

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2485-064- Massachusetts
Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project
FirstLight Power Resources Company

January 25, 2013

Mr. John S. Howard, Director
FERC Hydro Compliance
FirstLight Power Resources
Northfield Mountain Station
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360

Subject: Sediment Management Plan Report of 2012 Activities

Dear Mr. Howard:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your report on sediment monitoring activities for the 2012 year, filed on November 30, 2012, for the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, FERC No. 2485. You filed the report in compliance with ordering paragraph (B) of an Order Approving Revised Sedimentation Plan, issued March 28, 2012.¹

License Requirement

In the March 28, 2012 order, the Commission approved a revised plan to minimize and avoid entrainment of sediment into project works and discharge to the Connecticut River during reservoir maintenance or dewatering activities at the project. Ordering Paragraph (B) of the order issued March 28, 2012, directed you to file a report summarizing sediment monitoring activities by December 1 of the year in which the

¹ See, *FirstLight Hydro Generating Company*, 138 FERC ¶ 62,305, (2012).

sediment monitoring was conducted.

Review

With the filing, you included a summary report of activities conducted under your Sediment Management Plan for the year 2012. You state that the main components of the plan applicable to this reporting period include: 1) conducting an annual bathymetric survey in the upper reservoir; 2) collecting turbidity and total suspended soils (TSS) samples from the project area; 3) measuring suspended sediment concentration at three locations in the project area; and 4) reporting requirements.

You state that a bathymetric survey of the upper reservoir was conducted on September 29 and 30, 2012. The purpose of the survey was to estimate the change in sediment volume in the reservoir intake channel from year to year. An analysis of the entire reservoir comparing the 2012 and 2011 surveys indicated that there has not been any significant change in the survey contours since the last survey. In May-June 2012 you installed continuous suspended sediment monitors at three locations in the project area. In addition, you state that the hydro units are off-line due to mechanical failures, and are undergoing repair. Therefore, you will reinstall the units and resume data collection immediately after the mechanical issues are resolved and continue sampling in 2013.

Your submittal adequately fulfills the requirements of ordering paragraph (B) of the March 28, 2012 order. You are reminded that your next report is due on December 1, 2013. Thank you for your continued cooperation relative to project operation. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (202) 502-6191, or by e-mail at anumzziatta.purchiaroni@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

William Guey-Lee
Chief, Engineering Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance