

Quick Update from David Townsend (CLIC President) regarding the Forest City Dam. Yesterday, April 28, 2017, US Congressman Bruce Poliquin re-introduced into Congress his bill to exempt three Woodland Pulp dams from regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The three dams are the Forest City Project (P-2660), the Vanceboro Project (P-2492) and the West Branch Project (P-2618). This new bill was introduced as Bill H.R. 2216 and it was immediately referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. There may be a plan to try to tuck the contents of this bill into one of the large spending authorization bills that likely will move through Congress during this month.

Presumably, if exempted, the US portions of the Forest City and West Branch Projects could be regulated by the State of Maine. And, of course, both the Forest City and West Branch Projects would continue to be subject to the water levels and flows regulations set by the International Joint Commission (IJC). Congressman Poliquin first introduced this bill on June 13, 2016 (as H.R. 5464 (114<sup>th</sup>)). It was immediately referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, but the bill never came out of the committee stage.

The passage of this bill could be positive or a negative development: When this bill was first introduced in June of 2016, Woodland Pulp offered public assurances that even without FERC oversight, the mill would continue to operate those dams much as they had operated in the past. Reliance upon the general assurances of a large corporation was a concern then and it is a concern now.