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To the Ferc, I am a resident of Pomfret Vt and have lived and fished in this area since 1975. In particular I have fished the Ct river both above and below that cement plug in the river known as the Wilder Dam for over 35 years. I am very familiar with its operation-I am also disgusted that it is operated with almost complete disregard for the aquatic eco- system that it so dramatically (and negatively) impacts. I am glad it's license is up for renewal-were the decision mine, not only would its license not be renewed but I would order the dismantling of not only this dam but all those south of it on the Ct river mainstem-these Dams and the way they are operated harken back to the days of the Robber Barons-the bottom line of the Owners comes first, and second and third...the Public's resource be darned! It is interesting that the dams make money from raw material (public's water) that it doesn't have to pay for-what other industry is similarly positioned- (well, maybe the Nuclear Power Facility in Vernon that is allowed to thermally pollute the Ct River with impunity and free of charge at the expense of the Public's River so it can avoid putting any money (profits) into its cooling towers... but I digress, that is another river degradation story for another day) to add insult to injury we,the Public, have our river resource mismanaged and degraded day in and day out by an Industry that acts like it owns our rivers by controlling them as they will and then we get to pay for the power it produces from all that free raw material-great system.

Insofar as the decision isn't mine as to whether the Dam is relicensed or not at the very least I would respectfully request that ANY relicense require all of the following:

1. Run of the river-all day, every day...no more of the constant and erratic up and down...the other dams should be required to operate that way also-this would return the river to some semblance of its natural self-much to the benefit of the fish/insect and other wild life that call the river home-just ask any objective fisheries biologist on your staff about the harm done to a population of fish that has to constantly adjust and readjust its daily living and feeding patterns to constantly changing flows-it is not a good thing...run of the river would address many problems-pls take a look at the flow records for this dam-in the dead of a summers night the river seems to get drawn down awfully scratchy low...far lower than one sees during the daylight hours... an antidotal observation perhaps but one that is consistent from year to year-when the river goes from being brim full to having 2/3rds or so of the river bed exposed in a matter of a few hours it is only common sense that this isn't a good thing for the river and its aquatic ecosystem not only is it common sense but any aquatic biologist worth his or her salt will tell you so as well -draw downs of the reservoir also occur in the spring when many warm water species that inhabit the water above the dam are spawning or getting ready to do so-the shallow spawning areas are turned into mud flats-now this is a total disregard for the welfair of the fish and has to have an impact on reproductive success-how and why has this been allowed all these years? Run of the river addresses all of these issues-and more-such as erosion which is exacerbated by the constant up and down...none of this is "news"-all well established negative impacts of hydro dams that aren't "run of the river"-the Owners of Wilder Dam, were they proposing to build the dam today and operate it the way this dam has been operated since it was built would NEVER be allowed to get beyond square one-why should they get a free pass to continue to do so? I would also add that the general public using its river for a variety of recreational activities shouldn't have to fear for its life when the water suddenly rises, sweeping away all in its path-there is a long

history of drowning deaths below the wilder dam associated with sudden rises of water due to dam releases-why should this continue to be allowed and/or tolerated? there is little if anything positive about manipulated water levels-the constant rising and falling is only good for one thing-the Dam operators bottom line.

2. no bypasses reaches-I know there aren't any at Wilder but there are at other dam sites-this is 19th century river manipulation-ancient history-should no longer be allowed or tolerated...

3, year round upstream AND downstream fish passage for both resident as well as anadromous and catadromous (american eels) fish-the current operation of the fish ladder at Wilder is insulting...a few (if that) months in the spring of the year...any fisheries biologist will tell you resident fish move a lot-ans all the time, for spawning, for summer and winter sanctuary, for feeding, etc-the fish in the Ct river have been precluded from doing so-to their detriment-since the dams were built...fish coming through the turbines have a very low survival rate and its a one way trip-you can come down but you can't go back-about as unnatural a system as one could devise....and thanks to all the dams on the river (which has been the death knell for the salmon) and the Vernon Nuclear Power plant hot water discharge (which has kept most of the shad from moving past the discharge pipe) very few anadromous fish make it as far as Wilder so using the expensive fish ladders for a couple of months a year, well, is just "window dressing/lip service" by the dam operators-the ladder should be required to be in operation no less than March to December-as well as should state of the art downstream fish passage facilities.

In summary, any relicensing should require run of the river operation, state of the art upstream and downstream fish passage for both migratory and resident fish (operational year round) and no bypass reaches...

thank you for your consideration of my comments, requests, and suggestions.

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