



Clean water. Healthy habitat. Thriving communities.

**Connecticut River
Conservancy**

Take Action
for Your Rivers

Opportunity to Provide Data and Concerns to 401 State Staff in VT and NH!



Portage takeout at Vernon Dam

Opportunity to provide input until October 1st!

The 401 process is a required part of the relicensing of the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon hydroelectric facilities. This is a powerful opportunity for the state to ensure the facilities comply with water quality standards and **public participation is critical**.

At the public information sessions held in August by VT Agency of Natural Resources staff, **VT State staff indicated that they are welcoming the submission of water quality comments, concerns, and additional data until October 1, 2024** to consider as they begin to draft the Water Quality Certification for the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon facilities.

The NH State staff is also willing to accept comments and information prior to issuing a draft, but does not share the Oct 1 deadline.

If you already commented to FERC, some of what you said may be useful to reiterate to the States. These comments must relate to facility impacts on designated uses and criteria contained within state water quality standards.

Consider the following uses of the river:

- aquatic biota and wildlife
- aquatic habitat
- aesthetics
- recreational boating, fishing, and swimming
- public water sources

Consider the following water quality criteria:

- temperature
- phosphorus
- nitrates
- turbidity
- dissolved oxygen

You can read the full **Water Quality Standards** for [Vermont](#) and [New Hampshire](#) to inform your comments.

Send pre-draft comments, concerns, and additional information to:

Vermont: Before Oct 1.

Jeff Crocker, Supervising River Ecologist
jeff.crocker@vermont.gov, 802-490-6151

New Hampshire: As soon as you can.

Daniel Demers, Water Quality Certification Program Manager
daniel.j.demers@des.nh.gov, 603-271-0699

RECORDINGS OF INFORMATION SESSIONS:

If you missed any of the public information sessions for VT or NH, here are links to recordings of some of them*:

[New Hampshire](#)

[Wilder Project: Aug 12, 2024](#)

[Bellows Falls Project: Aug 14, 2024](#)

[Vermont](#)

[Wilder Project: August 7, 2024](#)

[Bellows Falls Project: August 8, 2024](#)

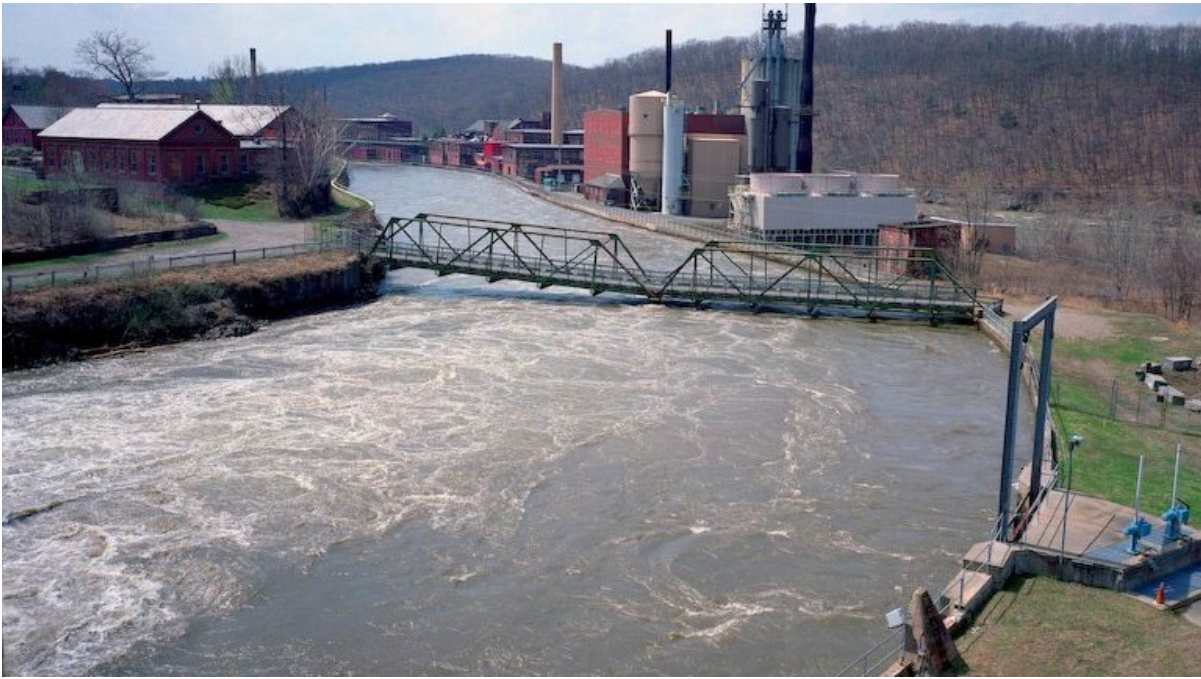
[Vernon Project: August 6, 2024](#)

* A big Thank You to [Junction Arts and Media](#), [Falls Area Community TV](#), and [Brattleboro Community Television](#) for providing public access to these meetings!

If you would like to learn more about the general 401 process and water quality standards, click below to watch a LiveStream!

[Water Quality Certification LiveStream](#)

401 Process Continues in Massachusetts Too!



Turners Falls Power Canal by Al Braden

MassDEP 401 Public Information Session
Oct 10th at 6pm
Shea Theater, Turners Falls/Great Falls*, MA

The 401 public information session will be an opportunity for MassDEP to present preliminary information about the Water Quality Certificate (WQC) and answer questions from the public.

You can check out the [MassDEP 401 webpage](#) to follow the 401 WQC process. **Scroll down** on the right side to sign up to **get email updates** as the 401 process continues (look for where it says "Email Updates, Subscribe").

You can **read FirstLight's 401 application [here](#)**, and **CRC's initial comments on it [here](#)**.

**Great Falls is a decolonized place name for Turners Falls. Captain Turner led the "Battle of Turners Falls" which is also known "Peskeompscut-Wissantinnewag Massacre," killing the local indigenous residents in 1676.*

[More info on the MassDEP 401 page](#)

[Add this event to your Google Calendar](#)

Read Great River Hydro and FirstLight Response to Your FERC Comments



After CRC and other stakeholders commented to FERC on the final applications for both Great River Hydro and FirstLight in May of 2024, the companies had the opportunity to respond to all public comments. It is very informative to read their response to understand the stance that they are taking!

[GRH Response to Public Comments](#)

[FL Response to Public Comments](#)

[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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