



Northfield Mountain Station
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360
Ph.: (413) 659-4489
Fax: (413) 659-4469
Email: alan.douglass@firstlightpower.com

Alan Douglass
Regulatory Compliance Manager

January 31, 2022

Via Electronic Filing

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

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

Dear Secretary Bose:

As last reported by letter dated January 4, 2022, over the course of the past several months the licensees for the above-referenced projects (collectively, FirstLight) have been engaged with federal and state resource agencies, local communities, environmental organizations, Native American tribes, and other stakeholders in renewed discussions on a broad range of issues pertaining to fish passage, stream flows, recreation, and cultural resources related to relicensing of the projects.

We are pleased to announce that FirstLight and a number of relicensing participants have reached conceptual agreements on several key issues and are close to finalizing conceptual agreements on other key issues. Specifically:

- FirstLight and the whitewater boating group have reached an agreement in principle (AIP) on whitewater boating releases in the Turners Falls bypass reach. This includes releases during the July through October period specifically for recreational boating, which will be updated annually at the beginning of each calendar year and posted on a website. These will include: special release events on Independence Day, Columbus Day, and Labor Day weekends; releases, one specified weekend in August and one specified weekend in October; Station No. 1 releases supplemented by releases from Turners Falls Dam on weekends from July through October; and an annual spill at Turners Falls Dam in association with the canal maintenance drawdown. Execution of a written AIP is awaiting a final AIP with federal and state resource agencies on minimum flows in the bypass reach for fisheries (see below).
- FirstLight and the recreation group have reached conceptual agreement on recreational improvements. Additional time is needed before a final AIP can be executed, in order for

the Selectboards of the Towns of Erving, Gill, Montague, and Northfield to approve the AIP. The Towns expect their Selectboards to address the AIP during public meetings scheduled for the following dates:

- 02/07/22 - Erving Selectboard
- 02/08/22 - Northfield Selectboard
- 02/14/22 - Gill and Montague Selectboards

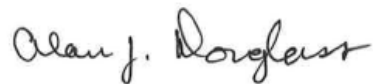
Following approval of the recreation AIP by the Town Selectboards, the parties to that AIP expect to execute an AIP.

- FirstLight continues to discuss fish passage, minimum stream flows, and project operational issues with federal and state resource agencies, and certain non-governmental organizations. FirstLight and the agencies have reached conceptual agreement on minimum stream flows, upstream and downstream fish passage facilities, and certain operational measures. The parties are continuing to make progress on the remaining operational measures, at which time they intend to execute an AIP.

In light of the significant progress of FirstLight and the relicensing participants in achieving conceptual agreements, FirstLight requests that the Commission continue to defer issuance of its Ready for Environmental Analysis (REA) Notice until after February 28, 2022. FirstLight anticipates requesting the Commission to further defer the REA Notice until after June 30, 2022, to allow the parties time to negotiate a comprehensive, binding settlement agreement that aims to fully resolve all relicensing issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Alan Douglass
Regulatory Compliance Manager