

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426
September 18, 2013

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2485-063 – Massachusetts
Project No. 1889-081 – Massachusetts
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company

Mr. John S. Howard
Director- FERC Hydro Compliance
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company
Northfield Mountain Station
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360

Reference: Notification of October 16, 2013 Technical Meeting

Dear Mr. Howard:

On September 13, 2013, the Commission issued its study plan determination for the relicensing of the Turners Falls Hydroelectric and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage projects. However, due to Entergy's August 27, 2013 announcement of its plan to decommission the upstream Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (Vermont Yankee) by the end of 2014, our study plan determination did not address any studies pertaining to aquatic resources because implementation of these studies may produce unusable data if conducted while Vermont Yankee is still operating.¹ Instead, we proposed to hold a technical meeting to obtain more information on the proposed Vermont Yankee decommissioning and hear from FirstLight and stakeholders on any necessary adjustments to the proposed and requested study designs and/or schedules. The time and location of the technical meeting is as follows:

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at 9:00 AM
Location: Northfield Mountain Visitors Center
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360

During the technical meeting we will work with FirstLight and stakeholders to:
(1) identify aquatic resource studies not affected by operations of Vermont Yankee, that may be implemented in 2014; (2) identify aquatic resource studies' likely affected by

¹ Appendix A includes a list of the 19 differed studies.

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operations of Vermont Yankee; and (3) identify any aquatic resource studies that may need modification due to the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. A stenographer will record the technical meeting, and meeting transcripts will be placed into the Commission's public records for the proceedings.

We appreciate your willingness to host the technical meeting at FirstLight's facility. If you have any questions regarding the technical meeting please call me at: (202) 502-8434 or email me at: Kenneth.Hogan@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Hogan
Project Coordinator
West Branch

Enclosures: Appendix A – List of Proposed and requested studies that we have identified as potentially affected by the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee

cc: Mailing List
Public Files

APPENDIX A

LIST OF PROPOSED AND REQUESTED STUDIES THAT WE HAVE IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE DECOMMISSIONING OF VERMONT YANKEE

Study	Recommending Entities
3.2.1 -- Water Quality Monitoring Study	FirstLight
3.3.1 -- Conduct Instream Flow Habitat Assessments in the Bypass Reach and below Cabot Station	FirstLight
3.3.2 -- Evaluate Upstream and Downstream Passage of Adult American Shad	FirstLight
3.3.3 -- Evaluate Downstream Passage of Juvenile American Shad	FirstLight
3.3.4 -- Evaluate Upstream Passage of American Eel at the Turners Falls Project	FirstLight
3.3.5 -- Evaluate Downstream Passage of American Eel	FirstLight
3.3.6 -- Impact of Project Operation on Shad Spawning, Spawning Habitat and Egg Deposition in the Area of the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls Projects	FirstLight
3.3.7 -- Fish Entrainment and Turbine Passage Mortality Study	FirstLight
3.3.10 -- Assess Operational Impacts on Emergence of State-Listed Odonates in the Connecticut River	FirstLight
3.3.11 -- Fish Assemblage Assessment	FirstLight
3.3.12 -- Evaluate Frequency and Impact of Emergency Water Control Gate Discharge Events and Bypass Flume Events on Shortnose Sturgeon Spawning and Rearing Habitat in the Tailrace and Downstream from Cabot Station	FirstLight
3.3.13 -- Impacts of the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Project on Littoral Zone Fish Habitat and Spawning Habitat	FirstLight

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Study	Recommending Entities
3.3.14 -- Aquatic Habitat Mapping of Turners Falls Impoundment	FirstLight
3.3.15 -- Assessment of Adult Sea Lamprey Spawning within the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Project Areas	FirstLight
3.3.16 -- Habitat Assessment, Surveys and Modeling of Suitable Habitat for State-listed Mussel Species in the CT River below Cabot Station	FirstLight
3.3.17 -- Assess the Impacts of Project Operations of the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Project on Tributary and Backwater Area Access and Habitat	FirstLight
3.3.18 -- Impacts of the Turners Falls Canal Drawdown on Fish Migration and Aquatic Organisms	FirstLight
3.3.19 -- Evaluate the Use of an Ultrasound Array to Facilitate Upstream Movement to Turners Falls Dam by Avoiding Cabot Station Tailrace	FirstLight
4.2.3 -- Hydraulic Study of Turners Falls Power Canal	Karl Meyer

Document Content(s)

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