

Steven Alves, Turners Falls, MA.
Commissioner Jeff C. Wright
Director of Energy Projects
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: FirstLight Project No: P-2485 & P-1889;

Date: July 14, 2013

Dear Commissioner Wright,

I urge you to re-consider the forty-year practice of allowing power companies (currently FirstLight Power Resources, Inc.) to use the Connecticut River as a lower reservoir for the Northfield Mountain pumping station in Massachusetts.

Soil erosion, aquatic deaths from turbines, negative effects on fish migration from erratic river flows and on recreational use have provided ample evidence that using the river in manner should be re-examined. A closed-loop system could eliminate many of these harmful effects.

I ask you to continue that progress made by the 1972 Clean Water Act and begin the process of a feasibility study for a closed-loop system pump-storage system. With this information in hand, citizens who value the river's role in their lives can determine the best course of action.

I am the producer of the documentary film entitled, Beneath the River: An Underwater Exploration of the Connecticut, which has been shown dozens of times on public television and continues to be used in museums and K-12 through college classroom throughout the Connecticut River Valley.

Producing Beneath the River increased my knowledge of the river's history and ecology and led me to advocate on its behalf. I would be pleased to send you a copy of the film, which I think would help inform you in your decision-making role.

Sincerely,
Steve Alves
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