

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20426

April 15, 2013

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 1892-026 – New Hampshire / Vermont  
Project No. 1855-045 – New Hampshire / Vermont  
Project No. 1904-073 – New Hampshire / Vermont  
TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.

Project No. 2485-063 – Massachusetts  
Project No. 1889-081 – Massachusetts  
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company

**Subject: Scoping Document 2 for the Wilder (FERC No. 1892-026), Bellows Falls (FERC No. 1855-045), Vernon (FERC No. 1904-073), and Turners Falls (FERC No. 1889-081) hydroelectric projects, and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485-063)**

To the Parties Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping for the relicensing of three existing hydroelectric projects owned and operated by TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. (TransCanada) - the Wilder (FERC No. 1892), Bellows Falls (FERC No. 1855), and Vernon (FERC No. 1904) hydroelectric projects, and two existing hydroelectric projects owned and operated by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) - the Turners Falls (FERC No. 1889) hydroelectric project and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485) (collectively referred to as the Connecticut River projects). TransCanada and FirstLight filed their Pre-Application Documents (PAD) on October 31, 2012.

TransCanada's Wilder Project is located on the Connecticut River in Orange and Windsor counties, Vermont and Grafton County, New Hampshire. The Bellows Falls Project is located on the Connecticut River in Windham County, Vermont and Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The Vernon Project is located on the Connecticut River in Windsor and Windham counties, Vermont and Sullivan and Cheshire counties, New Hampshire.

FirstLight's Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project are located on the Connecticut River in Franklin County, Massachusetts, Windham County, Vermont and Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The lower reservoir of the Northfield Mountain Project is the Turners Falls project impoundment.

The Turners Falls Project is the only project of the five Connecticut River projects that includes federal lands. Approximately 20 acres of federally-owned lands associated with the Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Conte Laboratory is located within the Turners Falls project boundary.

Under the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), both TransCanada and FirstLight must file their preliminary licensing proposals or draft license applications by December 2, 2015; the final license applications must be filed with the Commission by April 30, 2016, two years before the licenses expire.

Pursuant to NEPA, as amended, Commission staff intends to prepare a multi-project environmental impact statement (EIS), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue new licenses for the projects. To support our environmental review, we are engaged in a public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed and that environmental analysis is thorough and balanced.

In our December 21, 2012, Scoping Document 1 (SD1), we disclosed our preliminary view of the scope of environmental issues associated with the five projects. Based on verbal comments that we received at seven scoping meetings held between January 28 and January 31, 2013 in West Lebanon, NH, Bellows Falls, VT, Brattleboro, VT and Turners Falls, MA, as well as written comments we received throughout the scoping process, we prepared the enclosed Scoping Document 2 (SD2). In addition to six project specific scoping meetings, we held a public scoping meeting specifically to identify cumulatively effected resources and to help identify the incremental effect of licensing the five Connecticut River projects with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the Connecticut River Basin.

SD2 serves as a guide to the issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS. ***Key changes from SD1 to SD2 are identified in bold and italicized type.***

SD2 is being distributed to the Commission's official mailing list for all five projects (see section 9.0 of the attached SD2). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov) or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written or

emailed requests must specify your wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify the project name(s) and FERC number(s) on the first page.

If you have any questions about SD2, or the scoping process, please contact Ken Hogan at (202) 502-8434 or via email at: [Kenneth.Hogan@ferc.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Hogan@ferc.gov). Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the TransCanada and FirstLight projects may be obtained from our website, [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov), or TransCanada's website [www.transcanada-relicensing.com](http://www.transcanada-relicensing.com) and FirstLight's website [www.northfieldrelicensing.com](http://www.northfieldrelicensing.com).

Enclosure: Scoping Document 2

cc: Mailing List  
Public Files

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**SCOPING DOCUMENT 2**

**WILDER PROJECT (FERC NO. 1892-026)**

**BELLOWS FALLS PROJECT (FERC NO. 1855-045)**

**VERNON PROJECT (FERC NO. 1904-073)**

**TURNERS FALLS PROJECT (FERC NO. 1889-081)**

**NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT  
(FERC NO. 2485-063)**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**VERMONT**

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Office of Energy Projects  
Division of Hydropower Licensing  
Washington, DC

April 2012

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## SCOPING DOCUMENT 2

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),<sup>1</sup> may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On October 31, 2012, TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. (TransCanada), licensee for the existing Wilder (FERC No. 1892),<sup>2</sup> Bellows Falls (FERC No. 1855),<sup>3</sup> and Vernon (FERC No. 1904)<sup>4</sup> hydroelectric projects, filed Pre-Application Documents (PAD) and Notices of Intent (NOI) to file an application for new license with the Commission. On the same date, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) filed a PAD and NOI to file application(s) for new license(s) for its existing Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1889)<sup>5</sup> and its Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485).<sup>6</sup>

The Wilder Project has an installed capacity of 35.6 megawatts (MW), an annual generation of 153,738 megawatt-hours (MWh), and is located on the Connecticut River in Orange and Windsor counties, Vermont, and Grafton County, New Hampshire. The project's dam is located at river mile (RM) 217.4, approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the White River and 7 miles downstream of the Ompompanoosuc River in the Town of Hartford, Vermont, and in the City of Lebanon, New Hampshire. The project's impoundment extends upstream about 45 miles.

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<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

<sup>2</sup> The current license for the Wilder Project was issued with an effective date of December 1, 1979 and expires on April 30, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> The current license for the Bellows Falls Project was issued with an effective date of August 1, 1979 and expires on April 30, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> The current license for the Vernon Project was issued with an effective date of June 1, 1979 and expires on April 30, 2018.

<sup>5</sup> The current license for the Turners Falls Project was issued with an effective date of May 1, 1980 and expires on April 30, 2018.

<sup>6</sup> The current license for the Northfield Mountain Project was issued with an effective date of May 1, 1968 and expires on April 30, 2018.



The Bellows Falls Project has an installed capacity of 40.8 MW, an annual generation of 242,829 MWh, and is located on the Connecticut River in Windham and Windsor counties, Vermont, and Cheshire and Sullivan counties, New Hampshire. The project's dam, at RM 173.7, is about 1 mile upstream of Saxtons River and 3 miles downstream of the Williams River in the towns of Bellows Falls and Rockingham, Vermont, and in the town of Walpole, New Hampshire. The project's impoundment extends upstream about 26 miles to Chase Island at Windsor Vermont, about 1 mile below the Windsor Bridge.

The Vernon Project has an installed capacity of **32.4** MW, an annual generation of 131,516 MWh, and is located on the Connecticut River in Windham County, Vermont and Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The project's dam, at RM 141.9, is about 2 miles upstream of the Ashuelot River and 7.4 miles downstream of the West River, in the towns of Vernon, Vermont, and Hinsdale, New Hampshire. The project's impoundment extends about 26 miles upstream, terminating at the Walpole Bridge (Route 123) at Westminster Station, Vermont, about 4 miles downstream of the Bellows Falls Project (FERC No. 1855).

The Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project are located on the Connecticut River within Franklin County, Massachusetts, Windham County, Vermont, and Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The greater portion of the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Project, including developed facilities and most of the lands within the project boundary, are located in Franklin County, Massachusetts; specifically, in the towns of Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Montague, and Northfield. The northern reaches of the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Project boundary extend to the base of the Vernon dam in the towns of Hinsdale, New Hampshire, and Vernon, Vermont. The Turners Falls Project has an installed capacity of 67.709 MW and an annual generation of 320,140 MWh. The Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project has an installed capacity of 1,119.2 MW and an annual generation of 1,143,038 MWh.

The Turners Falls Project's dam is located at approximately RM 122 on the Connecticut River in the towns of Gill and Montague, Massachusetts. The tailrace of the Northfield Mountain Project is located approximately 5.2 miles upstream of Turners Falls Project's dam, in the town of Northfield, Massachusetts. The upper reservoir of the Northfield Mountain Project is located atop Northfield Mountain in Erving, Massachusetts. The Turners Falls impoundment serves as the lower reservoir for the Northfield Mountain Project.

