



December 8, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, FERC Project Nos. 2485 and 1889
Proposed Modification to Study Plan 3.3.2 Evaluate Upstream and Downstream Passage of Adult American Shad

Dear Secretary Bose:

On November 17, 2014, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) held a stakeholders meeting to discuss study plans¹ that included radio telemetry components. During the meeting several of the stakeholders indicated that they would like to relocate 4 of the radio telemetry receivers from the Cabot Canal to elsewhere. There was a consensus among the group that there were redundant receivers in the Cabot Canal and relocating these receivers would provide improved detection at the Cabot and Spillway Ladder entrances and in the vicinity of the confluence of the Turners Falls Dam bypass reach and the Cabot Station tailrace area.

The effects of different levels of dam releases that would induce fish to move past the Cabot Station into the bypass reach and up to the dam is an important component of this study. Moving receivers from the Cabot Canal to the west side of the river just below the bypass reach would allow for improved detection as fish move into the bypass reach. Receivers from the Cabot Canal would also be moved to the entrances of the Cabot and Spillway fish ladders. The current configuration has PIT tag antennas in the fish ladders and adding radio telemetry receivers would provide additional data on fish approaching the fish ladders.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) included the Cabot Canal receiver layout in their February 21, 2014 Study Plan Determination Letter and we request concurrence to move 4 receivers as depicted on the attached map (Attachment A). The regulators and stakeholders have concurred with this plan to relocate the radio telemetry receivers (Attachment B).

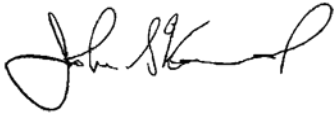
¹ This includes Study Plans 3.3.2 Evaluate Upstream and Downstream Passage of Adult American Shad, 3.3.3 Evaluate Downstream Passage of Juvenile American Shad, 3.3.5 Evaluate Downstream Passage of American Eel, and 3.3.15 Assessment of Adult Sea Lamprey Spawning within the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Project Area

John S. Howard
Director FERC Compliance, Hydro

FirstLight Power Resources, Inc.
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360
Tel. (413) 659-4489/ Fax (413) 422-5900/
E-mail: john.howard@gdfsuezna.com

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

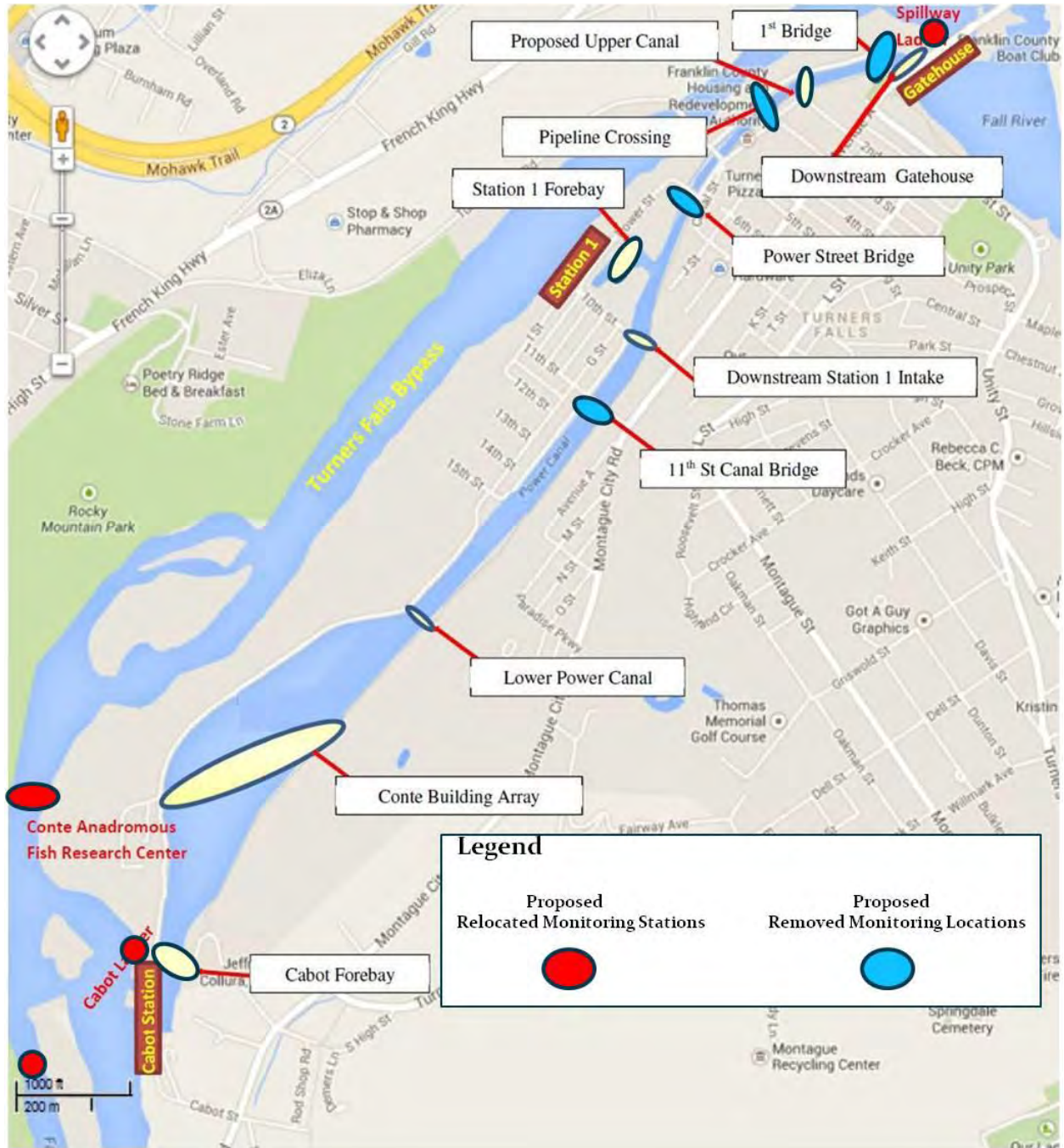
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent and the last name "Howard" following in a similar style.

