



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2737-029]

Green Mountain Power Company; Notice of Intent to File License

Application, Filing of Pre-Application Document (Pad), Commencement of

Pre-Filing Process and Scoping, Request for Comments on the Pad and

Scoping Document, and Identification of Issues and Associated Study

Requests

- a. Type of Filing: Notice of Intent to File License Application for a New License and Commencing Pre-filing Licensing Process
- b. Project No.: 2737-029
- c. Dated Filed: July 31, 2026
- d. Submitted By: Green Mountain Power Corporation (GMP)
- e. Name of Project: Middlebury Lower Hydroelectric Project
- f. Location: The project is located on Otter Creek in Addison County, Vermont.

- g. Filed Pursuant to: 18 CFR Part 5 of the Commission's regulations
- h. Potential Applicant Contact: Mr. John Tedesco, Generation Project Coordinator, Green Mountain Power Corporation, 163 Acorn Lane, Colchester, VT, 05446; (802) 655-8753 or email at John.Tedesco@greenmountainpower.com.
- i. FERC Contact: Erin Mocko, Project Coordinator, Great Lakes Branch, Division of Hydropower Licensing; telephone at (202) 502-8107; email at Erin.Mocko@FERC.gov.
- j. Cooperating agencies: Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item o below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. *See* 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).
- k. With this notice, we are initiating informal consultation with: (a) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration – Fisheries under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR, Part 402; and (b) the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer, as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 800.2.

- l. With this notice, we are designating GMP as the Commission’s non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- m. GMP filed with the Commission a Pre-Application Document (PAD), including a proposed process plan and schedule, pursuant to 18 CFR 5.6 of the Commission’s regulations.
- n. A copy of the PAD is available for review on the Commission’s website (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits of the sub-docket in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). A copy is also available via the contact in paragraph h.

You may register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

- o. With this notice, we are soliciting comments on the PAD and Commission staff's Scoping Document 1 (SD1), as well as study requests. All comments on the PAD and SD1, and study requests should be sent to the address above in paragraph h. In addition, all comments on the PAD and SD1, study requests, requests for cooperating agency status, and all communications to and from Commission staff related to the merits of the potential application must be filed with the Commission.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file documents using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 10,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments.

For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. 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, 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, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: **Middlebury Lower Hydroelectric Project (P-2737-029).**

All filings with the Commission must bear the appropriate heading: “Comments on Pre-Application Document,” “Study Requests,” “Comments on Scoping Document 1,” “Request for Cooperating Agency Status,” or “Communications to and from Commission Staff.” Any individual or entity interested in submitting study requests, commenting on the PAD or SD1, and any agency requesting cooperating status must do so by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, November 30, 2026.**

p. Scoping Process

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Commission staff will prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or an

environmental impact statement (EIS) (collectively referred to as the “NEPA document”). The NEPA document will consider the environmental effects of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. The Commission’s scoping process will help determine the required level of analysis and satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission prepares an EA or EIS.

Scoping Sessions

Commission staff will hold two scoping sessions for the project to receive input on the scope of the NEPA document. A daytime session will focus on concerns of resource agencies, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations (NGO); and an evening session will focus on input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Indian Tribes, NGOs, and the public to attend one or both sessions to assist staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document. The dates and times of the scoping sessions are listed below.

Morning Scoping Session

Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Location: Green Mountain Power Corporation

121 Cady Rd
Middlebury VT 05753

Evening Scoping Session

Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2026
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Location: Green Mountain Power Corporation
121 Cady Rd
Middlebury VT 05753

Copies of SD1, outlining the subject areas to be addressed in the environmental document, were mailed to the individuals and entities on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of SD1 may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link. Follow the directions for accessing information in paragraph n. Based on all oral and written comments, a Scoping Document 2 (SD2) may be issued. SD2 may include a revised process plan and schedule, as well as a list of issues, identified through the scoping process.

Site Visit

A site visit of the project will be conducted at 81 Seymour St Ext, Middlebury, VT 05753, on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

All interested individuals, agencies, Tribes, and NGOs are invited to attend. Participants should meet at 2:30 p.m. at 19 Water St, Weybridge VT 05753. Please contact John Tedesco at (803) 324-7318 or via email at john.tedesco@greenmountainpower.com on or before **October 23, 2026**, if you plan to attend.

Scoping Session Procedures

Agencies, Indian Tribes, NGOs, and individuals with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the sessions and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the NEPA document. Individual oral comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter (with Commission staff present). This format is designed to receive the maximum number of oral comments in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted. If you wish to speak, Commission staff will hand out numbers in the order of your arrival. If all individuals who wish to provide comments have had an opportunity to do so, Commission staff may conclude the session a half hour earlier than the scheduled time. Please see appendix A of the SD1 for additional information on the session format and conduct.

Scoping comments will be recorded by the court reporter and become part of the public record for this proceeding. Transcripts will be publicly available on FERC's eLibrary system. If a significant number of people are interested in providing oral comments in the one-on-one settings, a time limit may be implemented for each commentor.

It is important to note that the Commission provides equal consideration to all comments received, whether filed in writing or provided orally at a scoping session. Although there will not be a formal presentation, Commission staff will be available throughout the scoping sessions to answer your questions about the environmental review process. Representatives from GMP will also be present to answer project-specific questions.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1.)

Dated: September 29, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,

Secretary.

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