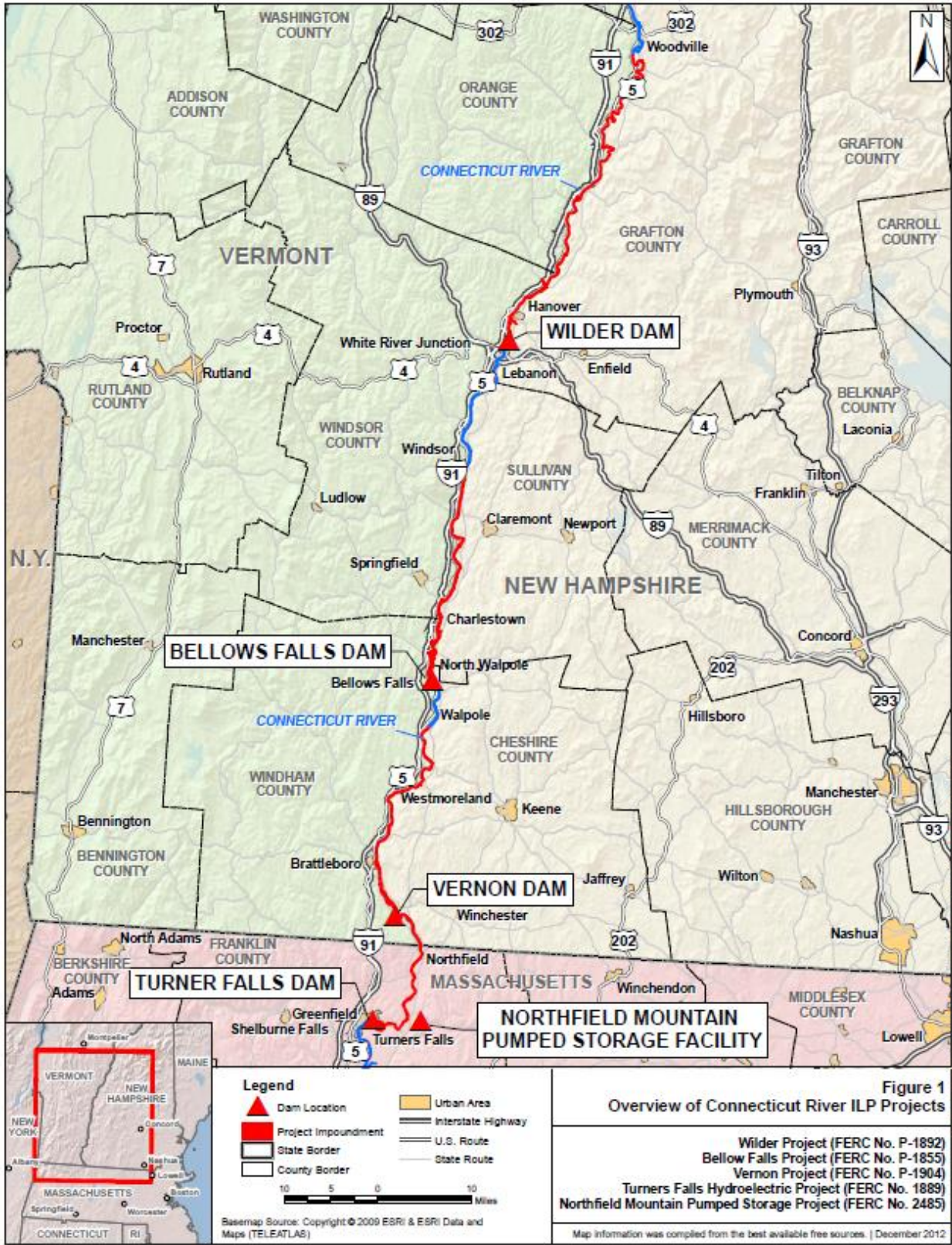


Figure 1. Projects' Location Map

The Turners Falls Project is the only project of the five Connecticut River projects that includes federal lands. Approximately 20 acres of federally-owned lands associated with the Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Conte Laboratory is located within the Turners Falls project boundary. Detailed descriptions of the projects are provided in section 3.0.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,<sup>7</sup> the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of relicensing the Connecticut River projects as proposed, and also consider reasonable alternatives to the licensees' proposed action. At this time, we intend to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the projects, that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the licensees' proposed actions and alternatives, and used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue new hydropower licenses for the projects. The EIS preparation will be supported by a scoping process to ensure identification and analysis of all pertinent issues.

## **2.0 SCOPING**

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the EIS and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the EIS; (2) a description of the licensees' proposed actions and alternatives; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues and the licensees' proposed studies; (4) a request for comments and information; (5) a proposed EIS outline; and (6) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans that are applicable to the projects.

### **2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING**

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. According to NEPA, the process should be conducted early in the planning stage of the project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;

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<sup>7</sup> National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f) (2006).

- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the EIS;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the EIS;
- solicit, from participants, available information on the resources at issue, including existing information and study needs; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

## 2.2 SCOPING COMMENTS

The Commission issued Scoping Document 1 (SD1) on December 21, 2012, to enable resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to more effectively participate in and contribute to the scoping process. In SD1, we requested clarification of preliminary issues concerning the proposed projects and identification of any new issues that need to be addressed in the multi-project EIS. We revised SD1 following the scoping meetings and after reviewing comments filed during the scoping comment period. SD2 presents our current view of issues to be considered in the EIS. ***Key changes from SD1 to SD2 are identified in bold and italicized type.***

The Commission conducted six project specific public scoping meetings in the vicinity of the projects between January 28, 2013 and January 31, 2013. In addition to the six project-specific scoping meetings the Commission held a public scoping meeting specifically to identify cumulatively effected resources and to help identify the incremental effect of licensing the five Connecticut River projects with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the Connecticut River Basin. Each meeting was widely attended and was recorded by a court reporter.

In addition to the comments received at the scoping meetings, the Commission received 97 comment letters from resource agencies, NGOs, and the public (Appendix C). All comments received are part of the Commission's official record for the project. Information in the official file is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 502-8371. Information also may be accessed through the Commission's eLibrary system using the "Documents & Filings"



link on the Commission's webpage at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Call (202) 502-6652 for assistance.

The majority of comments identified concerns about potential project effects on fish and wildlife resources and habitat, recreation use and access, and shoreline erosion. Many of these comments fall within the scope of issues identified in SD1 and will be addressed as part of the environmental analysis of the proposed project; therefore, no modifications to the scoping document were necessary. However, several issues were raised that were not identified in SD1 and we have modified SD2 accordingly. Below we summarize other comments and provide responses by subject area.

### **Administrative Comments**

***Comment: Franklin Conservation District, Landowners and Concerned Citizens for License Compliance and The Town of Gill stated that development and implementation of a closed loop system for the operation of Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project should be evaluated as part of the NEPA implementation process.***

***Response: Response: Construction of a new lower reservoir would likely have significant impacts on the environment and a high cost. Therefore, we will not commit to conducting a detailed analysis of such an alternative until we better understand the environmental effects of the existing project.***

***Comment: Two Rivers-Ottawquechee state the true extent of operational impacts will only be illuminated if FERC analyzes each alternative proposed in this application process against the conditions that existed in the Connecticut River before any dams were constructed, and pre-dam conditions should be analyzed for purposes of evaluating and determining baseline environmental conditions.***

***Response: Commission policy states that the environmental baseline of a hydropower relicensing is the environment as it exists at the time of relicensing, not pre-project conditions. However, we recognize that available knowledge of pre-project conditions may help inform the Commission's decisions concerning appropriate environmental measures due to continuing impacts.***

***Comment: FWS, The Nature Conservancy and Two Rivers-Ottawquechee state that eliminating project decommissioning from further review, prior to scoping is premature. Two Rivers-Ottawquechee requests that decommissioning of the Wilder Project is considered in the Commission's NEPA document and FWS states in general, that decommissioning should be evaluated for the Connecticut River projects. FWS also notes that study results of the Northfield Mountain project may demonstrate project***

*effects that either cannot be mitigated for or mitigation would be cost prohibitive. As a result, FWS emphasizes that a decommissioning alternative for the Northfield Mountain project be retained.*

*Response: Decommissioning some or all of Connecticut River projects would require denying the relicense applications and surrender or termination of the existing licenses with appropriate conditions. There would be significant costs involved with decommissioning the projects and/or removing project facilities. The projects provide a viable, safe, and clean renewable source of power to the region. Based on the 17 factors (to be considered when determining whether a more thorough analysis of decommissioning is warranted), outlined in *The Interagency Task Force Report on NEPA Procedures in FERC Hydroelectric Licensing*,<sup>8</sup> we do not consider decommissioning to be a reasonable alternative for the Connecticut River projects, at this time. We have, however, deleted section 3.6.3 Project Decommissioning from SD2 as an alternative considered but eliminated from detailed study in section 3.6.*

### *Cumulative Effects*

*Comment: The Nature Conservancy suggests cumulative effects include potential impacts of future climate changes on a 30 -50 year time frame and that the models developed by researchers at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, to estimate predicted climate-impacted flows throughout the Connecticut River basin, be used to evaluate temporal cumulative effects on the identified resources with regard to climate-induced changes in the flow regime.*

*Response: As is our practice, we intend to evaluate a range of flow release alternatives that take into consideration both high and low water years and to condition any license that may be issued to adaptively manage for these variations in water years. Similar to other hydroelectric licensing cases, the effects of the projects on environmental resources in the projects' area can be effectively studied and evaluated using conventional hydrologic studies and monitoring techniques to address any potential effects of climate change on the projects and the environmental resources of the Connecticut River. However, if the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's model were made available to the Commission and proven to accurately and reliably predict specific resource effects sufficient to serve as the basis for informing license conditions, we may consider using the model when evaluating the cumulative effect climate-induced changes may have on the flow regime of the Connecticut River; and therefore, on the Connecticut River projects.*

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<sup>8</sup> [http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/indus-act/itf/nepa\\_final.pdf](http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/indus-act/itf/nepa_final.pdf)

*Comment: The Nature Conservancy recommends, for the purpose of the cumulative effects analysis, water quantity be defined to include: flow magnitude, flow frequency, flow duration, flow timing, and rate of change.*

*Response: We have revised Section 4.1.1 to incorporate this definition.*

*Comment: FirstLight and the Connecticut River Watershed Council request the geographic scope of the cumulative effects analysis on water quantity; extend upstream to the Fifteen Mile Falls Project (FERC No. 2077), due to the influence of both the peaking and seasonal storage operations of the Fifteen Mile Falls Project.*

*Response: We have revised Section 4.1.2 to reflect a geographic scope of the cumulative effects on water quantity upstream to the Fifteen Mile Falls Project.*

*Comment: The Connecticut River Watershed Council and the Nature Conservancy stated that Holyoke dam should be the downstream extent of the geographic scope for the cumulative effects analysis of both water quantity and water quality. FWS commented that the downstream geographic scope of this cumulative effects analysis should be to the mouth of the Connecticut River at Long Island Sound.*

*Response: We have revised Section 4.1.2 to define the geographic downstream limit of our cumulative effects assessment on water quantity and water quality will be the mouth of the Connecticut River at Long Island Sound.*

*Comment: The Nature Conservancy stated that the cumulative effects analysis on fishery resources be established as the upstream extent of the Wilder reservoir downstream to Sunderland, Massachusetts. They also stated that the cumulative effects analysis include freshwater mussels within this same area. FWS requested that the geographic scope for cumulatively effected fishery resources be from the upstream extent of the Wilder reservoir to the mouth of the Connecticut River at Long Island Sound.*

*Response: We have revised Sections 4.1 and 4.1.2 to define the geographic limits of the study of cumulative effects on fishery resources to be between the upstream extent of the Wilder reservoir to the mouth of the Connecticut River at Long Island Sound for anadromous, catadromous, and diadromous fish species and from the upstream extent of the Wilder reservoir to the Route 116 bridge in Sunderland, Massachusetts for resident fish species and freshwater mussels.*

*Comment: The Connecticut River Watershed Council and The Nature Conservancy stated that the cumulative effects analysis should include the effects of*

*hydropower projects on floodplain communities and FWS added that related terrestrial resources also be considered for cumulative effects.*

*Response: We have revised Section 4.1 to include cumulative effects from hydropower projects on floodplain communities and terrestrial resources to include the 100-year floodplain (as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency) adjacent to the project-affected areas from the upstream extent of the Wilder reservoir downstream to the Route 116 bridge in Sunderland, Massachusetts.*

*Comment: The Connecticut River Watershed Council stated that sediment movement, or the lack thereof, is a cumulative effect of the dams and should be considered between the Fifteen Mile Falls project and the Holyoke dam (FERC No. 2004).*

*Response: We have revised Section 4.1, 4.2.1 and 4.3.1 to include cumulative effects on sediment movement associated with the operation of the five hydroelectric projects and established the geographic limits of this assessment as the area between the upper extent of the Wilder reservoir and the Route 116 bridge in Sunderland, Massachusetts, which is the upper extent of the Holyoke Project.*

*Comment: The Connecticut River Watershed Council stated that the cumulative effects analysis should include the effects of hydropower projects on recreational uses, particularly those associated with multi-day paddle trips and related river access and camping opportunities.*

