

NGA,<sup>3</sup> any person<sup>4</sup> or the Commission's staff may file a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed or if a protest is filed and then withdrawn within 30 days after the allowed time for filing a protest, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request for authorization will be considered by the Commission.

Protests must comply with the requirements specified in section 157.205(e) of the Commission's regulations,<sup>5</sup> and must be submitted by the protest deadline, which is February 16, 2021. A protest may also serve as a motion to intervene so long as the protestor states it also seeks to be an intervenor.

#### *Interventions*

Any person has the option to file a motion to intervene in this proceeding. Only intervenors have the right to request rehearing of Commission orders issued in this proceeding and to subsequently challenge the Commission's orders in the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal.

To intervene, you must submit a motion to intervene to the Commission in accordance with Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure<sup>6</sup> and the regulations under the NGA<sup>7</sup> by the intervention deadline for the project, which is February 16, 2021. As described further in Rule 214, your motion to intervene must state, to the extent known, your position regarding the proceeding, as well as your interest in the proceeding. For an individual, this could include your status as a landowner, ratepayer, resident of an impacted community, or recreationist. You do not need to have property directly impacted by the project in order to intervene. For more information about motions to intervene, refer to the FERC website at <https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to-intervene.asp>.

All timely, unopposed motions to intervene are automatically granted by operation of Rule 214(c)(1). Motions to intervene that are filed after the intervention deadline are untimely and may be denied. Any late-filed motion to intervene must show good cause for

being late and must explain why the time limitation should be waived and provide justification by reference to factors set forth in Rule 214(d) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. A person obtaining party status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies (paper or electronic) of all documents filed by the applicant and by all other parties.

#### *Comments*

Any person wishing to comment on the project may do so. The Commission considers all comments received about the project in determining the appropriate action to be taken. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments on or before February 16, 2021. The filing of a comment alone will not serve to make the filer a party to the proceeding. To become a party, you must intervene in the proceeding.

#### *How To File Protests, Interventions, and Comments*

There are two ways to submit protests, motions to intervene, and comments. In both instances, please reference the Project docket number CP21-14-000 in your submission.

(1) You may file your protest, motion to intervene, and comments by using the Commission's eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to Documents and Filings. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on eRegister. You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; first select General and then select Protest, Intervention, or Comment on a Filing; or<sup>8</sup>

(2) You can file a paper copy of your submission by mailing it to the address below.<sup>9</sup> Your submission must reference the Project docket number CP21-14-000. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission encourages electronic filing of submissions (option 1 above) and has eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov).

<sup>8</sup> Additionally, you may file your comments electronically by using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. Using eComment is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project.

<sup>9</sup> Hand-delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Protests and motions to intervene must be served on the applicant either by mail or email (with a link to the document) at: [GRichman@NJResources.com](mailto:GRichman@NJResources.com), 1415 Wyckoff Road, Wall, NJ 07719. Any subsequent submissions by an intervenor must be served on the applicant and all other parties to the proceeding. Contact information for parties can be downloaded from the service list at the eService link on FERC Online.

#### **Tracking the Proceeding**

Throughout the proceeding, additional information about the project will be available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link as described above. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. For more information and to register, go to [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp).

Dated: December 16, 2020.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-28245 Filed 12-21-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 1889-085]

#### **FirstLight MA Hydro LLC; Notice Establishing Procedural Schedule for Licensing and Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments**

Take notice that the following amended hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.

b. *Project No.:* 1889-085.

c. *Date Material Amendments Filed:* December 4, 2020.

d. *Applicant:* FirstLight MA Hydro LLC (FirstLight).

e. *Name of Project:* Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project (project).

<sup>3</sup> 18 CFR 157.205.

<sup>4</sup> Persons include individuals, organizations, businesses, municipalities, and other entities. 18 CFR 385.102(d).

<sup>5</sup> 18 CFR 157.205(e).

<sup>6</sup> 18 CFR 385.214.

<sup>7</sup> 18 CFR 157.10.

f. *Location*: The existing project is located on the Connecticut River in Windham County, Vermont, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, and Franklin County, Massachusetts. There are approximately 20 acres of federal lands within the current project boundary associated with the U.S. Geological Survey's Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory.

g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791 (a)–825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact*: Mr. Justin Trudell, Vice President, Operations, FirstLight MA Hydro LLC, 111 South Bedford Street, Suite 103, Burlington, MA 01803; (781) 653–4247 or [justin.trudell@firstlightpower.com](mailto:justin.trudell@firstlightpower.com).

i. *FERC Contact*: Steve Kartalia, (202) 502–6131 or [stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov](mailto:stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov).

j. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

k. FirstLight Hydro Generating Company filed an application for a new license for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1889 (project) on April 29, 2016. In the license application, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company 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 Hydro Generating Company indicated that it would amend the license application after completing additional field work, consultation, and analyses on the required studies. 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. FirstLight MA Hydro LLC filed material amendments to the final license application on December 4, 2020.

l. *Project Description*: The existing Turners Falls Project consists of: (1) A 630-foot-long, 35-foot-high dam (Montague dam) that includes: (i) Four 120-foot-wide, 13.25-foot-high bascule gates; and (ii) a 170-foot-long fixed section with a crest elevation of 185.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29); (2) a 493-foot-long, 55-foot-high dam (Gill dam) that includes: (i) