

Sharon Boschert, Lebanon, NH.  
Dear FERC Commissioners & staff,

I urge you to include several requirements in the relicensing of Wilder Dam to make Great River Hydro more responsive and less harmful to the communities of the Upper Valley. I also encourage you to consider these requirements for all dams on the Connecticut River being relicensed now.

-The pedestrian and bike path across the Wilder Dam should be reopened. Its closing cut people off from a safe and environmentally sane way to cross the river and blocked easy access to recreational opportunities on each side of the river.

-Great River Hydro should make comprehensive improvements to recreational access near Wilder Dam and along the entire Connecticut River, including state-of-the-art ADA-compliant recreational amenities. The company makes hundreds of millions of dollars in profit off of the river but offers the public poor recreational access and amenities.

-The licensing term should be as short as possible, like 30 years rather than 50. With all of the unknowns that are headed toward us from climate change, we need to re-evaluate licenses more frequently than in the past.

-Great River Hydro should take responsibility for the erosion resulting from operation of its dams and produce erosion control plans that will reduce bank erosion, stabilize banks, and compensate landowners for loss of land.

-The company should conduct long-term monitoring over the course of its license and assess changes in the movement of sediment in the river.

- To protect the fish and the land from the harms of dams, Great River Hydro should immediately upgrade its fish ladders, consistently manage invasives both on the land and in the water, and make improvements to habitat and riparian buffers.

-The company should protect indigenous cultural resources related to the river and educate the public about them.

Thanks for your consideration, and for helping to protect the river and the communities along its shores.

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