*Response: We recognize that multiple dams on the Connecticut River may cumulatively affect recreational uses associated with multi-day paddle trips. As such, we have modified section 4.1.2 to include multi-day paddle trips as a cumulatively effected recreational resource and establish a potential geographic scope.*

### **Geology and Soil Resources**

*Comment: Comments from FWS, New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game (NH Fish and Game), New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP), NGOs, and other stakeholders raised concerns that the projects may affect sedimentation and sediment transport and subsequently aquatics and shallow water habitats of the Connecticut River.*

*Response: We have revised sections 4.2.1 and 4.3.1 to include sedimentation transport and deposition affects on aquatics and shallow water habitat.*



### Water Resources

***Comment: Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee commented that list of resource issues identified in section 4.2 of SD1 does not match the studies proposed by TransCanada and they are unclear if TransCanada will be required to address those issues.***

***Response: The resource issues identified in SD1 are not intended to be exhaustive or final, but are an initial listing of issues we identified as potentially needing analysis in our environmental document. This SD2 includes a revised list of issues developed through our NEPA scoping process that we will address in our multi-project EIS. To support our analysis, the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process is designed to identify information gaps and develop study plans for both TransCanada and First Light to fill those information gaps. This will involve an opportunity for stakeholders to review proposed study plans filed by TransCanada and First Light by April 15, 2013, and file comments with the Commission within 90 days (see Appendix B: Process Plan and Schedule).***

### Project Facilities and Operations

***Comment: TransCanada commented that the Vernon Project's installed capacity identified in Section 1.0 is incorrect and the correct installed capacity is 32.4 MW.***

***Response: We have revised Section 1.0 to reflect an installed capacity of 32.4 MW at the Vernon Hydroelectric Project.***

***Comment: Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee stated that there is a discrepancy in the draw-down elevations between the description of draw-down in the Wilder facilities section and current license requirements. TransCanada commented that the full pond elevation of Wilder is 385.0 feet mean sea level, not 384.5 feet as stated in Section 3.1.1.1.***

***Response: We have revised Section 3.1.1.1 to reflect that the full pond elevation at Wilder is 385.0 feet mean sea level, which addresses the identified draw-down discrepancy.***

***Comment: Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee stated that there is a discrepancy in the hydraulic capacity calculations of the turbines at the Wilder facility.***

***Response: We have revised Section 3.2.1.2 to reflect the hydraulic capacity of 12,700 cfs.***

### **Aquatic Resources**

***Comment: FWS stated that entrainment effects should not be limited to fish populations, but should include impacts to food web interactions and overall ecosystem productivity.***

***Response: The scope of our analysis identified in SD1 and in sections 4.2 and 4.3 below, is adequate to evaluate project effects on entrainment and the environmental resources of the Connecticut River projects.***

### **Recreation**

***Comment: TransCanada commented that some of the information on existing project recreation facilities at the Bellows Falls Project and the Vernon Project was incorrect.***

***Response: We have corrected sections 3.4.2.2 and 3.4.2.3 to describe the existing project recreation facilities.***

***Comment: National Park Service (NPS) and several stakeholders stated that consideration should be given to a variety of recreation activities, including whitewater boating and rock climbing.***

***Response: We have revised Sections 4.2.6 and 4.3.6 to indicate the scope of recreation activities to be analyzed.***

***Comment: NPS and other stakeholders stated that reservoir levels at each of the projects and stream flows in the bypassed reaches at Bellows Falls and Turners Falls have the potential to effect recreational boating.***

***Response: We have revised Sections 4.2.6 and 4.3.6 to include the effects of reservoir fluctuations and flows on recreation.***

***Comment: Several stakeholders state that consideration should be given to recreation access, including hiking trails, non-motorized boating access, and portage trails, and that some existing recreation facilities were in need of maintenance and improvement, or extended hours of operation.***

***Response: We have revised Sections 4.2.6 and 4.3.6 to indicate the scope of recreation facilities to be analyzed.***

### *Aesthetic Resources*

*Comment: NPS, Vermont Department of Conservation, and other stakeholders stated that the projects features and operation have the potential to affect the visual aesthetics of the surrounding landscape, notably the bypassed reaches at Bellows Falls and Turners Falls.*

*Response: We have revised Sections 4.2.8 and 4.3.8 to indicate that the effects of the projects on aesthetic resources will be analyzed.*

### *Socioeconomic Resources*

*Comment: NPS and other stakeholders requested consideration of the socioeconomic effects of project operations on the lack of flows provided in the bypass reach of Bellow Falls and Turners Falls projects and the resulting loss of recreational opportunity.*

*Response: It is premature to address the socioeconomic effects of whitewater boating in the bypass reach of Bellow Falls and Turners Falls projects until the feasibility of whitewater boating is determined for these river reaches.*

## **2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW**

An environmental site review (site visit) is typically held in conjunction with the Commission's NEPA scoping meetings. However, Commission staff anticipated that access to some project facilities would be limited by winter weather conditions during the early part of 2013 when scoping for these projects was scheduled. For this reason, and to provide all interested stakeholders an opportunity to view the projects' facilities, the Commission hosted the environmental site reviews in October 2012, before the onset of winter. Public notice of the environmental site reviews was issued on August 3, 2012, and published in eight newspapers from the Connecticut River projects' region. The site visits were widely attended by individuals representing, local, state, and federal government agencies, NGOs, and members of the public. At this time, the Commission does not intend to host any future environmental site reviews for the five Connecticut River projects.

## **3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the applicant's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

### **3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

Under the no-action alternative, the Connecticut River Projects would continue to operate as required by the current project licenses (i.e., there would be no change to the existing environment). No new environmental protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures would be implemented. We use this alternative to establish baseline environmental conditions for comparison with other alternatives.

### **3.2 TRANSCANADA'S PROJECT FACILITIES and OPERATIONS**

#### **3.2.1 Wilder Project**

##### **3.2.1.1 Facilities**

The Wilder Project is located on the Connecticut River at RM 217.4, approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the White River and 7 miles downstream of the Ompompanoosuc River. The dam is a concrete gravity structure extending across the Connecticut River from Hartford, Vermont, to Lebanon, New Hampshire and includes an earthen embankment about 400 feet long, a non-overflow gravity concrete bulkhead wall 232 feet long, a concrete forebay intake 208 feet long, a gravity concrete spillway about 526 feet long and 59 feet in maximum height, and another earthen embankment about 180 feet long. The impoundment extends upstream 45 miles from the dam and has a usable storage capacity of 13,350 acre-feet at a five-foot drawdown from full pond at elevation **385** feet mean sea level (msl), a surface area of 3,100 acres at full pond and a drainage area of 3,375 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>). The powerhouse contains three generating units with a total authorized installed capacity of 35.6 MW which generated an average of 153,738 MWh annually from 1982 – 2011. The generating units consist of two 19-MW adjustable blade Kaplan turbines with an approximate per unit hydraulic capacity of 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), and one 3-MW vertical Francis turbine with an approximate hydraulic capacity of 700 cfs. Water flowing through the project's turbines is discharged via the project's draft tubes into the tailrace immediately below the dam.

##### **3.2.1.2 Operations**

The project is operated as a load-following or peaking<sup>9</sup> hydroelectric project, with a capability to utilize 13,350 acre-feet of storage (a 5-foot drawdown) for generation

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<sup>9</sup> Load-following or peaking projects seek to maximize electrical power generation when the cost of power is high; when the cost of power is low, project generation is reduced, and a portion of the inflow to the project's reservoir is stored within the reservoir for use during the next peak generation period.

purposes.<sup>10</sup> During generation, downstream flows can vary between the required minimum flow of 675 cfs<sup>11</sup> and the facility's approximate full hydraulic capacity of **12,700** cfs. During periods of sustained high flows,<sup>12</sup> the Project's generation is continuous and peaking operations are ceased. The Wilder Project's operations are coordinated with other TransCanada hydroelectric generating facilities on the Connecticut River, taking into consideration variations in demand for electricity as well as natural flow variations.

### **3.2.2 Bellows Falls Project**

#### 3.2.2.1 Facilities

The Bellows Falls Project is located on the Connecticut River at RM 173.7, about 1 mile upstream of Saxtons River and 3 miles downstream of the Williams River at the upper end of a sharp bend of the Connecticut River at Bellows Falls, Vermont. The dam is a concrete gravity structure extending across the Connecticut River from the town of Rockingham, Vermont to the town of Walpole, New Hampshire and is 643 feet long with maximum height of 30 feet. The impoundment extends upstream 26 miles from the dam and has a usable storage capacity of 7,476 acre-feet at a three-foot drawdown from the normal full pond at elevation 291.6 feet msl, a surface area of approximately 2,804 acres at full pond and a drainage area of 5,414 mi<sup>2</sup>. The powerhouse contains three generating units with an authorized installed capacity of 40.8 MW which generated an average of 250,249 MWh annually from 2000 – 2011. The generating units consist of three 16-MW vertical Francis turbines with an approximate per unit hydraulic capacity of 3,670 cfs.

#### 3.2.2.2 Operations

The project is operated as a load-following or peaking hydroelectric project, with a capability to utilize 7,476 acre-feet of storage (a 3-foot drawdown) for generation purposes.<sup>13</sup> During generation, downstream flows can vary between the required minimum flow of 1,083 cfs<sup>14</sup> and the facility's approximate full hydraulic capacity of 11,400 cfs. During periods of sustained high flows,<sup>15</sup> project generation is continuous and peaking operations are ceased. The Bellows Falls Project operations are coordinated with other TransCanada hydroelectric generating facilities on the Connecticut River,

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<sup>10</sup> TransCanada typically utilizes a 2.5 foot drawdown for its peaking operations.

<sup>11</sup> Typically, TransCanada provides the minimum flow of 700 cfs through its Unit No. 3.

<sup>12</sup> Daily average flow at or above the facility's full hydraulic capacity.

<sup>13</sup> TransCanada, typically utilizes a 1.8 foot drawdown for its peaking operations.

<sup>14</sup> TransCanada usually provides the minimum flow of 1,300 cfs through one generating unit.

<sup>15</sup> Daily average flow at or above the facility's full hydraulic capacity.

taking into consideration variations in demand for electricity as well as natural flow variations.

