

**Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation**

**NOTICE OF COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING
NORTH HARTLAND HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

North Hartland, LLC of Boston, Massachusetts has initiated the process to obtain a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to continue to operate the existing North Hartland Hydroelectric Project on the Ottauquechee River.

As part of this process, the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is reviewing an application for a Clean Water Act §401 Water Quality Certification, required pursuant to the provisions of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 USC §1341.

The applicant has agreed to operate the North Hartland Project in run-of-river mode from April 1 through September 30 and in a store and release mode from October 1 through March 31 with a minimum generation flow of 225 cfs and a maximum generation flow of 400 cfs (or inflow if outside of this range). Additionally, the applicant proposes to consult with the Agency to address low dissolved oxygen concentrations and provide eel passage after it is provided downstream on the Connecticut River.

The applicant must demonstrate that the project will be in compliance with the Vermont Water Quality Standards by not having an undue adverse impact on the aquatic environment, or the designated and existing uses of the waters of the State. ANR'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 decision. During this notice period, a person may request a public informational 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 October 1, 2021**.

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held on **September 29, 2021 at 1:00 pm** at the ANR Offices at the National Life Building in Montpelier. 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:

Jeff Crocker, Supervising River Ecologist
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522
Email: Jeff.Crocker@vermont.gov
Telephone: 802.490.6151

August 27, 2021