



**Great River Hydro**

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April 18, 2024

Mr. Peter LaFlamme, Director  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
Watershed Management Division  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

**Re: Great River Hydro, LLC; Application for Section 401 Water Quality Certifications for the Wilder Project FERC No. 1892, Bellows Falls Project FERC No. 1855 and Vernon Project FERC No. 1904**

Dear Mr. LaFlamme:

Great River Hydro LLC. (Great River Hydro, GRH) is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensee for the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon Projects on the Connecticut River. These three projects are currently undergoing relicensing proceedings. Department of Environmental Conservation staff and others in the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VANR) have been involved and have worked hard to investigate and evaluate project related impacts for over 12 years. On February 22, 2024 the FERC issued its Notice that the applications were accepted for filing and ready for environmental analysis.

Great River Hydro is seeking Water Quality Certifications from the State of Vermont under Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1341) for these hydroelectric projects. Accompanying this letter, please find three (3) applications for Water Quality Certifications associated with new FERC licenses to operate and maintain these hydroelectric projects as proposed in their respective, and accepted, FERC license applications. For each of the above Projects, please find application forms and accompanying additional pages. In support of the applications GRH has provided hyperlinks to the Final License Applications; a Memorandum of Understanding regarding our proposed operation between GRH, relevant VANR departments and others; a Settlement Agreement on Fish Passage between GRH, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife and others addressing fish passage at the three projects; and relevant Study Reports completed during the study phase of the Integrated Relicensing Process, for which VANR staff

participated throughout. Citations for these documents are also provided in a reference section to the applications.

Please review the information provided and notify Great River Hydro that the applications are either accepted or require additional information. We look forward to your department processing these applications as it is our belief that over the course of the last 12 years both Great River Hydro and VANR staff have worked hard to ensure our new License proposals meet Vermont Water Quality Standards.

If there are any questions regarding the applications or information provided in this filing or the process, please contact John Ragonese at 603-498-2851 or by emailing [jragonese@greatriverhydro.com](mailto:jragonese@greatriverhydro.com).

Sincerely,



John L. Ragonese  
FERC License Manager

Attachments:

VT Water Quality Certification Application – Wilder Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 1892  
VT Water Quality Certification Application – Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 1855  
VT Water Quality Certification Application – Vernon Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 1904