



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

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November 22, 2021

*Via Electronic Filing*

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

Re: FirstLight MA Hydro LLC, Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1889) Northfield Mountain LLC, Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485)

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is the certifying authority for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for purposes of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. MassDEP supports FirstLight's November 12, 2021 request to defer the issuance of the Notice of Acceptance and Ready for Environmental Analysis until after January 31, 2022 to allow FirstLight to coordinate with other state resource and regulatory agencies, and municipal and advocacy stakeholders before the need to commence a Section 401 certification proceeding.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment letter. Questions or comments on this letter should be addressed to Thomas Gruszko, Environmental Analyst, Division of Wetlands & Waterways, at [thomas.gruzkos@mass.gov](mailto:thomas.gruzkos@mass.gov) or by phone at 617-292-5566.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Paul W. Locke  
Acting Deputy Commissioner

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

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