



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2737-027]

Green Mountain Power Corporation; Notice of Application for a Non-Capacity Amendment of License Accepted for Filing, Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, And Protests

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. Application Type: Non-Capacity Amendment of License
- b. Project No: 2737-027
- c. Date Filed: June 14, 2023 and supplemented on August 15, 2023
- d. Applicant: Green Mountain Power Corporation
- e. Name of Project: Middlebury Lower Hydroelectric Project
- f. Location: The project is located on the Otter Creek in the towns of Middlebury and Weybridge, Addison County, Vermont. The project does not occupy any Federal lands.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a - 825r
- h. Applicant Contact: Jason L. Lisai, Green Mountain Power Corporation, 163 Acorn Lane, Colchester, VT 05446-6611, (802) 655-8723, jason.lisai@greenmountainpower.com
- i. FERC Contact: Aneela Mousam, (202) 502-8357, aneela.mousam@ferc.gov
- j. Cooperating agencies: With this notice, the Commission is inviting Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to

environmental issues affected by the proposal, that wish to cooperate in the preparation of any environmental document, if applicable, to follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item I below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of any environmental document cannot also intervene. *See* 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

1. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests: April 25, 2024.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include the docket number P-2737-027. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files

comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

m. Description of Request: Green Mountain Power Corporation (licensee) requests Commission approval to replace the existing Unit 3 turbine runner with a new turbine runner. The upgrades would decrease the project's authorized installed capacity from 2,250 kilowatts (kW) to 1,800 kW and increase the maximum hydraulic capacity from 945 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 1,052 cfs. The increased efficiency of the turbine unit would result in an increase in annual energy generation. The licensee does not propose any other structural modifications to the powerhouse or any other project structures. During construction, Units 1 and 2 would remain operational, and any excess river flow would pass over the project dam into the bypass reach. In addition, the licensee states all construction activities associated with the proposed amendment would occur within the existing powerhouse and would be isolated from the river. Access to the powerhouse area for delivery of the Unit 3 turbine runner and construction vehicles would be via the existing access road, and would not require any ground disturbance. The licensee does not propose any changes to the licensed project operations during or after turbine runner replacement.

n. Locations of the Application: This filing may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, for TTY,

call (202) 502-8659. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant.

o. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

p. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene: Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214, respectively. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

q. Filing and Service of Documents: Any filing must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "PROTEST", or "MOTION TO INTERVENE" as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, motions to intervene, or protests must set forth their evidentiary basis. Any filing made by an intervenor must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2010.

r. The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and

others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

Dated: March 26, 2024.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Acting Secretary.

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