

Steps to Submit Public Comment on FERC Hydropower Projects

A couple of things to consider:

- Comments to FERC can be submitted at any time, but for them to be officially
 considered in the course of a proceeding, they should be submitted during a formal
 comment period which is active right now through August 28, 2025.
- The process of commenting will be different if you are commenting as an individual or on behalf of an organization, municipality, or other entity.
- You must know the project number. Below are Project numbers for the five large hydro facilities on the main stem Connecticut River currently undergoing relicensing (you can submit comments to more than one project at the same time):
 - Wilder Dam, P-1892-030
 - Bellows Falls Dam, P-1855-050
 - Vernon Dam, P-1904-078
 - Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, P-2485-071
 - Turners Falls Dam, P-1889-085

Formal comment period

FERC is currently accepting comments on the <u>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</u> for all five facilities. A comment communicates to FERC local concerns, desires, and provides additional information that FERC can consider as they are making decisions in a relicensing process.

The formal comment period is open until **5pm EST on August 28, 2025**.

How to submit a comment: Are you an individual or an organization?

eComment: For individuals:

For a comment up to 10,000 characters of text-only comments, and that is submitted on behalf of an individual, you can submit an e-comment here:

https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx.

This **DOES NOT** require creating an account with FERC.

Simply input your personal information on this page to complete an eComment request. After this, you will receive an email from ferc.gov with a link to the comment system. Here, you will submit your comment using its associated FERC project number.

eFile: For longer comments or organizations:

For a comment longer than 10,000 characters, with attachments, or to post a comment on behalf of an organization, you will need to eRegister with FERC to create an account here: https://ferconline.ferc.gov/eRegistration.aspx, and then eFile (https://ferconline.ferc.gov/eFiling.aspx) by logging in here: https://ferconline.ferc.gov/LogIn.aspx

Instructions to eFile:

Address your letter to:

Attn: Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Project Docket # here (see above to specify the project number(s) you're commenting on)

Write your comments, save the final version as a PDF and then eFile it following these steps:

- 1. Log in at: ferconline.ferc.gov/Login.aspx
- 2. Choose "eFiling Submit documents electronically"
- 3. Select "General" in the leftmost dropdown menu labeled "How is your filing to be directed?".
- 4. Select "Comment (on Filing, Environ. Report, Tech Conf)" in the center dropdown menu labeled "what kind of filing are you making?"
- 5. Choose "Comment" in the rightmost dropdown menu labeled "Filing Type (Fee)".
- 6. Hit "next." This will take to you a page where you will be prompted to search for a "docket number." Enter the project number (for example P-1892-030) of the dam you wish to comment on and then choose the blue plus sign under "Select." You can search for another project number and add that if your comments pertain to more than one facility. Click "next."
- 7. This page allows you to upload a file of your comment by clicking the "choose file" button and navigating to your document. Once the file has been added to the Public Files group, add a short description (for example: "Comments of CRC on Wilder Dam Draft Environmental Impact Statement") and click "next."
- 8. This page asks you to specify whether you are commenting as a part of an organization or as an individual. If you select "on behalf of another party", you must search for and enter the party or organization name. (This is in there because you eRegistered already). Click "next."

- 9. Next, you must add an E-mail contact address for your party or yourself as an individual. Then add that e-mail address as a signer. Click "next".
- 10. You will be prompted to add a summary of your comment. Once added to the textbox, click "next".
- 11. Finally, you will be taken to a pre-view page listing your information and comment. If this information is correct, click "submit" to formally file your comment with FERC.

If you'd like more information about online participation in the FERC process, please refer to their guide: https://www.ferc.gov/participating-online-ferc.

THANK YOU FOR BEING WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PUBLIC PROCESS!

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO US IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

Kathy Urffer Director of Policy and Advocacy/River Steward, VT 802-258-0413 | kurffer@ctriver.org

Nina Gordon-Kirsch River Steward, MA 413-834-9777 | ngordonkirsch@ctriver.org

Marilla Harris-Vincent River Steward, NH 603-503-0419 | mharrisvincent@ctriver.org