

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20426

February 15, 2018

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 1892-030 – New Hampshire/Vermont
Project No. 1855-050 – New Hampshire/Vermont
Project No. 1904-078 – New Hampshire/Vermont
Great River Hydro, LLC

Subject: Revised Process Plan and Schedule – Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Hydroelectric Projects

To All Interested Parties:

On May 1, 2017, Great River Hydro, LLC (Great River Hydro) filed license applications for the Wilder Hydroelectric Project No. 1892, Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1855, and Vernon Hydroelectric Project No. 1904. In the license applications, Great River Hydro states that it cannot develop a complete licensing proposal until certain key resource studies have been finalized. Great River Hydro states that it will file amended license applications after completing additional field work, consultation, and analyses for multiple studies. On May 15, 2017, the Commission issued public notice of the license applications, stating that Commission staff will issue a revised procedural schedule with target dates after Great River Hydro completes and files the remaining study reports and amends the license applications.

As of May 1, 2017, Great River had completed 16 of the 33 studies required for the relicensing process.¹ On July 21, 2017, a study determination was issued involving the remaining 17 resource studies. The determination required additional information on seven of the studies.²

Between July 12, 2017 and February 9, 2018, Great River Hydro filed revised

¹ Study determinations for studies 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 were issued on January 22, 2015; January 15, 2016; June 29, 2016; September 12, 2016; and November 29, 2016.

² The letter required study modifications for studies 2 and 3, and accounted for Great River Hydro's commitment to provide additional information to stakeholders on studies 9, 18, 21, 24, and 25. Additional information was not required for the other 10 studies at issue in the July 21, 2017 letter (*i.e.*, studies 6, 10, 14, 15, 17, 19, 22, 23, 27, and 33).

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study reports for five of the remaining seven studies. Specifically, Great River Hydro filed an addendum to study 25 (*Dragonfly and Damselfly Inventory and Assessment*) on July 12, 2017; an addendum to studies 2 (*Riverbank Transect Study*) and 3 (*Riverbank Erosion Study*) on November 15, 2017; and addenda to studies 18 (*American Eel Upstream Passage Assessment*) and 21 (*American Shad Telemetry Study – Vernon*) on February 9, 2018.

In its February 9, 2018 filing, Great River Hydro states that additional consultation and analyses are ongoing for the outstanding addenda associated with the other two remaining studies (*i.e.*, study 9, *Instream Flow Study*, and study 24, *Dwarf Wedgemussel and Co-Occurring Mussel Study*). In its license applications, Great River Hydro states that it is seeking additional consultation with Indian tribe representatives, which may result in a revised study report involving Traditional Cultural Properties (study 33, *Cultural and Historic Resources Study*).

To establish a schedule for stakeholders to request modifications to the study report addenda identified above, we are issuing the attached revised process plan and schedule for studies 2, 3, 18, 21, and 25.³ Included in this schedule are dates for Great River Hydro to submit progress reports on studies 9 and 24, and a progress report on the status of Great River Hydro's consultation with Indian tribes on Traditional Cultural Properties.

The process plan and schedule may be revised in the future, as appropriate. After Great River Hydro files the amended license applications, Commission staff will issue a revised procedural schedule with target dates for the milestones needed to process the applications.

If you have any questions, please contact Brandon Cherry at (202) 502-8328 or brandon.cherry@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,



Vince Yearick
Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing

Attachment: Revised Process Plan and Schedule

³ Commission staff last issued a process plan and schedule for Great River Hydro's projects on February 22, 2017.

REVISED PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE

The process plan and schedule do not include all milestones that will be needed to process the amended license applications. Shaded milestones are unnecessary if there are no study disputes. If a due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the following business day. Early filings or issuances will not result in changes to these deadlines.

Responsible Party	Milestone	Date	FERC Regulation
Great River Hydro	File Study Report Addenda to Studies 2, 3, 18, 21, and 25	5/1/17 to 2/9/18	5.15(f)
All Stakeholders	Study Report Meeting	3/8/18	5.15(c)(2) 5.15(f)
Great River Hydro	File Study Report Meeting Summary	3/23/18	5.15(c)(3) 5.15(f)
All Stakeholders	File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plan	4/22/18	5.15(c)(4) 5.15(f)
Great River Hydro	File Progress Reports for Studies 9 and 24, ¹ and for Consultation on Traditional Cultural Properties ²	5/15/18	5.15(b)
All Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements/Amendment Requests	5/22/18	5.15(c)(5) 5.15(f)
FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments	6/21/18	5.15(c)(6) 5.15(f)
Great River Hydro	File Amended License Applications	TBD	5.27
FERC	Issue Notice of Acceptance and Ready for Environmental Analysis	TBD	5.22(a)

¹ Great River Hydro is required to file a progress report on May 15, 2018, and every 90 days thereafter, until the study report addenda to studies 9 and 24 are completed and filed with the Commission. The progress report(s) should describe the status of additional consultation and analysis, and, if possible, provide a projected filing date for the study report addenda.

² The progress report should discuss the status of Great River Hydro's consultation with Indian tribes on Traditional Cultural Properties, and whether Great River Hydro anticipates filing revisions to study 33 or revisions to the draft Historic Properties Management Plan.

Document Content(s)

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