

## **MENOMINEE RIVER**

### **BIG QUINNESEC HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-1980)**

#### **A. SUMMARY**

1. License Issued: January 12, 2001
2. Expiration: July 31, 2040
3. Waterway: Menominee River
4. Capacity: 21.5 MW (megawatts)
5. Licensee: Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPC)
6. Counties: Dickinson County, Michigan & Florence and Marinette County, WI
7. Developments
  - a. Quinnesec Falls dam, at river mile 94.8
    - Two concrete non-overflow sections with a combined length of 305 ft.
    - 96-foot-long intake section
    - 229-ft-long spillway section
    - Four 12-ft-diameter penstock
    - Two powerhouses containing two units of 1,850kW and two of 8,900 kW
    - 270 acre impoundment
8. Operation Mode: Under the agreement, the project will be operated in run-of-river mode between April 10 and June 15 and in modified peaking mode during the rest of the year.
9. Settlement Agreement: May 15, 1997 (Wilderness Shore Settlement Agreement). The SA allowed for issuance of license for the following projects on the Upper Menominee basin
  - Way Dam & Michigamme Reservoir (P-1759)
  - Hemlock Falls (P-2074)
  - Lower Paint Plant, Dam & Diversion Canal (P-2072)
  - Peavy Falls Plant and Peavy Pond (P-1759)
  - Michigamme Falls (P-2073)
  - Twin Falls (P-1759)
  - Kingsford (P-2131)
10. Parties to Settlement Agreement:
  - Wisconsin Electric
  - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR)
  - Wisconsin Department of Administration
  - Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MI DNR)
  - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MI DEQ)
  - Michigan Attorney General
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
  - National Park Service (NPS)
  - River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW)
  - Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (MHRC)

**B. HRC INVOLVEMENT/ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR**

This project is part of the **Wilderness Shores Settlement Agreement** (WSSA) signed on February 10, 1997. The WSSA contains ten hydroelectric (hydro) projects and one non-hydro dam. Coalition members Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (MHRC) and Rivers Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW) worked on and are parties to WSSA.