John Howard

Attachment A: *Map of Receivers to be Relocated and Proposed New Locations*

Attachment B: *Agency and Stakeholders Concurrence*

Attachment A



Attachment B

Sent: Wed 12/3/2014 10:33 AM

Chris - We reviewed the proposed relocation of telemetry receivers for the fish passage studies at the Turner Falls Project and the Fish and Wildlife Service supports the proposed elimination of 4 canal transmitters with those receivers relocated as proposed in this email and as depicted on the map that you subsequently provided -- Let me know if any questions - John Warner

John P. Warner
Assistant Supervisor, Conservation Planning Assistance and Endangered Species
New England Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 0330-5087
phone: 603-223-2541, Ext 15
fax: 603-223-0104

Chris,

Sent: Wed 12/3/2014 10:41 AM

The new locations for the telemetry receivers look good to me. I'll get back to you later on the study plan.

Don
Don Pugh [don.pugh@yahoo.com]

Chris,

Sent: Thu 12/4/2014 9:37 AM

NH Fish and Game agrees with the proposed relocation of the telemetry receivers.

Gabe
Gabe Gries <{{{">
Fisheries Biologist II
Warmwater Project Leader
New Hampshire Fish & Game Department
Region 4
15 Ash Brook Court
Keene, NH 03431
Phone: 603-352-9669
Fax: 603-352-8798
Email: gabe.gries@wildlife.nh.gov

Hi Chris,

Sent: Thu 12/4/2014 10:48 AM

VTANR concurs with the proposed removal and relocation sites of the radio telemetry monitoring stations per the November 17 discussion. Thanks, Lael



Lael Will, Fisheries Biologist

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[email] lael.will@state.vt.us

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Fish & Wildlife Department

100 Mineral Street, Suite 302

Springfield, VT 05156-3168

Chris,

Sent: Thu 12/4/2014 10:48 AM

Thank you.

As long as the "Proposed Upper Canal" receiver remains in the area where it is now shown in the canal, I am satisfied with the changes/relocations and accept that the agencies understand what placements will provide the best new information about fish movements in the canal and By Pass.

The Canal Spawning Study will augment information from this study as well.

It is a help to have BOTH the bridge names, and the corresponding Street Number names (in parenthesis) when referring to these canal locations. I hope these can be included in documents, maps, and photos as we go forward, to dispense with any ambiguity. Thanks again.

Best,

Karl

Karl Meyer [karlmeyer1809@verizon.net]

Chris,

Sent: Thu 12/4/2014 3:58 PM

NMFS agrees with the proposed changes to the monitoring locations as described in the Meeting Minutes from November 17.

-Bill

Bill McDavitt

Environmental Specialist

55 Great Republic Drive

Gloucester, MA 01930

978-675-2156

William.mcdavitt@noaa.gov

Chris,

Sent: Mon 12/8/2014 9:32 AM

I'm fine with moving the receivers as described.

Caleb



Caleb Slater, PhD
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