### **3.2.3 Vernon Project**

#### 3.2.3.1 Facilities

The Vernon Project is located on the Connecticut River at RM 141.9, about 2 miles upstream of the Ashuelot River and 7.4 miles downstream of the West River. The dam is a composite overflow and non-overflow ogee type concrete gravity structure extending across the Connecticut River between Hinsdale, New Hampshire, and Vernon, Vermont. It is 956 feet long with a maximum height of 58 feet, and consists of the integral powerhouse with a sluice gate block section that is about 356 feet long, and a concrete overflow spillway section about 600 feet long. The maximum dam height is 58 feet. The impoundment extends upstream 26 miles from the dam and has a usable storage capacity of 18,300 acre-feet at an eight-foot drawdown from the normal full pond at elevation 220.1 feet msl, a surface area of approximately 2,550 acres at full pond and a drainage area of 6,266 mi<sup>2</sup>. The powerhouse is integral to the dam and contains ten turbine/generators with an authorized installed capacity of 32.4-MW which generated an average of 136,583 MWh annually from 2000 – 2011. The generating units consist of two 2.5-MW vertical Francis turbines with an approximate per unit hydraulic capacity of 1,465 cfs, two 2.5-MW vertical Francis turbines with an approximate per unit hydraulic capacity of 1,465 cfs at 35 feet of head, four 4-MW vertical Kaplan turbines with an approximate per unit hydraulic capacity of 1,800 cfs, and two 4.2-MW vertical Francis turbines with an approximate per unit hydraulic capacity of 2,035 cfs at 34 feet of head.

#### 3.2.3.2 Operations

The project is operated as a load-following or peaking hydroelectric project, with a capability to utilize 18,300 acre-feet of storage (an 8-foot drawdown) for generation purposes.<sup>16</sup> During generation, downstream flows can vary between the required minimum flow of 1,250 cfs<sup>17</sup> and the facility's approximate full hydraulic capacity of 17,100 cfs. During periods of sustained high flows,<sup>18</sup> project generation is continuous and peaking operations are ceased. The Vernon Project operations are coordinated with other TransCanada hydroelectric generating facilities on the Connecticut River, taking into consideration variations in demand for electricity as well as natural flow variations.

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<sup>16</sup> TransCanada, typically utilizes a 2 foot drawdown for its peaking operations.

<sup>17</sup> Typically, TransCanada provides the minimum flow of 1,600 cfs through one generating unit.

<sup>18</sup> Daily average flow at or above the facility's full hydraulic capacity.

### 3.3 FIRSTLIGHT'S PROJECT FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

#### 3.3.1 Turners Falls Project

##### 3.3.1.1 Facilities

The Turners Falls dam is located on the Connecticut River at approximately RM 122 in the towns of Gill and Montague, Massachusetts. The dam consists of two individual concrete gravity dams, referred to as the Gill dam and Montague dam, which are connected by a natural rock island known as Great Island. The Montague dam is approximately 35 feet high and 630 feet long, is founded on bedrock and connects Great Island to the west bank of the Connecticut River. The Gill dam is approximately 55 feet high and 493 feet long extending from the Gill shoreline (east bank) to Great Island. The Turners Falls impoundment (which also serves as the lower reservoir for the Northfield Mountain Project), is approximately 20 miles long, extending upstream through the Connecticut River valley to the base of Vernon dam. The impoundment has a surface area of approximately 2,110 acres and a gross storage capacity of 21,500 acre-feet at elevation 185.0 feet msl (as measured at Turners Falls dam) and also serves as the lower reservoir for the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project. Most of the Turners Falls impoundment lies in Massachusetts; however, approximately 5.7 miles of the northern portion of the impoundment are located in New Hampshire and Vermont. At Turners Falls dam, the total drainage area is approximately 7,163 mi<sup>2</sup>, or about 64% of the Connecticut River Basin drainage area (11,250 mi<sup>2</sup>). The project includes two powerhouses, Station No. 1 and Cabot Station, which together have an authorized installed capacity of 67.709 MW which generated an average of 320,140 MWh annually from 2000-2009. Station No. 1 contains seven turbine/generators of which five are currently operational. Station No. 1 generating units consist of single runner vertical Francis turbines. The approximate turbine and hydraulic capacities of each unit are as follows: 2,100hp/560 cfs for Unit 1; 590hp/140 cfs for Unit 2; 1,900hp/500 cfs for Unit 3; Unit 4 is non-operational; 1,635hp/490 cfs for Unit 5; Unit 6 is non-operational; and 1,955hp/520 cfs for Unit 7. Cabot Station generating units consist of six vertical single runner Francis turbines. The approximate turbine and hydraulic capacities of each of the Cabot unit are 13,867hp/2,288 cfs.

##### 3.3.1.2 Operations

The project is operated as a load-following or peaking hydroelectric project, and we estimate that it has the capability to utilize about 7,000 acre-feet of storage<sup>19</sup> for generation

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<sup>19</sup> We estimate the usable storage capacity of the Turners Falls Project impoundment to be no more than 16,050 acre-feet (at a 9-foot drawdown); however, the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project typically utilizes 12,318 acre-feet of this storage when

purposes.<sup>20</sup> The Turners Falls impoundment also serves as a lower reservoir to the Northfield Mountain Project. During generation downstream flows can vary between the required minimum flow of 1,433 cfs<sup>21</sup> and the facility's approximate full hydraulic capacity of 15,938 cfs. During periods of sustained high flows, project generation is continuous and peaking operations are ceased. The Turners Falls Project's operations are coordinated with other FirstLight hydroelectric generating facilities on the Connecticut River, taking into consideration variations in demand for electricity as well as natural flow variations.

### **3.3.2 Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project**

#### **3.3.2.1 Facilities**

The tailrace of the Northfield Mountain Project is located approximately 5.2 miles upstream of Turners Falls dam, in the town of Northfield, Massachusetts, and in the Turners Falls impoundment. The upper reservoir of the Northfield Mountain Project is located atop Northfield Mountain in Erving, Massachusetts and consists of a main dam, rockfill dikes and a concrete gravity dam. The upper reservoir typically operates between elevations 1,000.5 feet msl and 938 msl which provide a 62.5 foot drawdown. Within this range of fluctuation, the upper reservoir has a surface area of 134 and 286 acres at elevations 938 and 1,000 feet msl, respectively, and approximately 12,318 acre-feet of usable storage. The underground powerhouse contains four reversible pump/turbines that operate at gross heads ranging from 753 to 824.5 msl. The project has an authorized installed capacity of 1,119.2 MW (Unit 1: 267.9 MW, Unit 2: 291.7 MW, Unit 3: 291.7 MW and Unit 4: 267.9 MW). The approximate station hydraulic capacity is 15,200 cfs (3,800 cfs per/pump) in pumping mode and 20,000 cfs (5,000 cfs per/turbine) in a generation mode.

#### **3.3.2.2 Operations**

The project is a pumped storage hydroelectric project, with a capability to utilize 12,318 acre-feet of storage (a 62.5-foot drawdown) for generation purposes. The project utilizes the Turners Falls impoundment as its lower reservoir. During pumping operations, water is pumped from the Turners Falls Impoundment to the upper reservoir. In the summer and winter seasons, the Northfield Mountain Project typically peaks twice

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filling its upper reservoir, resulting in about 3,700 acre-feet of usable storage for the Turners Falls Project generation.

<sup>20</sup> FirstLight, typically utilizes a 3.7 foot drawdown for its peaking operations.

<sup>21</sup> Typically, FirstLight maintains the minimum flow requirement through discharges at Cabot Station and/or Station No. 1. Compliance with FirstLight's minimum flow requirement is measured downstream of Cabot Station and is the sum of all project facilities' discharges.



a day - in the morning and late afternoon. During other months, commonly called shoulder months, the Northfield Mountain Project may be peaked one to two times a day, pending electrical demand and/or price. In both cases, water is typically pumped back to the upper reservoir during the night or during low energy priced hours. When operating in a pumping mode, the approximate hydraulic capacity of the project is 15,200 cfs. Alternatively, when operating in a generation mode, the approximate hydraulic capacity is 20,000 cfs.

### **3.4 LICENSEES' PROPOSALS**

TransCanada and FirstLight are in the process of evaluating their respective project facilities and operation to assess potential additions or modifications to increase power generation, improve efficiency, or reduce costs under a new license.

TransCanada and FirstLight are not currently proposing any new environmental measures at the projects.

#### **3.4.1 Proposed Facilities and Operation**

At this time, TransCanada is not proposing any changes to the licensed project facilities or operation at the Wilder, Bellows Falls or Vernon projects, but notes they will continue to evaluate upgrades as opportunities present themselves during the relicensing process.

FirstLight is evaluating a series of potential changes to facilities and operation of the Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage projects during relicensing including the following:

- Upgrade Station No. 1 with new or rehabilitated turbines.
- Close Station No. 1 and adding a turbine generator at Cabot of similar hydraulic capacity to Station No. 1's.
- Use full hydraulic capacity of Cabot Station turbines.
- Utilize more storage in the Northfield Mountain Project's upper reservoir.
- Increase the unit and station capacity at the Northfield Mountain Project.

As the relicensing process proceeds, FirstLight will conduct further investigations to determine if potential modifications are feasible.

If TransCanada and/or FirstLight decide to include one or more facility upgrades in its application for a new license, studies may be needed to evaluate the potential effects of such upgrades on environmental resources.

### **3.4.2 Licensees' Proposed Environmental Measures**

At this time, TransCanada and FirstLight have not proposed any changes to existing environmental measures (consisting of current license conditions and voluntary measures) and they do not propose any new measures. TransCanada and FirstLight propose to continue operating their perspective projects with the existing environmental protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures described in the following section.

#### **3.4.2.1 Wilder Project**

##### **Water Resources**

###### *Current License Requirements*

- Limit reservoir drawdown to elevation 380 feet (a 5-foot drawdown).
- Maintain a continuous minimum flow of 675 cfs (0.20 cubic feet per second per square mile of drainage basin).

###### *Voluntary Measures*

- Limit reservoir drawdown to 2.5 feet versus the allowed 5.0-foot drawdown.
- Limit reservoir drawdown rates to 3-tenths of a foot per hour.
- Provide a minimum instream flow of about 700 cfs (25 cfs above license requirement).

##### **Aquatic Resources**

###### *Current License Requirements*

- Provide upstream fish passage for migrating Atlantic salmon and American shad.
- Provide downstream fish passage for outmigrating fish.

##### **Recreation Resources**

###### *Current License Requirements*

- Operate and maintain a public viewing area with an observation deck and underwater window at upstream fish passage facility.
- Operate and maintain eight recreation facilities that include one car-top boat launch, two boat ramps, two angler access areas, one dock, one portage trail, one

water trail campsite, two picnic areas, one natural area, a network of hiking trails, and an athletic field.

#### *Voluntary Measures*

- From the Friday before Memorial Day through the last weekend in September, maintain a minimum reservoir elevation of 382.5 feet from Fridays at 4 pm through Sundays at midnight and on holidays.
- Issue permits to a local government and educational institution to operate two recreation facilities that provide a recreation access, trail network, picnic area, athletic fields, and restrooms.

