

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division 1 National Life Drive, Davis 3 Montpelier, VT 05620-3522 https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed

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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: Wilder Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 1892 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 Wilder Hydroelectric Project on the Connecticut River in the town of Hartford, 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 (<u>Great River Hydropower 401 Water Quality</u> Certification Application | Department of Environmental Conservation (vermont.gov)).

Sincerely,

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 Agency of Natural Resources

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