



February 28, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1889) and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC No. 2485).
Downstream Juvenile Shad Study- Correspondence with MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Dear Secretary Bose:

On February 23, 2018, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) filed a letter with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relative to the relicensing of its Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project. As part of that letter, FirstLight discussed Study No. 3.3.3 *Evaluate Downstream Passage of Juvenile American Shad*. FirstLight noted that it is conducting feasibility work associated with a barrier net in the Northfield Mountain tailrace/intake to protect juvenile shad, adult American eel and resident fish from becoming entrained. FirstLight requested FERC to delay action on Study No. 3.3.3 until February 28, 2019 to allow additional time to further test the feasibility of a barrier net with work slated to occur this year. Written correspondence supporting the delay on conducting the juvenile shad study was filed as part of the February 23rd letter, which included the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and Connecticut River Conservancy. On February 26, 2018, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife provided an email also supporting the delay for Study No. 3.3.3 as shown in Attachment A.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please feel free to contact me at the number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas P. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Douglas Bennett
Plant General Manager

Douglas Bennett
Plant General Manager- Massachusetts Hydro
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Attachment A: Email consultation with Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife relative to delaying juvenile shad study

Mark Wamser

From: Slater, Caleb (FWE) <caleb.slater@state.ma.us>

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:05 AM

To: Mark Wamser

Subject: RE: Items from Yesterday's Meeting

Mark - We reviewed the draft request you intend to send to FERC on February 28, 2018 to defer action on the request for studies of juvenile shad downstream passage pursuant to Study No 3.3.3 until February 28, 2019.

The goal of that study is to evaluate the need for fish passage and entrainment protection at the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls projects. First Light (FL) is currently in negotiations on the project impacts and potential PME measures and, as part of those discussions, FL is proposing to conduct some preliminary assessments of fish protection measures at Northfield Mountain.

Given that the proposed fish protection assessments are critical to ongoing settlement discussions, we have no objection to deferring action on the juvenile shad downstream passage study for another year.

Let me know if you have any questions

Caleb

Caleb Slater, PhD

Anadromous Fish Project Leader

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

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