

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426  
May 13, 2019

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 1889-085 – Massachusetts/New  
Hampshire/Vermont  
Project No. 2485-071 – Massachusetts  
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company

Douglas Bennett  
Director – Massachusetts Hydro  
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company  
99 Millers Falls Road  
Northfield, MA 01360

**Reference: Extension of Time to Complete Phase II Archaeological Evaluations**

Dear Mr. Bennett:

On March 15, 2018, the Commission issued an order on rehearing that required FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) to complete Phase IB and Phase II archaeological investigations on 24,425 meters of shoreline in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts as part of the relicensing process for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1889 and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. 2485.<sup>1</sup> The Rehearing Order required FirstLight to file the results of the Phase IB and Phase II investigations with the Commission by September 1, 2018.<sup>2</sup>

On August 8, 2018, Commission staff granted an extension of time to March 15, 2019 for FirstLight to file the Phase II report for 12,000 meters of shoreline in Massachusetts. On December 14, 2018, FirstLight requested additional time, until September 15, 2019, to file the Phase II report for Massachusetts. On January 18, 2019, Commission staff granted an extension of time to May 14, 2019 to file the Phase II

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<sup>1</sup> *FirstLight Hydro Generating Company*, 162 FERC ¶ 61,235 (2018) (Rehearing Order).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at Ordering Paragraph B.

report.<sup>3</sup>

On May 6, 2019, FirstLight requested an extension of time until October 18, 2019 to file the Phase II report. FirstLight states that MHC has requested Phase II site examinations at 17 archaeological sites (as opposed to the 14 sites recommended in the Phase IB report), and FirstLight cannot conduct any Phase II investigations until it receives the necessary state and local permits. FirstLight anticipates initiation of Phase II field work in mid-July 2019. Assuming favorable weather conditions and the timely issuance of the permits, FirstLight expects to complete field work in mid-August and submit the Phase II report to MHC and FERC by October 18, 2019. FirstLight proposes to submit monthly progress updates to FERC.

Extending the deadline for filing the Phase II report will allow FirstLight the necessary time to obtain state and local permits, conduct site examinations, and prepare the Phase II report. Accordingly, FirstLight is granted an extension of time until October 18, 2019 to file the Massachusetts Phase II report. FirstLight must submit progress reports on a monthly basis until the Phase II report is completed.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Gill at [amanda.gill@ferc.gov](mailto:amanda.gill@ferc.gov) or 202-502-6773.

Sincerely,

Vince Yearick  
Director  
Division of Hydropower Licensing

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<sup>3</sup> Commission staff found that an extension of time until September 15, 2019 was not warranted based on the status of FirstLight's consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and the fairly limited scope of the Phase II excavations that were needed to determine the eligibility of the archaeological sites for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.