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nature.org/ctriver

June 18, 2013

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Support for the US Fish and Wildlife Service Extension of Time Request to Comment on Proposed Study Plans for the following projects:

Wilder Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 1892-026
Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 1855-045
Vernon Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 1904-073
Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 1889-081
Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, FERC No. 2485-063

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Nature Conservancy is submitting this letter in support of the extension of time (EOT) request submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on June 13, 2013. This request would extend the deadline for submitting comments on the Proposed Study Plans (PSP) for the Wilder (FERC No. 1892-026), Bellows Falls (FERC No. 1855-045), Vernon (FERC No. 1904-073), and Turners Falls (FERC No. 1889-081) hydroelectric projects, and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485-063) from July 15, 2013 to July 30, 2013.

The Nature Conservancy finds that this is a reasonable request given the extent and complexity of the PSPs, the forthcoming provision of revised materials by the licensees, and the additional meetings and site visits scheduled in coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Lutz

Director, Connecticut River Program

The Nature Conservancy

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