

# Relicensing Study 3.6.6

## ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF PROJECT OPERATION ON RECREATION AND LAND USE

### Updated Study Report Summary

Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (No. 2485)  
and Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (No. 1889)

*Prepared for:*



*Prepared by:*



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## 1.1 Study Summary

The purpose of this study is to determine whether the operation of the Turners Falls and the Northfield Mountain Projects (Projects) affects recreation facilities or land use within the study area, which extends from just below Vernon Dam to the Sunderland Bridge.

Analysis and results will be based on a consideration of data collected from a number of the relicensing studies including the *Recreation Use/User Contact Survey* (Study No. 3.6.1), the *Recreation Facilities Inventory and Assessment* (Study No. 3.6.2), the *Whitewater boating Evaluation* (Study No. 3.6.3), the *Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats* (Study No. 3.6.4), and the *Recreation Study at Northfield Mountain, including Assessment of Sufficiency of Trails for Shared Use* (Study No. 3.6.7). Analysis of Project operational effects on recreation sites may also utilize data and information from the *Hydraulic Study of Turners Falls Impoundment, Bypass Rach and below Cabot Station* (Study No. 3.2.2), *Two-Dimensional Modeling of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project Intake/Tailrace Channel and Connecticut River Upstream and Downstream of the Intake/Tailrace* (Study 3.3.9). In addition, some information from the *Northfield Mountain/Turners Falls Operations Impact on Existing Erosion and Potential Bank Instability* (Study No. 3.1.2) may be used to inform this study.

## 1.2 Study Progress Summary

### Task 1: Data Compilation

An addendum to the *Recreation Facilities Inventory and Assessment* (Study No. 3.6.2) was completed in 2015. Reports for the *Whitewater Boating Evaluation* (Study No. 3.6.3), *Assessment of Day Use and Overnight Facilities Associated with Non-Motorized Boats* (Study No. 3.6.4), *Recreation Study at Northfield Mountain, including Assessment of Sufficiency of Trails for Shared Use* (Study No. 3.6.7), and the *Hydraulic Study of Turners Falls Impoundment, Bypass Rach and below Cabot Station* (Study No. 3.2.2) were completed in 2015 and are being filed with FERC as part of this Updated Study Report (USR) submittal.

### Task 2: Data Analysis

Data and information applicable to an assessment of Project operational effects on recreation facilities and land use collected through the studies mentioned in Task 1 are being reviewed as the various studies progress and the information/data becomes available.

### Task 3: Report Development

As reported in the ISR, a final report is anticipated to be completed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

## 1.3 Variances from Study Plan and Schedule

To date, there are no variances from the study plan or schedule.

## 1.4 Remaining Activities

Review and analysis of relevant data/information from the *Hydraulic Study of Turners Falls Impoundment, Bypass Rach and below Cabot Station* (Study No. 3.2.2), *Two-Dimensional Modeling of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project Intake/Tailrace Channel and Connecticut River Upstream and Downstream of the Intake/Tailrace* (Study 3.3.9) and *Northfield Mountain/Turners Falls Operations Impact on Existing Erosion and Potential Bank Instability* (Study No. 3.1.2) will be conducted as the results of these studies become available.