

Relicensing Study 3.6.6

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF PROJECT OPERATION ON RECREATION AND LAND USE

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

This study is to determine whether the operation of the Turners Falls Project and the Northfield Mountain Project has effects on the recreation facilities or land use within the study area, which includes the Project boundary area and downstream of Turners Falls Dam to Sunderland Bridge.

Study results will be based on data from other relicensing studies that are being conducted including the *Recreation Use/User Contact Survey* (Study No. 3.6.1), the *Recreation Facilities Inventory and Assessment* (Study No. 3.6.2), the *Whitewater Boating Evaluation* (Study No. 3.6.3), the *Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats* (Study No. 3.6.4), and the *Recreation Study at Northfield Mountain, including Assessment of Sufficiency of Trails for Shared Use* (Study No. 3.6.7) to assess the potential impact of continuing operation and maintenance of the Projects' on recreation. Study results will also be based on data from the *Hydraulic Study of Turners Falls Impoundment, Bypass Reach and below Cabot Station* (Study No. 3.2.2), *Two-Dimensional Modeling of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project Intake/Tailrace Channel and Connecticut River Upstream and Downstream of the Intake/Tailrace* (Study 3.3.9), and *Northfield Mountain/Turners Falls Operations Impact on Existing Erosion and Potential Bank Instability* (Study No. 3.1.2).

1.2 Study Progress Summary

Task 1: Data Compilation

The report for the *Recreation Facilities Inventory and Assessment* (Study No. 3.6.2) was completed in 2014. Field work for the *Whitewater Boating Evaluation* (Study No. 3.6.3) and the *Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats* (Study No. 3.6.4) have been completed and data is currently be reviewed and analyzed. Data collection for the *Recreation Use/User Contact Survey* (Study No. 3.6.1) has been on-going since January 2014. Data for Study No. 3.6.1 is being compiled as it is being collected. Preliminary field investigations associated with the *Recreation Study at Northfield Mountain, including Assessment of Sufficiency of Trails for Shared Use* (Study No. 3.6.7) were completed in February and October 2013 and a more in-depth and detailed assessment is scheduled for October 2014.

Data collection for the *Northfield Mountain/Turners Falls Operations Impact on Existing Erosion and Potential Bank Instability* (Study No. 3.1.2) will be completed by the 4th quarter of 2014. Data compilation is complete for the *Hydraulic Study of Turners Falls Impoundment, Bypass Reach and below Cabot Station* (Study No. 3.2.2) and *Two-Dimensional Modeling of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project Intake/Tailrace Channel and Connecticut River Upstream and Downstream of the Intake/Tailrace* (Study No. 3.3.9), although the hydraulic models for both of these studies are not complete.

Task 2: Data Analysis

This task is contingent upon completion of data compilation efforts for the afore-mentioned studies. Accordingly, this task will be completed in 2015 and 2016.

Task 3: Report Development

Completion of the report is dependent on the data compilation from the afore-mentioned recreation studies, as well as 3.2.2 *Hydraulic Study of Turners Falls Impoundment, Bypass Reach and below Cabot Station*; 3.3.9 *Two-Dimensional Modeling of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project Intake/Tailrace Channel and Connecticut River Upstream and Downstream of the Intake/Tailrace*; and

3.1.2 *Northfield Mountain/Turners Falls Operations Impact on Existing Erosion and Potential Bank Instability*. The reports for Study Nos. 3.2.2, 3.3.9 and 3.1.2 are expected to occur in the 1st quarter of 2015, 2nd quarter of 2015, and 2nd quarter of 2016, respectively. Accordingly, FirstLight anticipates that the report for this study will be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2016.

1.3 Variances from Study Plan and Schedule

To date, there have been no variances from the FERC approved study plan.

1.4 Remaining Activities

Results from the afore-mentioned studies will not be available until 2015-2016. Tasks 1 through 3 will occur as results from these studies are available and the report will be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2016.