

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20426
July 23, 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:

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. On April 30, 2021, Commission staff required Great River to file a supporting design report (SDR) as part of Exhibit F for each application. Great River filed the SDRs on June 24, 2021.

We have reviewed the filed information and request additional information in Schedule A. Please provide this information within 30 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. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose,

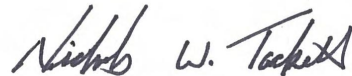
Project Nos. 1892-030, 1855-050
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Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, D.C. 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory 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, or 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

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

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. In the supporting design reports filed on June 24, 2021, the shear strength parameters used for the 1982 stability analyses for the Bellows Falls and Vernon projects were taken from typical values from the 1996 Water Power magazine. This approach is not an appropriate industry standard for selecting shear strength parameters. Please provide further justification of the shear strength parameters used for the stability analyses. In addition, please either: (1) provide justification for the cohesion values that Great River used at the concrete-rock interface in the stability analyses, by providing test results; or (2) perform no-cohesion stability analyses, as discussed in Chapter 3 of the Commission's Engineering Guidelines, which can be found at: <https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/chap3.pdf>.
2. In the supporting design report for Bellows Falls, the spillway section with stanchion flashboards that is in the loading diagram that was used in the 1982 stability analysis, appears to have a sloping base. However, the Exhibit F drawings included with Great River's May 1, 2017 filing, show the spillway section with a flat base. Please verify the correct geometry of the spillway with the stanchion flashboards. Also, please revise either the loading diagram in the stability analysis or revise the Exhibit F drawings to eliminate the inconsistency.
3. In the supporting design report for Bellows Falls, Great River used a pseudo-static method to determine the seismic loading in the 1982 stability analysis. This is not an acceptable methodology according to Chapter 3 of the Commission's Engineering Guidelines. Please use a dynamic method to determine the seismic loading, and include a stability analysis for the post-seismic loading condition.

Document Content(s)

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