

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 4, 2021

FROM: Steve Kartalia, Project Coordinator
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Office of Energy Projects

TO: Public Files for the Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage projects (FERC Project Nos. 1889 and 2485)

SUBJECT: Clarification of Additional Information Request

On January 25, 2021, FERC staff held a conference call with FirstLight staff and its contractors to clarify portions of the deficiency and additional information letter FERC staff issued on January 14, 2021. A memo summarizing the telephone call was filed on the record on January 27, 2021. On January 27, 2021, FERC staff held a similar conference call with Great River Hydro staff (operator of the three upstream projects: Vernon, Bellows Falls, and Wilder) and a memo summarizing that call was also filed on the record on January 27, 2021.

On Monday February 1, 2021, Mike Swiger, attorney to FirstLight, requested a follow-up phone call for further clarification, based on the memo from FERC staff's call with Great River Hydro. We scheduled the call for 12:00 pm on February 4, 2021. Joining me on the call were Fred Winchell, Ken Hodge, and Brian Mattax from WSP (FERC's NEPA support contractor); Justin Trudell, John Howard, Mike Swiger, Mark Wamser, and Tom Sullivan for FirstLight.

FirstLight explained that it needed more clarity on what data and modeling output Great River was going to file with FERC before they could proceed with their responses to their own additional information requests. FERC staff stated that there will need to be a sequential filing of responses due to the dependency of the FirstLight projects on outflows from the upstream Vernon Project. Therefore, FERC staff suggested the following steps would be likely and reasonable:

- 1) FERC staff revises and reissues AIR #3 for Great River Hydro projects
- 2) Great River Hydro files a response to AIR #3 with FERC
- 3) FERC staff revises and reissues, if necessary, the AIRs for Turners Falls (#4 and 5) and Northfield Mountain (#3) which are dependent on Great River Hydro's AIR response. If a revision to the FirstLight AIRs is not necessary,

then FERC would inform FirstLight to resume preparation of its response to the AIRs issued on January 14, 2021.

- 4) FirstLight files a response to Turners Falls AIR #4 and 5 and Northfield Mountain AIR #3

FERC staff acknowledged that FirstLight may be unable to respond to the above-listed AIRs by the original due date of 60 days from the January 14, 2021 letter. However, FirstLight should attempt to meet the deadline for the AIRs not dependent on Great River Hydro's responses and FERC staff will establish a new deadline, if appropriate, for the responses that are dependent on Great River Hydro's responses.