

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20426

February 25, 2016

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2485-063 – Massachusetts
Project No. 1889-081 – Massachusetts
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company

James P. Donohue
FirstLight Power Resources, Inc.
Northfield Mountain Station
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360

Subject: Revised Plan for Study 3.3.19

Dear Mr. Donohue:

On August 14, 2013, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) submitted a revised study plan that included a study evaluating the effectiveness of using ultrasound to guide the upstream passage of American shad at the Turners Falls Project (study 3.3.19). On February 21, 2014, the Commission issued a study plan determination that approved the study with a modification. The modification required FirstLight to revise its plan for the study, if appropriate, after completion and review of study 3.3.2, which is a study of the effects of project operation on the upstream and downstream passage of adult American shad. The modification also required FirstLight to distribute its revised plan for study 3.3.19 to stakeholders for comment and file the revised plan for Commission approval.

Study 3.3.2 is only partially complete; however, FirstLight believes it has adequate information to proceed with study 3.3.19 during the 2016 field season. Therefore, on January 13, 2016, FirstLight provided stakeholders with a draft revised plan for study 3.3.19 and requested comments by January 26, 2016. FirstLight received comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Don Pugh, and Karl Meyer. On February 19, 2016, FirstLight filed and requested Commission approval of its revised plan for study 3.3.19.¹

Commission staff has reviewed the revised plan, stakeholder comments, and FirstLight's responses to comments and conclude that the proposed study should provide

¹ FirstLight's February 19, 2016, filing addresses stakeholder comments on the draft revised plan.

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the information needed for staff to evaluate the effectiveness of ultrasound at guiding American shad at the Turners Falls Project. Therefore, the revised plan for study 3.3.19 filed on February 19, 2016, requires no further modification.

If you have any questions, please contact Brandon Cherry at (202) 502-8238, or via e-mail at brandon.cherry@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Vince E. Yearick
Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing

cc: Mailing List, Public Files

Document Content(s)

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