### 3.4.2.2 Bellows Falls Project

#### **Water Resources**

##### *Current License Requirements*

- Limit reservoir drawdown to elevation 288.63 feet (a 3-foot drawdown).
- Maintain a continuous minimum instream flow of 1,083 cfs.

##### *Voluntary Measures*

- Limit the typical reservoir drawdown to 2 feet versus the allowed 3 feet.
- Limit reservoir drawdown rates to three-tenths of a foot per hour.
- Provide a minimum instream flow of about 1,300 cfs (217 cfs above license requirement).

#### **Aquatic Resources**

##### *Current License Requirements*

- Maintain and operate an upstream vertical slotted weir fish ladder at the powerhouse and an upstream concrete barrier dam in the bypass reach.
- Provide downstream passage via the forebay sluiceway/skimmer gate.

#### **Recreation Resources**

##### *Current License Requirements*

- Operate and maintain a visitor center and underwater window at the upstream fish passage facility.

- Operate and maintain **four** recreation facilities that include one car-top boat launch, **three** boat ramps, one portage trail, and two picnic areas.

*Voluntary Measures*

- From the Friday before Memorial Day through the last weekend in September, maintain a minimum reservoir elevation of 289.5 feet from Fridays at 4 pm through Sundays at midnight and on holidays.
- Issue permits to state and local governments to operate six recreation facilities that provide three car-top boat launches, three boat ramps, one fishing platform, and one marina.

### 3.4.2.3 Vernon Project

#### **Geology and Soil Resources**

*Current License Requirements*

- Develop and implement an erosion monitoring plan for the east bank below Vernon dam, with biennial monitoring.

#### **Water Resources**

*Current License Requirements*

- Maintain a continuous minimum instream flow of 1,250 cfs.
- Limit reservoir drawdown to an elevation of 212.13 feet (an 8-foot drawdown).

*Voluntary Measures*

- Limit the typical reservoir drawdown to 2 feet versus the allowed 8 feet.
- Limit reservoir drawdown rates to 3-tenths of a foot per hour.
- Provide a minimum instream flow of about 1,600 cfs (350 cfs above licensed requirement).

#### **Aquatic Resources**

*Current License Requirements*

- Maintain and operate an upstream fish passage facility designed to pass migrating Atlantic salmon and American shad upstream past the dam, including a viewing, counting and trapping area.

- Provide downstream fish passage.

## **Recreation Resources**

### *Current License Requirements*

- Operate and maintain six recreation facilities that include one car-top boat launch, one boat ramp, one water trail campsite, one portage trail, one angler access area, one area of open space, and one picnic area.
- Provide potable water at Vernon Glen and Governor Hunt recreation facilities.

### *Voluntary Measures*

- From the Friday before Memorial Day through the last weekend in September, maintain a minimum reservoir elevation of 218.6 feet from Fridays at 4 pm through Sundays at midnight and on holidays.

## **Land Use**

### *Current License Requirements*

- Provide the Vernon Neck Demonstration Forest Area (an area designated as a natural area, with only limited public use).

## **Cultural Resources**

### *Current License Requirements*

- Provided photographic documentation of the powerhouse.
- Conducted digital video documentation at key stages of the project to record the removal of the original equipment and installation of the new equipment.

### *Voluntary Measures*

- Donates generating and electrical equipment removed from the powerhouse to museums and educational organizations.

#### 3.4.2.4 Turners Falls Project

##### **Water Resources**

###### *Current License Requirements*

- Limit reservoir drawdown to elevation 176.0 feet (a 9-foot drawdown).
- Provide a minimum instream flow of 1,433 cfs (Modifications to this flow amount are required at various times of the year to address fisheries issues, as described in the following Aquatic Resources section).

###### *Voluntary Measures*

- Limit the typical reservoir drawdown to 3.7 feet versus the allowed 9 feet.

##### **Aquatic Resources**

###### *Current License Requirements*

- Operate and maintain three upstream fish passage facilities (Cabot fishway, the Spillway fishway, and the Gatehouse fishway) for Atlantic salmon and American shad.
- Provide a continuous minimum instream flow of 200 cfs in the bypass reach starting on May 1, and increase to 400 cfs when fish passage starts by releasing flow through a bascule gate at the dam.<sup>22</sup>

###### *Voluntary Measures*

- Provide downstream fish passage at Cabot Station from approximately April 1 through November 15.

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<sup>22</sup> The 400 cfs continuous minimum instream flow is provided through July 15, unless the upstream fish passage season has concluded early, in which case the 400 cfs flow is reduced to 120 cfs to protect shortnose sturgeon. The 120 cfs continuous minimum instream flow is maintained in the bypass reach from the date the upstream fishways are closed (or by July 16) until the river temperature drops below 7°C, which typically occurs around November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Recreation Resources**

### *Current License Requirements*

- Operate and maintain two parks and other access areas at the project; facilities include one canoe portage, one tailwater fishing facility, one trail, two picnic areas, and one interpretive display.

## **Land Use**

### *Voluntary Measures*

- Granted permissions for non-project uses of project lands in accordance with the provisions of the Turners Falls and Northfield projects' licenses. These non-project uses include uses of project lands for a parking area, the Conte Fish Lab, a fire pond, a privately owned boat club, private camps, landscaping activities, agricultural uses, communications antennas, docks, a NPDES discharge, and water withdrawals.

### 3.4.2.5 Northfield Mountain Project

## **Geology and Soil Resources**

### *Current License Requirements*

- Monitor and remediate stream bank erosion within the Turners Falls impoundment.

## **Aquatic Resources**

### *Current License Requirements*

- Deploy a fixed-position guide net to reduce entrainment of Atlantic salmon smolts at the project's lower reservoir intake.

## **Terrestrial Resources**

### *Current License Requirements*

- Manage the Bennett Meadow Wildlife Management Area for the compatible use of the land for agricultural and wildlife management purposes.

## **Recreation Resources**

### *Current License Requirements*

- Operate and maintain four parks and other access areas at the project; facilities include two hunting areas, two campgrounds with 30 campsites and one group camp, 20 trails (32 miles of trail), and a winter sport area.

## **3.5 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION**

Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as PM&E measures identified by the Commission, the agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.

## **3.6 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY**

At present, we propose to eliminate the following alternatives from detailed study in the EIS.

### **3.6.1 Federal Government Takeover**

In accordance with § 16.14 of the Commission's regulations, a federal department or agency may file a recommendation that the United States exercise its right to take over a hydroelectric power project with a license that is subject to sections 14 and 15 of the FPA.<sup>23</sup> We do not consider federal takeover to be a reasonable alternative. Federal takeover of the project would require congressional approval. While that fact alone would not preclude further consideration of this alternative, there is currently no evidence showing that federal takeover should be recommended to Congress. No party has suggested that federal takeover would be appropriate, and no federal agency has expressed interest in operating any of these five projects.

### **3.6.2 Non-power License**

A non-power license is a temporary license the Commission would terminate whenever it determines that another governmental agency is authorized and willing to assume regulatory authority and supervision over the lands and facilities covered by the non-power license. At this time, no governmental agency has suggested a willingness or ability to take over any of these five projects. No party has sought a non-power license, and we have no basis for concluding that the TransCanada and FirstLight projects should

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<sup>23</sup> 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a)-825(r).



no longer be used to produce power. Thus, we do not consider a non-power license a reasonable alternative to relicensing the projects.

## **4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES**

### **4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

#### **4.1.1 Resources that could be Cumulatively Affected**

Based on information in the Pre-Application Documents and staff analysis *of the written comments submitted from agencies and other stakeholders on the SD1 document and comments from the January 2013 public scoping meetings*, we identified the following resources that may be cumulatively affected by the proposed operation and maintenance of the five Connecticut River Projects: water quality and quantity<sup>24</sup> (including power generation), fishery resources (including anadromous and catadromous fish *and fish passage*), *floodplain communities, freshwater mussels, sediment movement, recreational uses* and rare, threatened and endangered species.

#### **4.1.2 Geographic Scope**

Our geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected resources is defined by the physical limits or boundaries of: (1) the proposed action's effect on the resources, and (2) contributing effects from other hydropower and non-hydropower activities within the Connecticut River Basin. Because the proposed actions would affect the resources differently, the geographic scope for each resource may vary.

The five Connecticut River Projects are located contiguously on the main stem Connecticut River between RM 262 and RM 122. There are other hydroelectric projects

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<sup>24</sup> *Water quantity is defined as flow magnitude, flow frequency, flow duration, flow timing, and rate of change.*

and five large storage projects in the upper Connecticut River basin. The storage projects operate to increase low flows in the summer and include First Connecticut Lake, Second Connecticut Lake, Lake Francis, Moore Reservoir and Comerford Reservoir.<sup>25</sup> While augmenting flows in the river during summer months, these storage projects have resulted in the conversion of a substantial amount of lotic (river-type) habitats in the basin to lentic (lake-type) habitats, which may have led to higher summer water temperatures and changes in the structure of fish communities. The dams have also affected sediment and large woody debris transport, which are important elements of fish habitat. Other contributors to effects on aquatic resources in the basin include operation of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, some urbanization, road and railroad construction, and timber harvest.

*Due to the extensive seasonal storage capacity at Moore reservoir, we have identified the geographical extent of cumulative effects on water quantity and water quality to include the Connecticut River from the base of Moore dam to the mouth of the Connecticut River at Long Island Sound. We chose this geographic area to recognize the cumulative operational influences of the upstream water storage, and the operations of the five Connecticut River projects on water quantity throughout this area and subsequently on water quality that could occur downstream to mouth of the Connecticut River at Long Island Sound.*

*Because hydroelectric dams influence both upstream and downstream fish migration within river systems, we have identified the geographical extent of potential cumulative effects on anadromous, catadromous, and diadromous fish species to include the Connecticut River from Long Island Sound upstream to each species' historical habitat range.*

*We have identified the geographical extent of cumulative effects on resident fish species, freshwater mussels, and sediment movement to include the upper extent of the Wilder reservoir downstream to the Route 116 bridge in Sunderland,<sup>26</sup> Massachusetts. We chose this geographic area because the operation of the five projects could be a contributing factor to sediment movement within the river and cumulative effects on resident fisheries and freshwater mussel habitat in this area.*

*We have identified the geographic scope of cumulative effects on terrestrial and floodplain communities to include the 100-year floodplain (as defined by the Federal*

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<sup>25</sup> *Moore Reservoir and Comerford Reservoir along with the McIndoes development compose the FERC Licensed Fifteen Mile Falls Project (FERC No. 2077).*

<sup>26</sup> *The Route 116 bridge is located at the approximate upstream extent of the Holyoke Project (FERC No. 2004) impoundment.*

*Emergency Management Agency) adjacent to the project-affected areas from the upstream extent of the Wilder reservoir downstream to the Route 116 bridge in Sunderland, Massachusetts. We chose this geographic area because the operation of the projects, in combination with other land uses in the Connecticut River Basin, may cumulatively affect floodplain communities adjacent to project reservoirs and downstream riverine reaches in this area.*

*The presence of multiple dams on the Connecticut River may cumulatively affect multi-day paddle trips. Based on our independent review and stakeholder comments, we find the geographic scope of the cumulative effects on recreation for multi-day paddling trips on the Connecticut River may extend as far upstream as Murphy Dam (RM 383) in Pittsburg, New Hampshire, where the natural riverine reaches become navigable (CRWC, 2007; American Whitewater, 2013)<sup>27</sup> and downstream to the Holyoke dam (FERC No. 2004), the most downstream dam, in Holyoke, Massachusetts.*

#### **4.1.3 Temporal Scope**

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the EIS will include a discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and their effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of a new license, the temporal scope will look 30 to 50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect on the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

## **4.2 TRANSCANADA’S WILDER, BELLOWS FALLS AND VERNON PROJECT RESOURCE ISSUES**

Environmental issues and concerns initially identified by the staff for TransCanada’s Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon projects are presented below. This identification of issues and concerns is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but is an initial listing of issues we have identified. For convenience, the issues have been listed

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<sup>27</sup> *The Connecticut River Watershed Council (2007). The Connecticut River boating guide: Source to sea (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). The Globe Pequot Press: Guilford, Connecticut.*

*American Whitewater (2013). Retrieved on 4/11/2013 from <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/10545>*

by resource area and those issues identified by an asterisk (\*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and project effects.

