

May 22, 2024 SENT VIA EFILE

Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426

Newmont Farms, LLC Comments: Great River Hydro Reauthorization

FERC No. 1904-078, Vernon Dam, Great River Hydro LLC
FERC No. 1855-050, Bellows Falls Dam, Great River Hydro LLC
FERC No. 1892-030, Wilder Dam, Great River Hydro LLC

Dear Secretary Reese,

Newmont Farms is a multi-generational family farm with properties that border the Connecticut River on both the New Hampshire and Vermont sides. Our farm crops approximately 2,000 acres abutting the river from Hartland, Vt., to Woodsville, N.H. We milk about 2,200 Holstein cows and have horses as well. My wife, Margaret, and I are partners with two of our sons, Will and Matt Gladstone, in the operation of the business.

We are anxious with the proposed changes to how the river management will occur and the extent it will impact our farms operations. In particular, we have lost many acres of river frontage due to erosion. We feel that a contributing factor to the loss of land has been management of water flows related to the dams. There have also been crop damages related to river flooding caused by decisions on operation of the dam.

As a result, we are asking for consideration by FERC of these three items:

- Monitoring of the impacts of dam operations along the river need to be studied and reported and we ask FERC to insist that this occurs, especially as we are concerned about potential unintended consequences of changes in proposed river management plans.
- Notification and alerts, ideally in real time, to any changes that will impact our farm operations related to river flow/height/timing/flooding/etc.
- We really feel that a mitigation fund that funds watershed improvements is critical to compensate for impacts to the landowners, like us, who have lost land to erosion.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and we hope you will weigh them carefully in the reauthorization process.

Sincerely,

Walter M. Gladstone
On behalf of Newmont Farm, LLC
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