

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**

Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522
<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed>

Agency of Natural Resources

[phone] 802.490.6151

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April 19, 2024

John Ragonese, FERC Licensing Manager
Great River Hydro, LLC
69 Milk Street, Suite 306
Westborough, MA 01581

RE: Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 1855
Receipt of an Application for Water Quality Certification

Dear Mr. Ragonese:

The Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) acknowledges receipt of the water quality certification application and supportive documents for the relicensing of the Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project on the Connecticut River in the town of Rockingham, Vermont. The application was received by the Department on April 18, 2024.

Great River Hydro, LLC (GRH) requested a pre-filing meeting on December 15, 2021. At the time no pre-filing meeting was held with the applicant. Subsequently, the Department participated in a pre-filing meeting with GRH and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service on June 26, 2023, to review the 401 water quality certification applications.

The application is administratively complete. We will begin processing the application and keep you apprised of our progress. Additionally, information pertaining to the Department's process for evaluating the 401 applications for the GRH Projects can be found at the following Department website ([Great River Hydropower 401 Water Quality Certification Application | Department of Environmental Conservation \(vermont.gov\)](#)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey B. Crocker".

Jeffrey B. Crocker
Supervising River Ecologist

c: Jennifer Griffin, GRH
Melissa Grader, USFWS
Kathy Urffer, CRC
Katie Kennedy, TNC
Bob Nasdor, AW
Judith Sears Houston, NHDES
Matt Carpenter, NHFGD
Lael Will, VT FWD
Margaret Murphy, VT FWD
Pete LaFlamme, VT DEC
Betsy Simard, VT DEC
Eric Davis, VT DEC

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