#### **4.2.1 Geology and Soil Resources**

- Effect of projects' operation and maintenance on river bank erosion (including the potential effects on protected species, cultural resources or the structural integrity of adjacent facilities (such as the narrow neck of land separating the Vernon impoundment from the tailwater, located to the east of the powerhouse and spillway).\*
- *Effects of Project operation and maintenance on sedimentation and sediment transport and the potential affect on aquatics and shallow water habitat.\**

#### **4.2.2 Water Resources**

- Effects of current and proposed project operations on water quantity.\*
- Effects of project operations on water quality, particularly on dissolved oxygen and temperature (including cumulative effects from the operation of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant).\*

#### **4.2.3 Aquatic Resources**

- Effects of project operations and maintenance (including fluctuations in water levels and flow releases) on aquatic habitat and resources in the project vicinity (e.g., resident and migratory fish populations; fish spawning, rearing, feeding, and overwintering habitats; mussels and macroinvertebrate populations and habitat).
- Effects of project facilities and operations, (including reservoir fluctuations, and generation releases) on fish migration through and within project fishways, reservoirs, and the downstream riverine corridor.\*
- Effects of entrainment on fish populations.\*

#### **4.2.4 Terrestrial Resources**

- Effects of project fluctuations in water levels and flow releases from the projects on riparian, wetland, and littoral vegetation community types and the spread of invasive species as a result of project operations along the shoreline of the projects.

- ***Effects of project fluctuations in water levels and flow releases from the projects on floodplain communities.\****
- Effects of project operation & maintenance (O&M) activities (e.g., road and facility maintenance) and project-related recreation on wildlife habitat and wildlife.
- Effects of project O&M on riverbank integrity and shoreline erosion along the project reservoir and stream reaches and its potential effects on riparian ***and wetland*** vegetation.
- Effects of the frequency, timing, amplitude and duration of reservoir fluctuations on ***wetland-dependent birds***, waterfowl and on riparian and wetland habitats.
- Effects of project O&M and project-related recreation on bald eagles and their habitat.
- ***Effects of project operations, including reservoir and downstream flow fluctuations, on terrestrial state-listed threatened and endangered species and exemplary natural communities (e.g., cobblestone tiger beetle and calcareous riverside seep).***

#### 4.2.5 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of project operations, including reservoir and downstream flow fluctuations, on aquatic species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) (e.g., dwarf wedgemussel).\*
- Effects of project operations, including reservoir and downstream flow fluctuations, on wildlife and plant species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA (i.e., puritan tiger beetle,<sup>28</sup> jesup's milk vetch, ***and northeastern bulrush***).\*

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<sup>28</sup> ***Puritan tiger beetles are located at Rainbow Beach in Northampton, MA downstream of the projects and within the Holyoke impoundment. It is reported that the species is likely extirpated within the Project area.***

- Effects of project maintenance activities on plants and wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA (e.g., dwarf wedgemussel and Jesup’s milk vetch).

#### **4.2.6 Recreation**

- Adequacy of existing recreation and public use facilities, *including car-top canoe/kayak access and hiking trails*, in meeting existing and future regional public use and river access needs.
- Effects of project operations on quality and availability of flow-dependent and *reservoir* level-dependent recreation opportunities, including boating *on the reservoirs and in the bypassed reach of the Bellows Falls Project*.
- Adequacy of structural integrity, physical capacity, and/or management methods to support recreation use at existing facilities, *including portage trails and picnic areas*.

#### **4.2.7 Land Use**

- Adequacy of existing shoreline management policies and programs to control non-project use of project lands.
- Adequacy of shoreline buffers to achieve project purposes.

#### **4.2.8 Aesthetic Resources**

- *Effects of the projects’ features, operation, and maintenance on the surrounding landscape, including flows in the bypassed reach of the Bellows Falls Project.*

#### **4.2.9 Socioeconomic Resources**

- At this time we have not identified any Socioeconomic Resource issues.

#### **4.2.10 Cultural Resources**

- Effects of the projects on historic, archeological, and traditional cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **4.2.11 Developmental Resources**

- Effects of potential operational changes on the energy and capacity benefits of the projects and effects of protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures on the cost of project power.\*

### **4.3 FIRSTLIGHT'S TURNERS FALLS AND NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT RESOURCE ISSUES**

Environmental issues and concerns initially identified by the staff for FirstLight's Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project are presented below. This identification of issues and concerns is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but is an initial listing of issues we have identified. For convenience, the issues have been listed by resource area and those issues identified by an asterisk (\*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and project effects.

#### **4.3.1 Geology and Soil Resources**

- Effects of project induced water level fluctuations in Turners Falls impoundment, on shoreline stability and river bank erosion, particularly where erosion might impact protected plant species, critical wildlife habitat, adjacent structures, recreational use facilities and/or private landowners within the project boundary.
- Effects of Turners Falls Project operation on river bank erosion in the bypass reach and downstream of Cabot Station.
- *Effects of Project operation and maintenance on sedimentation and sediment transport and the potential effect on aquatics and shallow water habitat, including areas such as Barton's Cove and backwater areas.*

#### **4.3.2 Water Resources**

- Effects of current and proposed project operations on water quantity (including power generation).\*
- Effects of project operations on water quality, particularly on dissolved oxygen and temperature.\*

### 4.3.3 Aquatic Resources

- Effects of project operations **and maintenance** (including fluctuations in water levels, and downstream releases) on aquatic habitat and resources in the projects' vicinity (e.g., resident and migratory fish populations; fish spawning, rearing, feeding, and overwintering habitats; mussels and macroinvertebrate populations and habitat).\*
- Effects of project facilities and operations, (including reservoir fluctuations, and generation releases) on fish migration through and within project fishways, **canals, bypassed reaches**, reservoirs, and the downstream riverine corridors. \*
- Effects of entrainment on fish.\*

### 4.3.4 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of project fluctuations in water levels and flow releases from the projects on riparian, wetland, and littoral vegetation community types and the spread of invasive species as a result of project operations along the shoreline of the projects.
- ***Effects of project fluctuations in water levels and flow releases from the projects on floodplain communities.***\*
- Effects of project operation & maintenance (O&M) activities (e.g., road and facility maintenance) and project-related recreation on wildlife habitat and wildlife.
- Effects of project O&M on riverbank integrity and shoreline erosion along the project reservoir and stream reaches and its potential effects on riparian **and wetland** vegetation.
- Effects of the frequency, timing, amplitude and duration of reservoir fluctuations on **wetland-dependent birds**, waterfowl and on riparian and wetland habitats.
- Effects of project O&M and project-related recreation on bald eagles and their habitat.
- ***Effects of project operations, including reservoir and downstream flow fluctuations, on terrestrial state-listed threatened and endangered species and exemplary natural communities (e.g., cobblestone tiger beetle).***



#### 4.3.5 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of project fluctuations and releases from the project on aquatic species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA (i.e., shortnose sturgeon and dwarf wedgemussel).\*
- Effects of project fluctuations and releases from the project on wildlife and plant species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA (i.e., *puritan tiger beetle and northeastern bulrush*).\*
- Effects of maintenance and use of project recreation facilities on plants and wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA (i.e., *northeastern bulrush*).
- Effects of project O&M activities on plants and wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA.

#### 4.3.6 Recreation

- Adequacy of existing recreation and public use facilities, *including car-top canoe/kayak access and trail systems, and hours of operation*, in meeting existing and future regional public use and river access needs, *and considering a variety of public recreation activities including rock climbing*.
- Effects of project operations on quality and availability of flow-dependent and *reservoir* level-dependent recreation opportunities, including boating *in the bypassed reach of the Turners Falls Project*.
- Adequacy of structural integrity, physical capacity, and/or management methods to support recreation use at existing facilities, *including portage trails and boat ramps*.

#### 4.3.7 Land Use

- Adequacy of existing shoreline management policies and programs to control non-project use of project lands.
- Adequacy of shoreline buffers to achieve project purposes.

#### **4.3.8 Aesthetic Resources**

- *Effects of the projects' features, operation, and maintenance on the surrounding landscape, including flows in the bypassed reach of the Turners Falls Project.*

#### **4.3.9 Socioeconomic Resources**

- At this time we have not identified any Socioeconomic Resource issues.

#### **4.3.10 Cultural Resources**

- Effects of the projects on historic, archeological, and traditional cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **4.3.11 Developmental Resources**

- Effects of potential operational changes on the energy and capacity benefits of the projects and effects of protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures on the cost of project power.\*

### **5.0 PROPOSED STUDIES**

Depending upon the findings of studies completed by the licensees and the recommendations of the consulted entities, the licensees will consider, and may propose certain other measures to enhance environmental resources affected by the project as part of the proposed action. Initial study proposals from TransCanada and FirstLight are identified by resource area in Table 1 and detailed information on these initial study proposals can be found in the respective PADs. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and the licensees from agencies, Indian tribes and interested parties during the study scoping process.

