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**Connecticut River
Conservancy**

Take Action

for Your Rivers

Taking a Moment to Say THANK YOU!



River Stewards at the Connecticut River Conservancy.

As we embark on a new year, we want to take a moment to say thank you to all the folks who have been involved with the ongoing FERC relicensing process!

Many of you have given endless hours to help us navigate this effort - both on the federal level and on the state level. Thank you so much for the hours you have spent writing comments and figuring out how to submit them, or coming to us with information and your concerns to help us focus our arguments.

We are very grateful and committed to continue this fight for the best possible deal we can get for the heart of our River!

Vermont 401 Comment Period Open Now! Public Hearing on January 16th



Wilder dam on the Connecticut River.

The VT Department of Environmental Conservation released the [draft 401 Water Quality Certification](#) for Wilder Dam on December 23rd. This is your opportunity to read what the state will be requiring of Great River Hydro for the next 40 years.

CRC is pretty disappointed! We encourage you to read the draft document and provide detailed comments!*

Attend the Public Hearing: January 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Hartford Area Career and Technology Center, 1 Gifford Rd
White River Junction, VT

Submit Written Comments until January 28th

*You must provide comments through the [VT Environmental Notice Bulletin](#). Search for "Wilder" as the Activity Name.

Additional draft 401 WQCs will be released for Bellows Falls and Vernon over the coming weeks.

[More Information](#)

Join the VT HydroPower Office Hour



CRC River Stewards Nina, Kathy, and Kate.

Join Kathy Urffer on **January 16th at 12pm** to **get help** with how to **submit comments** on the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon draft 401 Water Quality Certifications for Vermont!

This discussion assumes that you understand some of the [background about this ongoing relicensing process](#) and that you are planning to comment to the State of Vermont by January 28th. Bring your questions and concerns.

[Register Here](#)

401 Timeline Updates



Turners Falls Power Canal by Al Braden.

The year-long 401 WQC process started on April 22, 2024, and the states now have less than 5 months left to submit their respective 401 Water Quality Certificates to FERC. Here's a summary of the status in each state:

Massachusetts:

January 24, 2025 - MassDEP will publish a draft 401 WQC!

Written public comment period will begin on January 24, 2025, and last until February 24, 2025. MassDEP will hold an in-person and a virtual public hearing during the week of February 17, 2025.

Vermont:

December 23, 2024 - draft 401 for Wilder released!

Mid-January 2025 - draft 401 for Bellows Falls facility to be released

End of January - draft 401 for Vernon facility to be released.

New Hampshire:

Early spring 2025 - expecting draft WQC to be published.

[Check Here for MA Updates](#)

[Check Here for VT Updates](#)

[Check Here for NH Updates](#)

Read CRC's FERC Comments



If you have not had a chance to read CRC's comments on the FERC final license applications, you can find them in the FERC docket or [here](#), linked on our blog.

As always, if you have questions about the process going forward, CRC's concerns and advocacy, or how to get involved, please get in touch with your local River Steward.

CRC Comments to FERC



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The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) restores and advocates for clean water, healthy habitats, and resilient communities to support a diverse and thriving watershed. CRC has been a steward of the Connecticut River and tributary streams since 1952. Through collaborative partnerships in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, CRC leads and supports science-based efforts for natural and life-filled rivers from source to sea. Learn more at ctriver.org.



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