

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426
July 3, 2019

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 1889-085 – Massachusetts/New
Hampshire/Vermont
Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company

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

Reference: Instream Flow Habitat Assessment of Yellow Lampmussel – Study 3.3.1

Dear Mr. Bennett:

On January 22, 2019, Commission staff issued a determination on requests for modifications to the approved study plan for the relicensing of FirstLight Hydro Generating Company's (FirstLight) Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1889. The determination adopted a study modification request for study 3.3.1 (Conduct Instream Flow Habitat Assessments in the Bypassed Reach and Below Cabot Station), and required FirstLight to file an assessment of project effects on yellow lampmussel in study reach 4 by April 22, 2019.¹ FirstLight has not filed the additional information for study 3.3.1.² Please provide the required and overdue information within 90 days of the date of this letter, or an explanation for the reason that additional time is required to provide the information.

¹ See January 22, 2019 letter at 4, noting that FirstLight is required to collect additional information for study 3.3.1, and that no additional study modification requests will be considered for study 3.3.1. See also January 22, 2019 letter, Appendix B at 4-5.

² FirstLight's April 19, 2019 study report included a persistent habitat analysis for yellow lampmussel in reach 4, but did not include the information required by the January 22, 2019 letter, including: (1) an evaluation of the 4-variable (depth, substrate, benthic velocity, and sheer stress) weighted usable area (WUA) versus flow relationship; (2) a dual flow analysis using the 4-variable WUA; and (3) sheer stress mapping for adult and juvenile yellow lampmussel at the range of flows modeled in reach 4 for other species (1,200 to 37,500 cfs).

If you have any questions, please call Steve Kartalia at (202) 502-6131.

Sincerely,

Vince Yearick
Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing