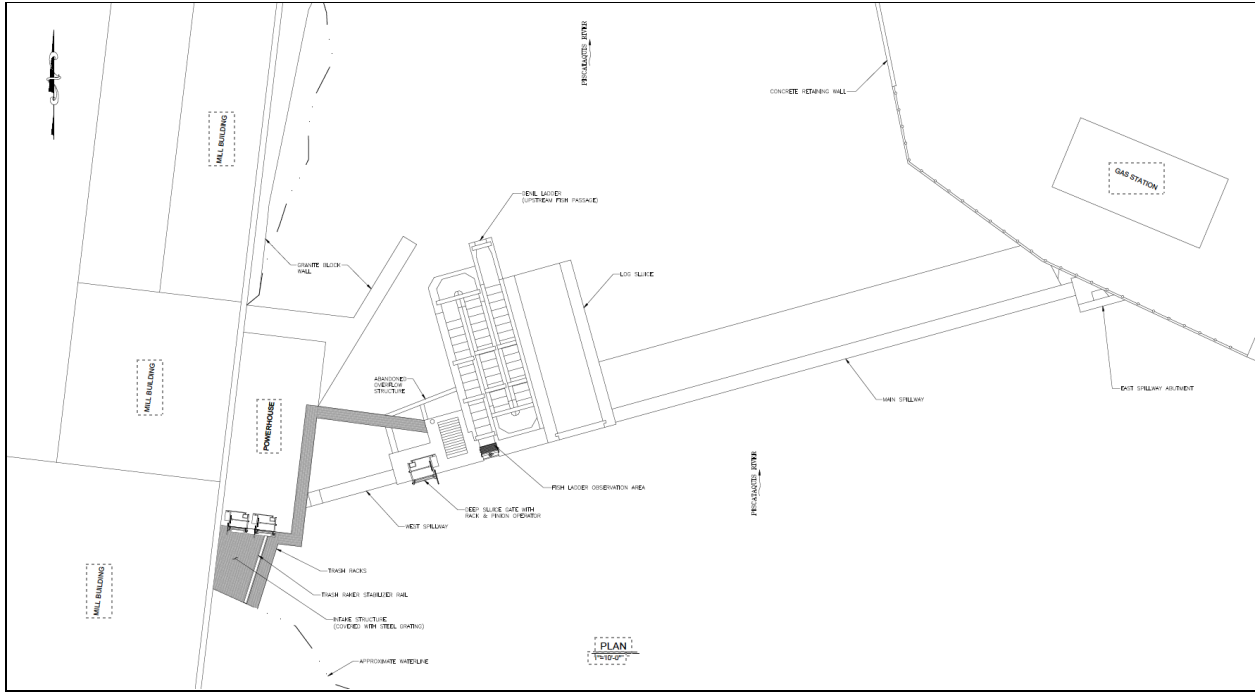
Proposals should be submitted by **5 PM ET on Monday, June 27, 2022.**

## **Background**

The Town of Dover-Foxcroft is requesting proposals for the revitalization of the defunct Moosehead Hydroelectric Project located on the Piscataquis River in Maine. The Town of Dover-Foxcroft is the Exemptee of the FERC exemption, P-5912, to operate hydropower at the Mayo Mill Dam. The project area includes a 12 foot tall, 150 foot long dam, a 30 acre impoundment, a defunct hydro powerhouse, and a fishway. The hydro project has been non-operational since 2007. Repairs to the fishway were completed in 2020 and regular maintenance is provided by the current lease holder of the project area.

Retrofitting the hydro plant for operation requires an amendment to the existing FERC exemption. Any proposal for retrofitting the hydro requires consultation with federal and state agencies pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The dam is not identified as historic property but the intake and powerhouse room are historic properties and require consultation with Maine State Historic Preservation office, appropriate Indian tribes, and other consulting parties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4) implementing section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Any proposed hydropower project would include the operations and management of the dam, fishway, and powerhouse room.

Proposals excluding redevelopment of hydropower will be considered. The developer would be responsible for preparing an application to surrender the exemption for FERC Commission approval. Surrender of the FERC exemption would transfer dam safety oversight to the state office of dam safety and an awarded proposal would include the coordination with the state dam safety office for on-going compliance, and repair of the non-hydro portion of the facility including the fishway. The dam is connected to the Mayo Mill mill building which was renovated into live work space and is a historic property. There is shared exterior access between the mill building and attached defunct powerhouse, and the fish ladder for maintenance. The mill building is not included for redevelopment in this RFP and has already undergone a full renovation.



