

June 9, 2015

## VIA ELETRONIC FILING

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

Re: Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1889) and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485), Franklin County, MA. *Relicensing Study 3.7.3 Traditional Cultural Properties* 

## Dear Secretary Bose:

FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) is in receipt of a copy of The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.'s April 29, 2015 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the May 2015 Study Report for the Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) Study. By letter of even date, FirstLight has notified the Nolumbeka Project that FirstLight accepts the Nolumbeka's letter offer to point out TCPs and ceremonial stone landscapes that exist on the Wissatinnewag property. We have noted in our response to Mr. Joe Graveline of the Nolumbeka Project, Inc. that the Turners Falls Hydroelectric and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Projects' Area of Potential Effects (APE) does not include the Wissatinnewag property. A map depicting the Project's APE in relation to the Wissatinnewag property is enclosed. Nonetheless, we are interested in finding out any information that may shed light on the existence of cultural properties within the APE. We have also asked Mr. Graveline for his advice on how our joint efforts may serve as proxy for Section 106 consultation purposes with the Narragansett Indian Tribe Historic preservation Officer (NITHPO) who to date has not agreed to meet with FirstLight.

Please note that our review and understanding of TCPs and ceremonial stone landscapes must depend on guidance provided by the National Parks Service's Bulletin 38. We look forward to continuing to work with Commission staff and interested parties in the Section 106 consultation process.

Sincerely,

Cc: Frank Winchell, FERC

Joe Graveline, The Nolumbeka Project, Inc. (certified mail)

Doug Harris, Narragansett Indian Tribe (certified mail)

Bonney Hartley, Stockbridge-Munsee Community (certified mail)

Ramona Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (certified mail)

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