



Great River Hydro

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September 29, 2023

Commissioner Jared Chicoine
NH Department of Energy
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Request for Public Comment on Improvements/Potential Changes to REF Programs

Dear Commissioner Chicoine:

Great River Hydro LLC (“GRH”) is pleased to respond to the Request for Public Comment on Improvements and Potential Changes to Renewable Energy Fund Programs issued by the New Hampshire Department of Energy on September 1, 2023.

GRH is New England’s largest conventional hydropower generator. As a privately held independent power producer, GRH owns and operates 13 generating stations and 3 storage-only reservoirs located along the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts. In addition to our existing fleet of hydropower assets, GRH is also pursuing a growth strategy with hydro efficiency, solar, and battery storage projects alongside our legacy assets to help drive the clean energy transition.

GRH’s comments are limited to the Non-Residential Competitive Grant Program. Great River Hydro has participated in this program and was fortunate to be a successful competitive grant recipient in 2021. We were awarded a grant to help fund the installation of an additional 4.6 MW generation unit at the Moore Dam development of the Fifteen Mile Hydroelectric Project located in Littleton, New Hampshire. The project will be completed on or before December 31, 2023, and is a great example of the value that REF funding provides to New Hampshire renewable energy development.

GRH believes that the Non-Residential Competitive Grant Program is operating efficiently to increase the supply of NH-based renewable power and renewable energy certificates, and is very effective at using REF funds to leverage private investment and in-kind contributions. Furthermore, this program is important because it is the only one that

makes REF funds available to all renewable types, agnostic to technology type, and to further extend REF funding to both efficiency improvements at existing and to development of new renewable capacity. Existing or new hydropower projects, in particular, are not eligible to participate in any of the other REF-funded programs. Given the success of the Competitive Grant Program, GRH would encourage the DOE to maintain its current funding level, and consider increasing it if funding becomes available.

Great River Hydro appreciates the opportunity to provide the DOE with our comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me (413-834-1909 or bkibbe@greatriverhydro.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BK', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brandon Kibbe
Director of Business Development and Legislative Affairs