



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

June 19, 2013

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

Subject: Support for Extension of Time Requests to Comment on Proposed Study Plans for five Hydroelectric Projects on the Connecticut River:
Wilder Project (FERC No. 1892)
Bellows Falls Project (FERC No. 1855)
Vernon Project (FERC No. 1904)
Turners Falls Project (FERC No. 1889)
Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485)

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) supports the Extension of Time Request to Comment on Draft Proposed Study Plans for the subject projects submitted by the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MDWF), the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), NOAA Fisheries Service (NOAA), and Trout Unlimited (TU).

The FRCOG participated in the Study Plan workshop held last Friday, June 14, at which the Applicant, agency representatives, and other interested parties discussed substantive changes to the Geology and Soils plans for FERC Project No. 2485. At issue is the Full River Reconnaissance study to be carried out this fall, a data-gathering study of streambank conditions, as well as a study evaluating the causes of erosion in the Turners Falls Impoundment, both of which are of central interest to the FRCOG. Once the revised Study Plan is issued by the Applicant, the FRCOG will require additional time to properly review the proposed new objectives, goals and methodology and to provide meaningful comments.

FRCOG fully concurs with and supports the request that the Commission extend the deadline for comments on the Draft Proposed Study Plans for the hydroelectric projects listed above until July 30, 2013.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Miner".

Tom Miner, Chair, Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee
& Vice Chair, Franklin Regional Planning Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peggy Sloan".

Peggy Sloan
Director of Planning & Development
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Document Content(s)

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