

James Goedkoop, Wilder, VT.

Regarding the Wilder, VT Relicensing:

My wife Sharon, and I have lived in Wilder, VT for 35 years (right near Kilowatt North Picnic Area and the Wilder Dam) and seen many changes in the river management. We have a couple of comments:

River levels fluctuate considerably. Everyone understands that it's necessary to balance flow and electrical generation with river ecology. Every owner of the dam has, at times, run the river aggressively, either to full capacity or down to visible mud flats.

But as the river ecology will be spoken for by others, I'd like to address a couple of other things:

There once was a beautiful wooden dock at Kilowatt North which was built and maintained by the Dam owners. Everyone loved it. When Hartford took over, the dock was removed and an ugly plastic dock installed. The plastic dock was subsequently destroyed by seasonal fluctuations and removed as well—surely destined for the landfill. Now there's no good way to launch a canoe or kayak from Kilowatt North and no swimming opportunity. A nice dock there would be a great improvement.

Also, the dam itself has a walkway on it which would be perfect for a pedestrian and bike path between VT and NH accessing Boston Lot Lake. It would be so nice if the dam owners showed some community involvement and added that feature to the parks—maybe even considered a future connection between Kilowatt North and the Hazen trail!

And another thing. Two years ago, the path between South and North Kilowatt was destroyed by a reckless clearcut operation, much worse than any before, and then last fall, National Grid used chemical herbicides on the path between South and North Kilowatt. Completely unacceptable. In all the years we've been here, they've used reasonable mechanical means for vegetation control.

Perhaps in advance of the relicensing, the dam owners, the power line owners, and the maintenance contractors could see value in improving this public resource.

Thanks so much

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