

# Teleconference Memo

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**To:** Public Files  
**From:** Kenneth Hogan  
**Date:** April 7, 2014  
**Dockets:** P-1889-081 and P-2485-063  
**Project:** Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project

**Subject:** Teleconference between Commission staff, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) on the FWS's formal dispute filed on March 13, 2014.

On April 1, 2014, Commission staff met with representatives of the FWS and FirstLight as a follow-up to the March 26, 2014 teleconference to discuss the FWS's formal dispute filed on the Director's study plan determination issued in February 2014.

During the meeting Commission staff noted that it continued to struggle with the information needs given the existence of the 1992 shad entrainment study conducted at Northfield Mountain.<sup>1</sup> Staff also noted that its recommendation in the study plan determination did not specify that the study was not needed but instead, that information gathered during the 2015 studies should be used to evaluate the need for a new entrainment study.

Referencing the 1992 study's results and noting that it concentrated primarily on nighttime sampling; FWS emphasized the need for paired day/night sampling to provide data that may inform potential recommendations for operational constraints of the Northfield Mountain Project's pumpback operations. FWS also noted that the closure of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant will likely have an effect on the condition of the Connecticut River; and therefore, shad spawning and migration in 1992 may not be representative of the future conditions that will persist in the Connecticut River.

FirstLight provided an estimated cost to conduct the study as requested by FWS of \$90,000 and noted that similar types of studies typically utilize less sample effort and would cost about half that of the requested methodology.

No resolution to the dispute was reached. Commission staff noted that it would consider the information provided during the call and seek another teleconference if warranted or share its position during the Dispute Panel's meeting on April 8, 2014.

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<sup>1</sup>Lawler, Matusky and Skelly Engineers (LMS). 1993. Northfield Mountain Pumped-Storage Facility – 1992 American Shad Studies. February 1993. Northeast Utilities Service Company, Berlin, CT.

Document Content(s)

Memo to Files 472014 FWS dispute resolution.PDF.....1-1