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Justin Trudell
Vice President, Operations

September 1, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: FirstLight MA Hydro LLC, Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1889) and Northfield Mountain LLC, Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project (FERC Project No. 2485); Updated Schedule for Amended License Applications

Dear Secretary Bose:

FirstLight Power Inc., through its subsidiaries Northfield Mountain LLC and FirstLight MA Hydro LLC (collectively, “FirstLight”), is in the process of relicensing the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project and Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (“Projects”) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”). By letter dated February 10, 2020, FirstLight advised the Commission that it intended to file Amended Final License Applications (“Amended FLAs”) for the Projects by August 31, 2020, and that the time was needed in part in order for FirstLight, as the Commission’s nonfederal delegated representative, to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) and National Marine Fisheries Service (“NMFS”) under section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act (“ESA”). Accordingly, in the ensuing months, FirstLight prepared preliminary draft biological assessments for review and comment by USFWS and NMFS, and held several conference calls with those agencies to discuss issues potentially affecting listed species under their respective jurisdictions.

On August 27, 2020, FirstLight received, from USFWS, a letter providing comments on FirstLight’s 2020 preliminary draft biological assessment for listed Puritan tiger beetles and Northern long-eared bats. The letter requests that FirstLight conduct additional modelling and analyses and revisit its proposed operations regime to protect Puritan tiger beetles based, in part, on new information provided by USFWS in the letter. This additional work needs to be done before FirstLight can file its Amended FLAs. Also, based on the letter and new information provided by USFWS, FirstLight has determined the need to conduct additional field work on Puritan tiger beetles this fall in order to appropriately address the USFWS comments. FirstLight anticipates that it will be able to accomplish this additional work and complete informal consultation with USFWS within the next two to three months, and that it will be in a position to file its Amended FLAs by the end of the year, barring unforeseen developments.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to call me at 781-653-4247.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Trudell".

Justin Trudell
Vice President, Operations