Existing project elements

**Types of solicitation**

Creative revisioning of the Mayo Mill dam is encouraged for submission with the primary objective of preserving the water level of the upstream impoundment which creates recreational opportunities and a majestic setting for the community. The town is supportive of repowering the defunct hydro facilities to bring renewable energy to the community but it is not a requirement of the solicitation. Joint redevelopment proposals between two or more parties should be submitted as a single proposal noting the qualifications of each party.

Proposals utilizing the historic powerhouse building would be required to consult with the state historic preservation office if awarded the project to identify what elements need to be replaced in-kind.

**Schedule**

Release of Request for Proposals: May 4, 2022

Questions due: June 21, 2022

Proposals due: June 27, 2022

Respondent Interviews: July 2022

*Down selected proposals only.*

*The Town of Dover-Foxcroft is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Award and kickoff of contracting : August 2022

## Proposal sections

1. Proposed project scope of work with site plan
2. Compliance with fish passage requirements
3. Proposed financing for the project renovations and O&M. Revenue stream, if applicable. Grant funding, if applicable.
4. Data sheets on proposed equipment, if applicable
5. Approach to the FERC exemption compliance for a hydro project or the surrender of exemption process for non-hydro projects

## Hydro project specific requirements

Any proposal for a hydro project would be required to adhere to the following conditions set by the resource agencies. An awarded developer would be responsible for incorporating these operating requirements into the final design and operating plan, as well as the expense of maintaining FERC compliance at the project. Detailed operating procedures do not need to be included in the proposal.

The 30(c) Conditions set by USFWS of the FERC exemption for operating hydro at the facility are as follows.

- 1) The Exemptee shall provide the design flow of 40 cfs through the existing fishway, as needed, for migratory fish species; when natural inflow is less than 40 cfs, fishway will at least equal inflow to the impoundment. (*Other flows are noted in other agency conditions but USFWS conditions are the minimum operating requirements.*)
- 2) The Exemptee shall modify the fishway facilities after the plant begins generating power, if necessary to pass fish successfully. (*An attractant flow to the fishway is required in any hydropower design; the fishway was originally designed and constructed when the hydro was non-operational and does not account for exit flow from the turbine in relation to the fishway entrance.*)
- 3) The Exemptee shall provide an instantaneous minimum release of 160 cfs (0.5 cfsm) downstream of the tailrace discharge, or outflow equal to inflow, whichever is less.
- 4) The Exemptee shall insure that reasonable access is provided to project-areas lands and waters for fishing opportunity, insofar as safety and liability conditions permit.

State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection conditions are as follows:

- 1) An instantaneous minimum outflow of 20 cfs, or an outflow equal to the inflow when such inflow is less than 20 cfs, shall be maintained at all times at the Upper Dam.
- 2) The water level in the impoundment created by the Upper Dam shall be maintained at a level that will not expose any pipes discharging wastes into the river, except at such times when it is necessary to temporarily lower the water level in the impoundment to permit access to municipal sewer discharge pipes for maintenance purposes. In the event that it is necessary to lower the water level for the purpose noted, the applicant shall work closely with the Town of Dover-Foxcroft to ensure that the water level is lowered for the minimum time required to effect the necessary maintenance.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife conditions are as follows:

- 1) The fishway shall be maintained and operable at all times with its designated flow of 40 cfs. provided as priority over use of flows for power generation.
- 2) Periodic review of flows and operation should be made to assure proper fish passage in the future. The Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the USFWS should be parties to this review and any revised operating regime if deemed necessary to promote adequate fish passage either up or downstream.

### **Materials provided**

1. Biological Assessment, 2015 Prepared by Kleinschmidt
2. Biological Assessment, 2020 Prepared by Natel Energy (Appendices on the FERC e-library)
3. Site Plan View 2014, prepared by Kleinschmidt (Detailed site plans will be provided to the awardee)
4. FERC and Maine State Historic Preservation Office MOA
5. FERC Exemption conditions letter
6. FERC September 2015 Environmental Inspection Report
7. Additional information about the project can be found on the FERC e-library database by searching P-5912.
8. Examples of surrender applications can be found by using the Commission's eLibrary system, <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>.

## **Contract Award**

The Town of Dover-Foxcroft will evaluate the proposals based on the key personnel, similar project experience, and alignment with the town's objective of maintaining the upstream impoundment level. The down-selected proposals will then be evaluated for any expense required to be shared by the town compared to proposals that cover the full expense of the redesign. By responding to this RFP, the respondent represents that they are qualified to carry out the proposed project.

The contract will be awarded as time and materials with a not to exceed sum. The proposal shall include all expenses for studies, consultants, and permitting, including consultation with FERC, SHPO, other federal, state, and local authorities.