

The Friends of Green River Reservoir Board of Directors (“the Board”) have been actively engaged in monitoring Morrisville's Water and Light's (MW&L) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Green River Reservoir Dam re-licensing process. This is a complex legal process involving multiple parties that began in 2010. As recently reported in the media, this re-licensing process has been highly contentious and now is at in appeal before the Vermont Environmental Court (EC).

The Friends of Green River Reservoir (“ the Friends”) are committed to preserving the Green River Reservoir(GRR) and to protecting and enhancing its ecological habitat. These goals are fundamental to the Friends' mission. To advance those goals in 2017, the Board has committed significant human and financial resources to review and respond to EC filings and court processes, per-trial negotiations, and potential settlement discussions. Absent a settlement among all parties and subsequent approval by the EC, a trial focusing on unresolved issues is scheduled to begin in early 2018.

In November, the Friends amended our intervention request and hired Anthony Iarrapino, Esq. of Montpelier to represent our non-profit corporation before the EC. On December 6th, the EC approved our intervention request. Thus, the Friends can now participate in all legal EC appeal processes including receiving all court correspondence, participating in Discovery, filing motions, presenting witnesses and expert testimony, cross examination of witness, and participation in potential settlement negotiations. The EC also ordered the adoption of a schedule that has the parties performing various pre-trial activities in 2017 and a tentative early 2018 trial date. Here is the Scheduling Order.

The Board has not predetermined its position on specific contentious issues raised by appealing parties, but will be actively participating in the review of required supporting evidence. Consistent with our mission, our goal will be to support reasonable and sustainable practices that advance reservoir preservation and ecological habitat protection and enhancement.