

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20426
April 29, 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: Additional Information Request

Dear Mr. Ragonese:

On January 14, 2021, Commission staff requested that Great River Hydro, LLC (Great River), the licensee for the Wilder Hydroelectric Project No. 1892, Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1855, and Vernon Hydroelectric Project No. 1904 (projects), provide additional information and resolve deficiencies for the license applications that it filed on May 1, 2017, and amended on December 7, 2020. Commission staff also issued an additional information request on February 12, 2021. Great River filed a response to staff's letters on March 15 and 30, 2021.

We have reviewed the filed information and request additional information in Schedule A. Please provide this information within 60 days from the date of this letter, pursuant to section 5.21 of the Commission's regulations.

If the requested information causes another part of the applications to be inaccurate, that part must be revised and refiled by the due date. Please be aware that further requests for additional information may be sent at any time before final action on the license applications.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file the requested information using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/eFiling.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlinesupport@ferc.gov; call toll-free at (866) 208-3676; or, for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. In lieu of electronic filing, Great River may submit a paper copy.

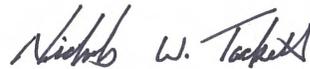
Project Nos. 1892-030, 1855-050
and 1904-078

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Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, D.C. 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. The first page of any filing should include the applicable docket numbers: P-1892-030, P-1855-050, and P-1904-078.

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

Sincerely,



Nicholas Tackett, Chief
New England Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing

Enclosure: Schedule A – Request for Additional Information

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Commission staff's February 12, 2021 letter, requested that Great River provide information on flow releases from each project dam and powerhouse for 2009, 2015, 2016, and 2017, for current operation, simulated run-of-river operation, and simulated modified run-of-river operation.¹ Great River's March 30, 2021 response, combines the dam and powerhouse flow releases for each respective project, and does not show the flow releases separately for each powerhouse and each dam. So that staff can analyze the effects of the proposed projects on flows downstream of the respective project dams and powerhouses, please file the flow release information separately for each project powerhouse and each project dam. Please provide this information for 2009, 2015, 2016, and 2017 for: (1) current operation, (2) simulated run-of-river operation, and (3) simulated modified run-of-river operation.
2. The simulation model outputs for run-of-river operation in 2009, 2015, 2016, and 2017, filed on March 30, 2021, include significantly higher water volumes than actual, historical water volumes at each project. The differences are significant on a monthly and annual basis, and are not consistent between projects, with the Bellows Falls Project having the largest relative difference between modeled and historical volumes. Please revise the response to staff's February 12, 2021 letter, so that the simulation model outputs for run-of-river operation (e.g., flow releases from each dam and powerhouse), include monthly water volumes that are accurate to within 1 percent of the actual monthly historical water volumes for each project for 2009, 2015, 2016, and 2017.
3. Please estimate the annual generation production associated with run-of-river operation for each project.

¹ Great River proposes to operate the projects as modified run-of-river facilities, such that outflows approximate inflows and reservoir levels are within 0.5 feet above or below specified target elevations, with the flexibility to deviate from target outflows and reservoir levels for a limited number of hours each month. Great River refers to its proposed operation as "inflow equals outflow" (IEO) and "flexible operation," or "IEO/Flexible Operation." See section 2.2.1 of Exhibit E of the December 7, 2020 amended final license applications.