

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS  
WILDER, BELLOWS FALLS, AND VERNON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS**

*July 17, 2024*

Great River Hydro LLC (GRH) has initiated the process to obtain a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to continue to operate the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Hydroelectric Projects located on the Connecticut River in the towns of Hartford, Rockingham, and Vernon, Vermont. As part of this process, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) is reviewing applications 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.

Great River Hydro proposes to operate the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Hydroelectric Projects to target a specified water level at the dam and, as a result, maintain flow below the Projects equal to the approximate inflow as measured or calculated at the dam (inflow equals outflow or IEO). In addition to IEO Operation, GRH proposes restricted discretionary flexible operation capability, as well as the ability to respond to emergencies and ISO-NE requirements.

Any applicant for a water quality certification 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 is hosting three informational meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to answer questions related to the water quality certification applications and process. The Department also welcomes public feedback or additional data before issuing draft water quality certifications on the Projects.

Public Informational Meetings

Vernon Hydroelectric Project	Wilder Hydroelectric Project	Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project
<i>August 6, 2024 at 5:30 pm</i>	<i>August 7, 2024 at 5:30 pm</i>	<i>August 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm</i>
The Great Room in Thomas Hall Winston Prouty Center 209 Austine Drive Brattleboro, Vermont 05301	Hartford Area Career and Technology Center 1 Gifford Rd White River Junction, VT 05001	Lower Theater in Town Hall #7 Village Square Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101

**Additionally, the meeting can be joined via phone (+1 802-828-7667, 813920027#) or virtually (upon request).** Persons having an interest in the projects and the affected waters are encouraged to attend and discuss the applications. Copies of the Water Quality Standards are available by mail or on the Agency website:

[dec.vermont.gov/watershed/tasc/water-quality-standards](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/tasc/water-quality-standards)

For information on the application or access to related documents, 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](mailto:Jeff.Crocker@vermont.gov)  
Telephone 802.490.6151