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May 24, 2024

The Honorable Debbie-Anne Reese
Acting Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Applications for Relicensing of Great River Hydro, LLC of Wilder Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1892), Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1855), and Vernon Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1904)

Dear Acting Secretary Reese:

The Town of Stowe Electric Department (SED), a municipal utility in Vermont serving customers in the Town of Stowe, offers this letter in support of the continued operation and proposed improvements of the Wilder Hydroelectric Project, the Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project, and the Vernon Hydroelectric Project (collectively, the "Projects") as requested by Great River Hydro, LLC ("Great River Hydro"), respectively, in their relicensing applications as amended.

Hydropower is by far the longest-tenured generator class in New England's existing fleet, having delivered reliable, renewable generation for over a century. Conventional hydropower like Great River Hydro's Projects have long provided New England's grid with critical capabilities – from the hundreds of thousands of renewable megawatt hours generated annually, to the fast-start dispatchable characteristics that help balance the grid, to their on-demand fuel supply stored in their reservoirs.

These qualities will be ever more valuable as our region's demand grows while we strive for deeper decarbonization from the energy sector. Great River Hydro's Projects do not just directly offset carbon emissions from fossil generators, but they also allow for greater integration of variable renewable resources like solar and wind. What's more, Great River Hydro does this while providing competitively priced power to communities like the ones we serve. For Vermont municipal utilities, relicensing and

expanding our existing hydroelectric generation fleet will continue to provide us the opportunity to deliver reliable and carbon free electricity to our customers. We are proud to call Great River Hydro a partner to deliver this clean power to our customers, businesses, and residents alike.

SED supports Great River Hydro's applications for new licenses from the Commission and encourages the Commission to ensure the Projects' continued operation in accordance with Great River Hydro's proposed operation alternative so that Great River Hydro can continue to supply renewable and reliable generation to New England.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Pratt
General Manager
Stowe Electric Department

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