

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20426
April 30, 2021

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

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

VIA FERC Service

Mr. John L. Ragonese
FERC License Manager
Great River Hydro, LLC
40 Pleasant St., Suite 202
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Reference: Supporting Design Reports

Dear Mr. Ragonese:

Great River Hydro, LLC (Great River) filed applications for new licenses for the Wilder Hydroelectric Project No. 1892, Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1855, and Vernon Hydroelectric Project No. 1904 on May 1, 2017, and amended the license applications on December 7, 2020. In each of the license applications, Great River requests a waiver of the requirement in section 4.41(g)(3) of the Commission's regulations to include a supporting design report (SDR) in Exhibit F. In support of its request, Great River states that the most recent dam safety inspection reports filed by Great River pursuant to Part 12 of the Commission's regulations (18 C.F.R. Part 12), fulfill the requirement for filing an SDR for each project.

An SDR is, in part, required by the Commission's regulations to demonstrate that existing and proposed structures and operations would be safe and adequate under any new license issued for a project. Great River Hydro's license applications include proposed measures that are not being implemented under the current licenses, such as the proposal to operate the projects in a modified run-of-river mode by limiting impoundment fluctuations and project discharges. The most recent dam safety inspection reports do not address the safety of the projects under the relicense proposal, but rather, only the conditions of the projects under the current licenses. Therefore, Great River's request is denied and Great River must file an SDR for each project as required by section 4.41(g) of the Commission's regulations, within 60 days from the date of this

Project Nos. 1892-030, 1855-050
and 1904-078

2

letter. To the extent that the dam safety inspection reports contain information required by section 4.41(g) of the Commission's regulations, Great River could incorporate that information into the SDRs by reference.

If Great River has any questions concerning this letter, please contact Steve Kartalia at (202) 502-6131, or via email at stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Yearick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vince Yearick
Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing

Document Content(s)

P-1892-030 1855-050-1904-078_ Design Reports.PDF1