

# VT Small Hydropower Assistance Program

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## Step 1 Screening Criteria Summary and Application Instructions

To qualify for a multi-agency site visit, a project must demonstrate it can meet all of the following criteria:

1. Will not be located on Class A waters, Outstanding Resource Waters, or federally or state-protected river reaches.<sup>1</sup>
2. Will be located at an existing dam, **or** project will not require a dam or other impoundment.
3. Will be located on lands controlled by applicant or otherwise demonstrate support from adjoining landowners.
4. Will not increase the impoundment elevation.
5. Will be operated as true run of river.<sup>2</sup>
6. Have proposed bypass flows that will meet hydrologic standards as defined by the ANR Flow Procedure:<sup>3</sup>

Season	Period	Median Flow Standard <sup>4</sup>	Default (cfs/mi <sup>2</sup> )
Fall/winter	Oct 1 – Mar 31	February	1.0
Spring	Apr 1 – May 31	April/May	4.0
Summer	June 1 – Sep 30	August	0.5

### OR

Where there is virtually no bypass (tailrace discharges at the dam or into plunge pool close to the dam such that adequate circulation is maintained) and will have a spillage proposal of at least 7Q10 drought flow.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lists of Class A and Outstanding Resource Waters are available on ANR's Natural Resources Atlas: <http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra/>; federally protected waters can be identified via <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/small-low-impact/get-started/sites.asp>.

<sup>2</sup> A true run-of-river project is one which does not operate out of storage and, therefore, does not artificially regulate streamflows below the project's tailrace. Outflow from the project is equal to inflow to the project's impoundment on an instantaneous basis.

<sup>3</sup> Reference for further detail: [http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/rivers/docs/rv\\_flowprocedure.pdf](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/rivers/docs/rv_flowprocedure.pdf) and [www.fws.gov/newengland/pdfs/Flowpolicy.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/newengland/pdfs/Flowpolicy.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Application of the fall/winter and spring period flows for spawning and incubation will be determined by the VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife site-specifically. If not required, the August median flow will be applied year-round.

**Timelines**

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Within 30 days of receipt of a complete application demonstrating a project's compliance with the required screening criteria, the three agencies will contact the applicant to schedule a site visit. The timing of the site visit may depend on the season, in order for natural resources to be properly assessed (site visits will generally take place between May and October; therefore, applicants are urged to submit applications between March and September in order to avoid a long wait).

**Application**

If you think your project meets the requirements above, please fill out the [Step 1 Application Form](#) and submit it to Anne Margolis at the Public Service Department ([anne.margolis@vermont.gov](mailto:anne.margolis@vermont.gov) or 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620).

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<sup>5</sup> The 7Q10 refers to the lowest average streamflow expected to occur for seven consecutive days with an average frequency of once in ten years. If it's a gaged stream, ANR can supply this statistic. If not, use 0.1 csm, the statewide value.