

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2485-064 – Massachusetts
Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project
FirstLight Power Resources Company

January 23, 2014

John S. Howard, Station Manager
FERC Hydro Compliance
FirstLight Power Resources
Northfield Mountain Station
99 Millers Road
Northfield, MA 01360

Subject: 2013 Sediment Management Plan activities report

Dear Mr. Howard:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your report on 2013 sediment monitoring activities, filed on December 2, 2013, for the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project. You filed the report in compliance with ordering paragraph (B) of the March 28, 2012 Order Approving Revised Sedimentation Plan.¹

Your filing notes that based on results of the bathymetric survey of the upper reservoir performed in 2013, you found no differences in the survey contours since the last survey. Sampling was performed from April through November although some equipment issues impacted sampling efforts. These were addressed with conference calls and site meetings with the manufacturer who certified the configuration of the equipment. As a result, you plan to extend the sediment monitoring for an additional year through the fall of 2015. Based on a preliminary review of the data, a strong relationship between flow and SSC was observed. In general, it was observed that moderate to high levels of suspended sediment concentration (SSC) were present in the river during high flow conditions (20,000-30,000 cfs) with the highest SSC events observed when flows exceeded 40,000 cfs. It was noted that 2013 was an uncharacteristically dry summer and fall resulting in low river flows and therefore, relatively low levels of SSC throughout much of the sampling period.

¹ See 138 FERC ¶ 62,305.

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The report was filed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; no comments have been received as of the date of your filing. You are reminded that your next report is due December 1, 2014. Thank you for your cooperation and if you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the undersigned at (212) 273-5917.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Enrico". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Enrico
Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

Document Content(s)

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