

Relicensing Study 3.3.13

IMPACTS OF THE TURNERS FALLS PROJECT AND NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN PROJECT ON LITTORAL ZONE FISH HABITAT AND SPAWNING HABITAT

Initial Study Report Summary

Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485)
and Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889)

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



SEPTEMBER 2014

1.1 Study Summary

Study 3.3.13 is designed to:

- assess the timing and location of fish spawning in the littoral zone;
- delineate, qualitatively describe, and map shallow-water habitat types subject to inundation and exposure due to project operations; and
- evaluate potential impacts of impoundment fluctuation on nest abandonment, spawning fish displacement, and egg dewatering.

No consultation was recommended by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in its February 21, 2014 Study Plan Determination Letter (SPDL). FERC concluded that the study could be affected by the closure of Vermont Yankee and thus modified the study schedule to conduct the field work in 2015.

1.2 Study Progress Summary

Task 1: Literature Review

As defined in the FERC approved study plan, a desktop literature review will be performed to determine typical spawning habitat-types and periods when resident species typically spawn, prior to conducting the field investigation. Because the field study will not be conducted until the 2015 field season, it is anticipated that the literature review will be conducted in late 2014 and early 2015.

Task 2: Field Surveys

Field surveys will be conducted during the 2015 field season.

Task 3: Reporting

A final report will be completed in March 2016 per the FERC's SPDL.

1.3 Variances from Study Plan and Schedule

No variances have occurred to date.

1.4 Remaining Activities

- Conduct literature review in late 2014/early 2015.
- Conduct field surveys during 2015 field season.
- Prepare and file study report by March 2016.