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I have lived most of my life in the watershed of the Connecticut River, and I feel a deep appreciation of the river's ecological, economic, and cultural significance. I believe it is my responsibility and privilege to comment on the once-in-a-generation relicensing of this hydroelectric facility.

Great River Hydro (Hydro-Quebec) must be made to use this public trust resource responsibly. Specifically, FERC should require the company to:

- Have erosion control plans to address bank erosion, stabilize banks, and compensate landowners for loss of land;
- Establish long-term monitoring and assessment of how sediment will move in the river due to operational changes over the next license;
- Create comprehensive improvements to recreation access and provide ADA-compliant recreation amenities along the entire 175 miles of river;
- Set the shortest possible licensing term (30 years);
- Make immediate (not 16 years from now) upgrades to the fish ladders to protect American shad, American eel, sea lamprey and shortnose sturgeon;
- Prioritize protective land management, which includes conservation easements, management of terrestrial and aquatic invasives, and improvements to habitat and riparian buffers; and;
- Develop education about and protection of indigenous cultural resources related to the river.

By imposing these vital and reasonable requirements, the Connecticut River can continue to be a resource for nature and for the public while producing much-needed renewable energy.

Document Content(s)

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