

From: [Rich Holschuh](#)
To: chiefdonstevens@comcast.net
Cc: mfischer@lowimpacthydro.org; [Davis, Eric](#); jud.kratzer@vermont.gov; [Crocker, Jeff](#); scott.dillon@vermont.gov; [Simmons, David](#); info@abenakination.com; chiefshirly@koasek.org; chiefcolin@koasek.org; [Cheney](#); [Roger Sheehan](#); [Nuria Holmes](#)
Subject: Re: Pending Application: Center Rutland Project, VT
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:40:27 PM

Kwai Chief Don, Mary Alice, and Nuria,

Thank you for inclusion of Elnu Abenaki community on this communication regarding the Center Rutland Hydroelectric Project's application for LIHI Certification. Our position is similar to that expressed by Nulhegan Chief Don Stevens, in that we appreciate ongoing inclusion and notification of impacts to Indigenous cultural resources. I noted in the Public Comment Period Notice a link to the Project webpage and in Mary Alice's cover email. I refer here to this statement from that project description:

The entire Center Rutland hydroelectric complex has been previously documented in a National Register of Historic Places registration form for the Center Rutland Hydroelectric Station Historic District (District). The nomination was never submitted to the National Register, but was kept on file with the Vermont Department of Historic Preservation (VDHP). The district encompasses the generating station, Mead Falls, and surrounding buildings. Native American artifacts were also discovered. The project operates under a Historic Properties Management Plan which requires consultation with the VDHP and Tribes prior to conducting certain activities in order to minimize potential effects on cultural and tribal resources. The FERC license also requires the owner to design and install a cultural heritage information kiosk for the Town of Rutland, to be located at the Town's non-project pocket park.

Will you please forward a copy of the NHRP nomination, all pertinent archaeological studies documenting Native presence at the site vicinity, and a copy of the current or proposed HPMP? Also, has the cultural heritage information kiosk been installed as directed and will you send a text transcript and photograph of the installation? I appreciate your assistance with this!

Wliwni - thank you,
Rich



Director, [The Atowi Project](#)
THPO, [Elnu Abenaki](#)
Wantastegok - Sokwakik, Wôbanakiak homelands
Ibitta Wlida - Only Be Goodhearted

On Tue, Sep 30, 2025 at 2:17 PM <chiefdonstevens@comcast.net> wrote:

Hello MaryAlice,

As you are aware, Otter Creek is a highly sensitive area for Abenaki Historical occupation. There are many artifacts found walking along it's shores, fields, and waterways. Since our tribe has limited staff, I

would like to be contacted only if artifacts are found and based on the disposition to be done: left alone, repatriated to our Abenaki Tribes, or develop a solution for caring for the objects found. I will not speak for others.

I have included three people on this email thread that were missing from your previous email.

1. Chief Roger Longtoe – Elnu Abenaki Tribe
2. Rich Holschuh – Elnu Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
3. Brian Chenevert – Nulhegan Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Waolowzi (Be Very Well),

Don Stevens, Chief

Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation

Executive Director, AHA - Abenaki Helping Abenaki, Inc.

www.abenakitribe.org

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From: mfischer@lowimpacthydro.org <mfischer@lowimpacthydro.org>

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 3:19 PM

To: 'Davis, Eric' <Eric.Davis@vermont.gov>; jud.kratzer@vermont.gov; 'Crocker, Jeff' <Jeff.Crocker@vermont.gov>; scott.dillon@vermont.gov; 'Simmons, David' <david_simmons@fws.gov>; chiefdonstevens@comcast.net; info@abenakination.com; chiefshirly@koasek.org; chiefcolin@koasek.org

Cc: 'Nuria Holmes' <nuria.holmes17@gmail.com>

Subject: FW: Pending Application: Center Rutland Project, VT

Good afternoon - You may have already received the notice below if you are on the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) email list (www.lowimpacthydro.org). However, you were also identified as an agency, tribal, or stakeholder contact by LIHI staff or included in the contact lists for the LIHI certification application recently submitted by Green Mountain Power Corp for the Center Rutland hydroelectric project located on Otter Creek in Vermont. The application reviewer, Nuria Holmes (copied here), may be in contact with you if she has questions about the project or wishes to clarify any aspects of the LIHI application that fall within your organization's jurisdiction or interest area. You may also provide public comments directly to LIHI as indicated below.

More information about the project and its application can be found in the link provided in the announcement below. If you would like to receive additional notices about this project or other hydroelectric projects in your region applying for LIHI certification, please sign up for [our mailing list](#). If you have questions, feel free to contact me. Please also share this notification with your colleagues and others who may have an interest in this project.

Best regards,

Maryalice Fischer

Certification Program Director

Low Impact Hydropower Institute

(603) 842-5834

mfischer@lowimpacthydro.org

From: Low Impact Hydropower Institute <info-lowimpacthydro.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 12:45 PM

To: mfischer@lowimpacthydro.org

Subject: Pending Application: Center Rutland Project, VT

Pending Application: Center Rutland, VT



Center Rutland Project Applies for Low Impact Certification, Public Comment Period Open

September 29, 2025: The Low Impact Hydropower Institute received a complete application for Low Impact Certification from Green Mountain Power for the Center Rutland Hydroelectric Project located on Otter Creek in Vermont. LIHI is seeking public comment on this application. Specifically, we are interested in knowing whether you think the Project meets the LIHI Low Impact Certification Criteria, as revised in the 2nd Edition Handbook in effect at the time of the initial application.

Comments that are directly tied to specific LIHI criteria (flows, water quality, fish passage, etc.) are most helpful, but all comments will be considered. Comments may be submitted to the Institute by e-mail at comments@lowimpacthydro.org with "Center Rutland Project Comments" in the subject line, or by mail addressed to the Low Impact Hydropower Institute, 68 Harrison Ave Ste 605, PMB 113938 Boston, Massachusetts 02111-1929. **Comments must be received on or before 5 pm Eastern time on November 28, 2025**, to be considered. All comments will be posted to the website, and the applicant will have an opportunity to respond. Any response will also be posted.

The project description and complete application can be found [HERE](#).

Thank you for your support of Low Impact Hydropower.

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STAY CONNECTED



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