

Email Communications Memo

To: Public Files
From: Kenneth Hogan
Date: March 7, 2014
Dockets: P-1889-081 and P-2485-063
Project: Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project
Subject: Email communication between Commission staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On February 27, 2014, Ken Hogan of the Commission's staff received an email from Melissa Grader, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, seeking clarification of the February 21, 2014 study plan determination (determination) for the relicensing of the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project. A copy of the email received by Commission staff and staff's response is attached to this memo.

Kenneth Hogan

From: Kenneth Hogan
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 1:15 PM
To: Grader, Melissa
Cc: Mark Wamser; John Howard
Subject: Re:

Melissa,

It is our expectation that data collected in Study "A" that may be incidental to the Study A analysis or goals and objectives but is relevant to Study "B" would be utilized in the analysis for Study "B" as suggested in your example below.

First Light has also sent me a request for clarification of the SPD, regarding study schedules, and an error in the SPD where we inadvertently referred to the 2014 study season when we should have referenced 2015 instead.

I plan to file both emailed clarification requests (and any others we may receive) into the Commission's public record and we will respond to the clarifications with a letter to FirstLight.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Ken

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, Grader, Melissa <melissa_grader@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Ken,

I have a process question for you -

In the determination letter, FERC has recommended a number of additional items that will improve opportunities for needed information. One example is additional radio receivers in front of Turners Falls Dam for outmigrating silver eels to assess delay.

The added receivers at Turners Falls being required for silver eels will overlap with radio tagged juvenile shad, and therefore will provide additional data for analyses to better define project related impacts on these juvenile shad. I'm not sure it was clear from FERC's letter whether data collected from these additional receivers would be used outside of the eel study. There are probably a number of examples of where a modification of one study would provide data that could be used in another study.

What is the best way to get this clarification? Would we submit comments on the determination letter, could we just ask via email (like I'm doing now)?...for this particular issue we would not be seeking dispute, just clarification. (in case it's not obvious) The Service would recommend that any study design modifications that would result in the collection of additional data that would be pertinent/useful for other studies should be used for the analyses of those studies.

-Melissa

--

Kenneth J. Hogan

Fishery Biologist

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First Street, N.E.

Washington, DC 20426

202-502-8434