**Table 1. Initial Study Proposals by Project Applicant (Source: October 31, 2012 PADs)**

<b>TransCanada’s Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon Project’s</b>	
<b>Resource Area and Issue</b>	<b>Applicant’s Proposed Study</b>
Water Resources	Develop a system operations model to assist in the evaluation of project effects.  2011-2012 Water Quality report forthcoming.
Cultural Resources	Conduct future studies at Wilder and Bellows Falls, as needed, pending comments from the SHPOs on 2012 Phase 1A report.
<b>First Light’s Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls Project’s</b>	
<b>Resource Area and Issue</b>	<b>Applicant’s Proposed Study</b>
Water Resources	Collect continuous and monthly <i>in-situ</i> water quality data at the Turners Falls impoundment and Northfield Mountain upper reservoir to assess the effects of Turners Falls Project operations on water quality (dissolved oxygen and temperature).
Aquatic Resources	Conduct an Instream Flow Habitat Assessment in the Turners Falls Project bypass reach and downstream of Cabot Station to assess project operational effects on the “zone of fish passage” and aquatic habitat, including an evaluation of project operations on shortnose sturgeon spawning.  Using existing information, evaluate the need for improvements to existing upstream and downstream fish passage measures for American Shad and American Eel.

Terrestrial Resources

Perform field verification of National Wetland Inventory mapping in the Turners Falls Project area.

Conduct field survey of wildlife and botanical species/habitat (including rare, threatened, and endangered species and critical habitat) at Turners Falls impoundment, bypass reach, and downstream of Cabot Station.

Recreation and Land Use

Conduct a recreational use/user contact survey to establish the amount of recreation use and user opinion of recreational opportunities.

Conduct a recreation facilities inventory and assessment to evaluate all recreation project recreation facilities.

Conduct a land use classification/inventory

Cultural Resources

Conduct a Phase 1A background literature review of previous cultural resources study reports, development of archaeological sensitivity models and focused field reconnaissance studies. FirstLight has also indicated that a Phase IB archaeological survey may be warranted pending the results of consultation with the SHPOs.

Conduct a reconnaissance level architectural assessment of the project and resources within its viewshed.

Developmental Resources

Develop an operations model to evaluate system operations optimization and inflow models to assess projects operational effects on power generation and other resources.

## 6.0 EIS PREPARATION SCHEDULE

At this time, we anticipate the need to prepare an EIS. The draft EIS will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for these five projects. The EIS will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as PM&E measures that should be part of any license issued by the Commission. All recipients will then have 60 days to review the EIS and file written comments with the Commission. All comments on the draft EIS filed with the Commission will be considered in preparation of the final EIS.

The major milestones, including those for preparing the EIS, are as follows:

<u>Major Milestone</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
Scoping Meetings	January 2013
License Applications Filed	April 2016
Ready for Environmental Analysis Notice Issued	June 2016
Deadline for Filing Comments, Recommendations, and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions	August 2016
Draft EIS Issued	March 2017
Comments on Draft EIS Due	May 2017
Deadline for Filing Modified Agency Recommendations	June 2017
Final EIS Issued	September 2017

If Commission staff determines that there is a need for additional information or additional studies, the issuance of the Ready for Environmental Analysis notice could be delayed. If this occurs, all subsequent milestones would be delayed by the time allowed for the licensees to respond to the Commission's request. A copy of TransCanada's and FirstLight's process plans (as modified by Commission Staff) include a complete list of the relicensing milestones for the five Connecticut River projects involved in this relicensing, including those for developing the license applications, and are attached as Appendix B to this SD1.

## **7.0 PROPOSED EIS OUTLINE**

The preliminary outline for the Connecticut River Projects' EIS is as follows:

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## 8.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal and state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. The staff has initially identified the plans listed below that may be relevant to the projects. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform the Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the TransCanada and/or FirstLight projects.

### Massachusetts

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1995. Interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic striped bass. (Report No. 24). March 1995.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1998. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhynchus oxyrhynchus*). (Report No. 31). July 1998.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1998. Interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic striped bass. (Report No. 34). January 1998.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1999. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. (Report No. 35). April 1999.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Technical Addendum 1 to Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. February 9, 2000.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2009. Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. May 2009.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2010. Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. February 2010.



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). (Report No. 36). April 2000.

Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. 1992. A management plan for American shad in the Connecticut River Basin. Sunderland, Massachusetts. February 1992.

Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. 1998. Strategic plan for the restoration of Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River. Sunderland, Massachusetts. July 1998. 106 pp.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering. 1983. Connecticut River Basin water quality management plan. Westborough, Massachusetts. June 1983. 95 pp.

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): Massachusetts Outdoor 2006. Boston, Massachusetts.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 1998. Final Amendment #11 to the Northeast Multi-species Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #9 to the Atlantic sea scallop Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #1 to the monkfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #1 to the Atlantic salmon Fishery Management Plan; and Components of the proposed Atlantic herring Fishery Management Plan for Essential Fish Habitat. Volume 1. October 7, 1998.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 1998. Final Recovery Plan for the shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*). Prepared by the Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Team for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland. December 1998.

National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.

Technical Committee for Fisheries Management of the Connecticut River. 1981. Connecticut River Basin fish passage, flow, and habitat alteration considerations in relation to anadromous fish restoration. Hadley, Massachusetts. October 1981.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1989. Atlantic salmon restoration in New England: Final environmental impact statement 1989-2021. Department of the Interior, Newton Corner, Massachusetts. May 1989.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge final action plan and environmental impact statement. Department of the Interior, Turners Falls, Massachusetts. October 1995.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American waterfowl management plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

### **New Hampshire**

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1998. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*). (Report No. 31). July 1998.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1999. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. (Report No. 35). April 1999.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Technical Addendum 1 to Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. February 9, 2000.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2009. Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. May 2009.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2010. Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. February 2010.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1998. Interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic striped bass. (Report No. 34). January 1998.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). (Report No. 36). April 2000.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2008. Addendum II to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. Arlington, Virginia. October 23, 2008. Pages 1-7.

Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. 1992. A management plan for American shad in the Connecticut River Basin. Sunderland, Massachusetts. February 1992.

Connecticut River Joint Commission. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. 1997. Connecticut River corridor management plan. Charlestown, New Hampshire. Concord, New Hampshire. May 1997.

Connecticut River Joint Commission. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Connecticut River corridor management plan: 2008 Update to the Water Resources Chapter: (a) Headwaters Region; (b) Upper Valley Region; (c) Wantastiquet Region; (d) Riverbend Region; and (e) Mt. Ascutney Region. Charlestown, New Hampshire. Concord, New Hampshire.

Connecticut River Joint Commission. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Connecticut River corridor management plan: 2009 Update to the Recreation Plan: (a) Headwaters Region; (b) Upper Valley Region; (c) Wantastiquet Region; (d) Riverbend Region; and (e) Mt. Ascutney Region. Concord, New Hampshire.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 1998. Final Amendment #11 to the Northeast Multi-species Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #9 to the Atlantic sea scallop Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #1 to the monkfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #1 to the Atlantic salmon Fishery Management Plan; and Components of the proposed Atlantic herring Fishery Management Plan for Essential Fish Habitat. Volume 1. October 7, 1998.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 1998. Final Recovery Plan for the shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*). Prepared by the Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Team for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland. December 1998.

National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.

New Hampshire Office of State Planning. 1977. Wild, scenic, & recreational rivers for New Hampshire. Concord, New Hampshire. June 1977. 63 pp.

New Hampshire Office of State Planning. 1989. New Hampshire wetlands priority conservation plan. Concord, New Hampshire. 95 pp.

New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2008-2013. Concord, New Hampshire. December 2007.

New Hampshire Office of State Planning. 1991. Public access plan for New Hampshire's lakes, ponds, and rivers. Concord, New Hampshire. November 1991. 65 pp.

State of New Hampshire. 1991. New Hampshire rivers management and protection program [as compiled from NH RSA Ch. 483, HB 1432-FN (1990) and HB 674-FN (1991)]. Concord, New Hampshire. 19 pp.

State of New Hampshire. 1992. Act designating segments of the Connecticut River for New Hampshire's rivers management and protection program. Concord, New Hampshire. May 15, 1992. 7 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1989. Atlantic salmon restoration in New England: Final environmental impact statement 1989-2021. Department of the Interior, Newton Corner, Massachusetts. May 1989.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Undated. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American waterfowl management plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

## **Vermont**

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). (Report No. 36). April 2000.

Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. 1992. A management plan for American shad in the Connecticut River Basin. Sunderland, Massachusetts. February 1992.

Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. 1998. Strategic plan for the restoration of Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River. Sunderland, Massachusetts. July 1998. 105 pp.

Connecticut River Joint Commission. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. 1997. Connecticut River corridor management plan. Charlestown, New Hampshire. Concord, New Hampshire. May 1997.

Connecticut River Joint Commission. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. 1997. Connecticut River corridor management plan: 2008 Update to the Water Resources Chapter: (a) Headwaters Region; (b) Upper Valley Region; (c) Wantastiquet Region; (d) Riverbend Region; and (e) Mt. Ascutney Region. Charlestown, New Hampshire. Concord, New Hampshire.

Connecticut River Joint Commission. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. 1997. Connecticut River corridor management plan: 2009 Update to the Connecticut River Recreation Plan: (a) Headwaters Region; (b) Upper Valley Region; (c) Wantastiquet Region; (d) Riverbend Region; and (e) Mt. Ascutney Region. Charlestown, New Hampshire. Concord, New Hampshire.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 1998. Final Amendment #11 to the Northeast Multi-species Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #9 to the Atlantic sea scallop Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #1 to the monkfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment #1 to the Atlantic salmon Fishery Management Plan; and Components of the proposed Atlantic herring Fishery Management Plan for Essential Fish Habitat. Volume 1. October 7, 1998.

National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Undated. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American waterfowl management plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation. 2002. White River Basin plan. Waterbury, Vermont. November 2002.

Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation. 1986. Vermont Rivers Study. Waterbury, Vermont. 236 pp.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. 1988. Hydropower in Vermont: an assessment of environmental problems and opportunities. Waterbury, Vermont. May 1988.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. 1988. Wetlands component of the 1988 Vermont recreation plan. Waterbury, Vermont. July 1988. 43 pp.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. 1990. Vermont's lake trout management plan for inland waters. Waterbury, Vermont. May 1990. St. Johnsbury, Vermont. July 1990. 50 pp.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. 1986. The waterfalls, cascades, and gorges of Vermont. Waterbury, Vermont. May 1986. 320 pp.

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. 2008. Basin 11 management plan: West River, Williams River, Saxtons River. Waterbury, Vermont. June 2008.

Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1993. The Vermont plan for brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Waterbury, Vermont. September 1993.

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Vermont State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2005-2009. Waterbury, Vermont. July 2005.

Vermont Natural Heritage Program. New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory. 1988. Natural shores of the Connecticut River: Windham County, Vermont, and Cheshire County, New Hampshire. December 1988.

