



August 21, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, FERC Project Nos. 2485 and 1889
Notification of Dates and Agenda for 2014 Initial Study Report Meeting

Dear Secretary Bose:

By September 15, 2014, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight), licensee of the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, will file its 2014 Initial Study Reports (ISRs) as required by §5.15(c)(1) of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations. Per §5.15(c)(2) of the FERC regulations, within 15 days of filing the ISRs, FirstLight must hold its ISR meeting. The purpose of this letter is to notify the FERC and stakeholders of the ISR meeting dates and location (see below). In addition, Attachment A includes an agenda for the 2-day meeting.

- **Meeting Location:** Northfield Mountain Visitors Center, 99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield, MA.
- **Meeting Dates:** September 30, 2014 and October 1, 2014. The meetings will start at 9:00 am.

FirstLight respectfully requests stakeholders notify us via email (firstlight@gomezandsullivan.com) by September 16, 2014 if they plan on attending none, both or one of the days so we can plan accordingly.

FirstLight is conducting 38 studies as required in its Revised Study Plan (with some studies subject to FERC modifications). With the inclusion of an Ichthyoplankton Entrainment Study at the Northfield Mountain Project, which was added following a study dispute, the total number of studies is 39. Most of the 2014 studies are underway with field data collection on-going (many field studies are slated for 2015 and a few slated for 2016). With the exception of Study No. 3.1.1 *2013 Full River Reconnaissance* and Study No. 3.6.2 *Recreation Facilities Inventory and Assessment*, no final study reports will be included in the ISR. Thus, the September 15, 2014 ISR filing will address the following for each study:

- a study summary and consultation record to date (if any)
- study progress summary by task
- variances (if any) from the study plan and schedule
- remaining activities

John S. Howard
Director FERC Compliance, Hydro

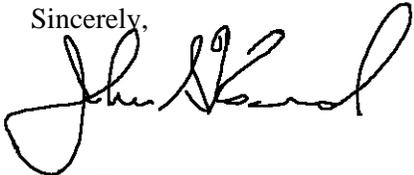
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In addition to the above, in FERCs Study Plan Determination Letter, some studies required the filing of an updated study plan, which will be included in the ISR.

The purpose of the 2-day meeting is to provide a high level overview of the work completed on each study to date, general findings (if any), and variances (if any) from the study plan.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

John Howard

Attachment A: Agenda

**Attachment A: Agenda
September 30, 2014**

Time	Study
9:00-9:30 am	Introductions, Review of Meeting Purpose, Review Criteria for Modification of Approved Study, Review Criteria for New Study, Review 7 Study Criteria, Review Relicensing Process Steps following this meeting
9:30-9:45 am	3.3.4- Evaluate Upstream Passage of American Eel
9:45-10:00 am	3.3.17-Assess the Impacts of Project Operations of the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Project on Tributary and Backwater Area Access and Habitat
10:00-10:15 am	3.3.14-Aquatic Habitat Mapping of Turners Falls Impoundment
10:15-10:30 pm	3.3.13- Impacts of the Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Project on Littoral Zone Fish Habitat and Spawning Habitat
10:15-10:30 pm	3.3.7-Fish Entrainment and Turbine Passage Mortality Study
10:30-10:45 pm	3.3.18- Impacts of the Turners Falls Canal Drawdown on Fish Migration and Aquatic Organisms
10:45-11:00 am	3.3.6-Impact of Project Operations on Shad Spawning, Spawning Habitat and Egg Deposition in the Area of the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls Projects (2015 Study)
	3.3.11- Fish Assemblage (2015 Study)
11:00-11:30 am	3.3.2-Evaluate Upstream and Downstream Passage of Adult American Shad (2015 Study)
	3.3.3-Evaluate Downstream Passage of Juvenile American Shad (2015 Study)
	3.3.5- Evaluate Downstream Passage of American Eel (2015 Study)
11:30-Noon	3.3.15- Assessment of Adult Sea Lamprey Spawning within the Turners Falls Project & Northfield Mountain Project Area (2015 Study)
	3.3.20- Study to Evaluation Entrainment of Ichthyoplankton at the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (2015 Study)
	3.3.19- Evaluate the Use of an Ultrasound Array to Facilitate Upstream Movement to Turners Falls Dam by Avoiding Cabot Station Tailrace (2016 Study)
Noon-1:00 pm	Lunch- on your own
1:00-1:15 pm	3.2.2-Hydraulic Study of Turners Falls Impoundment, Bypass Reach and below Cabot Station
1:15- 1:30 pm	3.3.8-Computational Fluid Dynamics Modeling in the Vicinity of the Fishway Entrances and Powerhouse Forebays
1:30-1:45 pm	3.3.9-Two-Dimensional Modeling of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project Intake/Tailrace Channel and Connecticut River Upstream and Downstream of the Intake/Tailrace.
1:45-2:00 pm	3.3.10-Assess Operational Impacts on Emergence of State-Listed Odonates in the Connecticut River
2:00-2:15 pm	3.3.16-Habitat Assessment, Surveys, and Modeling of Suitable Habitat for State-listed Mussel Species in CT River below Cabot Station
2:15-2:45 pm	3.3.1-Conduct Instream Flow Habitat Assessments in the Bypass Reach and below Cabot Station
2:45-3:00 pm	3.3.12-Evaluate Frequency and Impact of Emergency Water Control Gate Discharge Events and Bypass Flume Events on Shortnose Sturgeon Spawning and Rearing Habitat in the Tailrace and Downstream from Cabot Station
3:00-3:15 pm	3.2.1-Water Quality Monitoring Study (2015 Study)
3:15-3:45 pm	3.4.1-Baseline Study of Terrestrial Wildlife and Botanical Resources
3:45-4:00 pm	3.4.2-Effects of Northfield Mountain Project-related Land Management Practices and Recreation Use on Terrestrial Habitats
4:00-4:30 pm	3.5.1-Baseline Inventory of Wetland, Riparian and Littoral Habitat in the Turners Falls Impoundment, and Assessment of Operational Impacts on Special-Status Species
4:30-5:00 pm	Wrap-Up

October 1, 2014

Time	Study
9:00-9:15 am	3.8.1-Evaluate the Impact of Current and Potential Future Modes of Operation on Flow, Water Elevation and Hydropower Generation
9:30- 10:00 am	3.6.1-Recreation Use/User Contact Survey
10:00-10:30 am	3.6.2-Recreation Facilities Inventory and Assessment
10:30-11:00 am	3.6.3-Whitewater Boating Evaluation
11:00-11:30 am	3.6.4-Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-motorized Boats
11:30-11:45 am	3.6.5-Land Use Inventory 3.6.6-Assessment of Effects of Project Operation on Recreation and Land Use
11:45-Noon	3.6.7-Recreation Study at Northfield Mountain, including Assessment of Sufficiency of Trails for Shared Use
Noon-1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
1:00-1:15 pm	3.7.1-Phase 1A, 1B, and II Archaeological Surveys
1:15-1:30 pm	3.7.2-Survey and Evaluation of Historic Architectural Resources
1:30-1:45 pm	3.7.3-Traditional Cultural Properties Study
1:45-2:30 pm	3.1.1-2013 Full River Reconnaissance Study
2:30-3:00 pm	3.1.2-Northfield Mountain/Turners Falls Operations Impact on Existing Erosion and Potential Bank Instability
3:00-3:30 pm	3.1.3-Northfield Mountain Project Sediment Management Plan
3:30-4:00 pm	Wrap-Up