

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426  
October 7, 2020

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

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

VIA FERC Service

Donald Traester  
Regulatory Compliance Manager  
FirstLight MA Hydro LLC  
99 Millers Falls Road  
Northfield, MA 01360

**Subject: Additional Information Requirement**

Dear Mr. Traester:

On April 29, 2016, FirstLight MA Hydro, LLC (FirstLight) filed an application for a new license for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1889 (project).<sup>1</sup> In the license application, FirstLight stated that it could not develop a complete licensing proposal for the project since many of the required environmental studies were not complete as of April 29, 2016. FirstLight indicated that it would amend the license application after completing additional field work, consultation, and analyses on the required studies.

FirstLight's April 29, 2016 license application did not contain the following information needed to prepare an environmental analysis and assess the licensing proposal:

1. Exhibit D of the application did not include the estimated cost of proposed measures, the average annual cost of the project, or the average annual increase

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<sup>1</sup> On July 11, 2019, Commission staff approved the transfer of the license for the project from FirstLight Hydro Generating Company to FirstLight MA Hydro LLC. *See FirstLight Hydro Generating Company and FirstLight MA Hydro LLC*, 168 FERC ¶ 62,014 (2019).

or decrease in project generation due to any proposed changes in project operation (18 C.F.R. § 4.51(e));

2. Exhibit E of the application did not include the following information for each environmental resource that could be affected by the project: (a) a detailed description of the affected environment that incorporates information gathered from the required environmental studies; (b) an environmental analysis that uses the study results to evaluate the beneficial and adverse environmental effects of the proposed project; (c) a description of any anticipated environmental impacts of continued operation of the project, and the incremental impact of any proposed new development of project works or changes in project operation; (d) a list of proposed environmental measures to address the project's environmental effects; (e) any unavoidable adverse impacts that would occur despite the proposed environmental measures; and (f) an economic analysis that includes the cost of operating and maintaining the project (18 C.F.R. § 5.18(b)).

On May 13, 2016, the Commission issued a public notice of FirstLight's license application. In the notice, Commission staff stated that it would issue a schedule for the application review process after FirstLight filed the remaining study reports and amended the license application.

FirstLight has now completed the required studies and filed the study reports with the Commission. However, FirstLight has not filed amendments to the license application, including the information outlined above for Exhibits D and E of the application. On September 1, 2020, FirstLight filed a letter stating that it anticipates filing the amendments to the April 29, 2016 license application "by the end of the year, barring unforeseen developments."

In order for us to assess FirstLight's proposal for licensing the project, including preparing our environmental analysis and avoiding unnecessary additional delays, please file the information and documents required by sections 4.51 and 5.18 of the Commission's regulations within 60 days of the date of this letter, pursuant to section 5.21 of the Commission's regulations.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file the requested information using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/eFiling.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlinesupport@ferc.gov); call toll-free at (866) 208-3676; or, for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins

Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-1889-085.

After FirstLight files the additional information, Commission staff will issue a schedule with target dates for post-filing milestones, including milestones for Commission staff's notice of acceptance of the application, notice of ready for environmental analysis, and draft and final environmental impact statements. Please be aware that further requests for additional information may be sent to FirstLight at any time before the Commission takes final action on the license application.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Kartalia at (202) 502-6131 or [stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov](mailto:stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov).

Sincerely,

Nicholas Tackett, Chief  
New England Branch  
Division of Hydropower Licensing