

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
NOTICE OF COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING
WRIGHTSVILLE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

February 4, 2022

Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. has initiated the process to obtain a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to continue to operate the existing Wrightsville Hydroelectric Project on the North Branch of the Winooski River in the towns of East Montpelier and Middlesex Vermont. As part of this process, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) is reviewing an application for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, required pursuant to the provisions of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 USC section 1341.

The applicant proposes to operate the Wrightsville Hydroelectric Project in a modified run-of-river mode and provide flows into the bypassed reach and downstream for aquatic habitat. Modified run-of-river mode for this Project is one in which outflow approximates inflow to the extent possible due to the limitations of the infrastructure including capacity of the fixed units and the minimum and maximum hydraulic capacity of the Project.

The applicant must demonstrate that the project will be in compliance with the Vermont Water Quality Standards by not having an undue impact on the aquatic environment, or the designated and existing uses of the waters of the State. The Department's tentative determination is to grant the certification with conditions to mitigate impacts on water quality.

The Department is seeking public comments on this tentative determination, during a 30-day public notice period. All timely comments will be considered in formulation of the final decisions. During this notice period a person may request a public information meeting regarding the draft decision. Written comments will be accepted at the address below, or via e-mail to Jeff.Crocker@vermont.gov, until **4:30 PM on March 11, 2022**.

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held on **March 9, 2022 at 1:00 PM** at the Agency of Natural Resources Annex at 190 Junction Road, Berlin Vermont. Additionally, an option to join the meeting virtually will be provided. Persons having an interest in the project and the affected waters are encouraged to attend and provide oral testimony or written statements and data that would bear on the final water quality certification decision.

Copies of the draft certification and Water Quality Standards are available by mail or on the Agency website: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/permits/public-notices/401>

For information on the application, access to related documents, or copies of the Water Quality Standards, interested persons should contact:

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