## 9.0 MAILING LIST

The list below is the Commission’s official mailing list for the TransCanada and FirstLight projects included in this scoping document. If you want to receive future mailings for this proceeding and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov) or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written and emailed requests to be added to the mailing list must clearly identify the following on the first page as appropriate: **Wilder Project No. 1892-026, Bellows Falls Project No. 1855-045, Vernon Project No. 1904-073, Turners Falls Project No. 1889-081) and/or Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. 2485-063.** You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**STUDY PLAN CRITERIA**  
**18 CFR Section 5.9(b)**

Any information or study request must contain the following:

1. Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;
2. If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;
3. If the requester is not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;
4. Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;
5. Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;
6. Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge; and
7. Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.



## APPENDIX B

### PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE FOR THE ILP RELICENSING OF WILDER, BELLOWS FALLS, VERNON, NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN AND TURNERS FALLS PROJECTS

**(shaded milestones are unnecessary if there are no study disputes; if due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the following business day)**

18 C.F.R.	Lead	Activity	Timeframe	Deadline
§ 5.5(a)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	Filing of NOI		10/31/2012
§ 5.6(a)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	Filing of PAD		10/31/2012
§ 5.7	FERC	Initial Tribal Consultation Meeting	Within 30 Days of filing NOI and PAD	Pending
§5.8	FERC	FERC Issues Notice of Commencement of Proceeding and Scoping Document (SD1) and requests to Initiate Informal Consultation under Section 7 of the ESA Consultation and section 106 of the NHPA	Within 60 days of filing NOI and PAD	12/21/2012
§5.8 (b)(3) (viii)	FERC/ Stakeholders	Public Scoping Meetings	Within 30 days of NOI and PAD notice and issuance of SD1	1/28 to - 1/31/2013
§ 5.9	FERC/ Stakeholders	File Comments on PAD, SD1, and Study Requests	Within 60 days of NOI and PAD notice and issuance of SD1	3/1/2013
§5.10	FERC	FERC Issues Scoping Document 2 (SD2) (if necessary)	Within 45 days of deadline for filing comments on SD1	4/15/2013
§5.11(a)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Proposed Study Plans	Within 45 days of deadline for filing comments on SD1	4/15/2013
§5.11(e)	TransCanada/ FirstLight/ Stakeholders	Study Plan Meetings	Within 30 days of deadline for filing proposed Study Plans	5/15/2013
§5.12	Stakeholders	File Comments on Proposed Study Plan	Within 90 days after proposed study plan is filed	7/14/2013
§5.13(a)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Revised Study Plan	Within 30 days following the deadline for filing comments on proposed Study Plan	8/13/2013

<b>18 C.F.R.</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
§5.13(b)	Stakeholders	File Comments on Revised Study Plan (if necessary)	Within 15 days following Revised Study Plan	8/28/2013
§5.13(c)	FERC	FERC Issues Study Plan Determination	Within 30 days following Revised Study Plan	9/12/2013
§5.14(a)	Mandatory Conditioning Agencies	Notice of Formal Study Dispute (if necessary)	Within 20 days of Study Plan determination	10/2/2013
§5.14(l)	FERC	Study Dispute Determination	Within 70 days of notice of formal study dispute	12/11/2013
§5.15(a)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	Conduct First Season Field Studies	Spring/summer 2014	
§5.15 (b)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Study Progress Reports	Spring/summer 2014	
§5.15(c)(1)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Initial Study Reports	No later than one year from Study Plan approval	9/12/2014
§5.15(c)(2)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	Initial Study Results Meeting	Within 15 days of Initial Study Report	9/27/2014
§5.15(c)(3)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Study Results Meeting Summary	Within 15 days of Study Results Meeting	10/12/2014
§5.15(c)(4)	Stakeholders/ FERC	File Meeting Summary – Disagreements/Modifications to Study/Propose New Studies	Within 30 days of filing Meeting Summary	11/11/2014
§5.15(c)(5)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Responses to Disagreements	Within 30 days of disputes	12/11/2014
§5.15(c)(6)	FERC	Resolution of Disagreements (if necessary)	Within 30 days of filing responses to disputes	1/10/2015
§5.15	TransCanada/ FirstLight	Conduct Second Season Field Studies	Spring/summer 2015	
§5.15 (f)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Updated Study Reports	No later than two years from Study Plan approval	9/12/2015
§5.15(c)(2)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	Second Study Results Meeting	Within 15 days of Updated Study Report	9/27/2015
§5.15(c)(3)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Study Results Meeting Summary	With 15 days of Study Results Meeting	10/12/2015
§5.15(c)(4)	Stakeholders / FERC	File Meeting Summary Disagreements/ Modifications to Study Requests, Requests for New Studies	Within 30 days of filing Meeting Summary	11/11/2015
§5.15(c)(5)	TransCanada/First Light/ Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements (if necessary)	Within 30 days of disputes	12/11/2015
§5.15(c)(6)	FERC	Resolution of Disagreements (if necessary)	Within 30 days of filing responses to disagreements	1/10/2016

<b>18 C.F.R.</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
§5.16(a)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	File Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application) with the FERC and distribute to Stakeholders	Not later than 150 days before final application is filed	12/4/2015
§5.16 (e)	FERC / Stakeholders	Comments on TransCanada Preliminary Licensing Proposal, Additional Information Request (if necessary)	Within 90 days of filing Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application)	3/3/2016
§5.17 (a)	TransCanada/ FirstLight	License Applications Filed		4/30/2016

## APPENDIX C

### ENTITIES THAT FILED WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS

In addition to the comments received at the scoping meetings, the following entities filed comments on the PAD or SD1:

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Date</u>
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder	November 9, 2012
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	January 16, 2013
Ross McIntyre	Wilder	January 23, 2013
Pine Park Association	Wilder	January 28, 2013
Greater Northfield Watershed Association	Northfield Mountain	January 31, 2013
River Residents Association	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	January 31, 2013
Thomas Shearer	none specified	January 31, 2013
Peter DesMeules	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	February 1, 2013
Peter Wright	Bellows Falls	February 1, 2013
Upper Valley Trails Alliance	Wilder	February 1, 2013
Landowners and Concerned Citizens for License Compliance	Turners Falls	February 4, 2013
Landowners and Concerned Citizens	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 11, 2013
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 11, 2013

Connecticut River Joint Commission	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	February 12, 2013
Mary Jo Maffei	Northfield Mountain	February 16, 2013
The River Residents Association		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Conway</li> </ul>	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 16, 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stanley &amp; Geri Johnson</li> </ul>	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 16, 2013
Ecosystem Management Consultants	Wilder	February 19, 2013
Four State Farm	Northfield Mountain	February 20, 2013
Nicole Cormen	Wilder	February 20, 2013
Town of Montague	Turners Falls	February 21, 2013
FirstLight	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	February 22, 2013
Town of Northfield, Massachusetts	Vernon, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	February 22, 2013
Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee	Bellows Falls, Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 24, 2013
City of Lebanon Planning Office	Wilder	February 25, 2013
City of Lebanon	none specified	February 25, 2013
Karly Meyer	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013
William & Jennifer Lipfert	Wilder	February 25, 2013
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation	Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013

The River Residents Association		
• Cynthia Dale	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013
• Betsy & Jean Egan	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013
• Michael & Diane Kane	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013
• Leena Newcomb	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013
• Walter Patenaude	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013
• Robert Stafford	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013
• Vivien Venskowski	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 25, 2013
City of Lebanon	none specified	February 25, 2013
Charlestown Conservation Commission	Bellows Falls	February 26, 2013
City of Lebanon Planning Office	Wilder	February 26, 2013
Town and City of Lebanon	Wilder	February 26, 2013
New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder Dam	February 27, 2013
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 27, 2013
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder Dam	February 27, 2013
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 27, 2013
Town of Hartford Parks and Recreation	Wilder	February 27, 2013
Town of Hartford, Vermont	Wilder	February 27, 2013

Trustee of Pine Park Association	Wilder	February 27, 2013
Appalachian Mountain Club	Bellows Falls	February 28, 2013
Appalachian Mountain Club	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	February 28, 2013
Appalachian Mountain Club, Vermont River Conservancy, and Friends of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail	Bellows Falls	February 28, 2013
Appalachian Mountain Club, Vermont River Conservancy, and Friends of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 28, 2013
Appalachian Mountain Club	Wilder	February 28, 2013
Chris Curtis	Turners Falls	February 28, 2013
Franklin Conservation District	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 28, 2013
Hanover Conservancy	Wilder	February 28, 2013
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 28, 2013
New England Flow, American Whitewater, Appalachian Mountain Club	Bellows Falls	February 28, 2013
New England Flow, American Whitewater, Appalachian Mountain Club	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 28, 2013
New England Flow, American Whitewater, Appalachian Mountain Club	Vernon	February 28, 2013
New England Flow, American Whitewater, Appalachian Mountain Club	Wilder	February 28, 2013
New England Flow, American Whitewater	Bellows Falls	February 28, 2013
New England Flow, American Whitewater	Wilder	February 28, 2013

University of Massachusetts Amherst	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	February 28, 2013
National Park Service	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 28, 2013
National Park Service	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder	February 28, 2013
The Nolumbeka Project	Wilder	February 28, 2013
The River Residents Association	Bellows Falls	February 28, 2013
TransCanada	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	February 28, 2013
Upper Valley Land Trust	Bellows Falls	February 28, 2013
Upper Valley Land Trust	Bellows Falls, Wilder	February 28, 2013
Upper Valley Trails Alliance	Wilder	February 28, 2013
Audubon Society of New Hampshire	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder	March 1, 2013
Connecticut River Joint Commissions	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	March 1, 2013
Connecticut River Watershed Council	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
FirstLight	Vernon	March 1, 2013
Franklin Regional Council of Governments	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
Howard Fairman	Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
Joanne McGee	Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013



Kurt Heidinger	Turners Falls	March 1, 2013
Landowners and Concerned Citizens for License Compliance	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
New England Mountain Biking Association	Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
New England Farmers Union	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	March 1, 2013
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	March 1, 2013
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	March 1, 2013
Richard Holmes	none specified	March 1, 2013
Rockingham Conservation Commission	Bellows Falls	March 1, 2013
Stephanie Krug	Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
The Nature Conservancy	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	March 1, 2013
Town of Gill	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
Deerfield River Chapter of Trout Unlimited	Bellows Fall, Vernon	March 1, 2013
Deerfield River Chapter of Trout Unlimited	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission	Wilder	March 1, 2013
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder	March 1, 2013

United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Turners Falls, Northfield Mountain	March 1, 2013
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder	March 1, 2013
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation	Bellows Falls, Vernon, Wilder, Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls	March 1, 2013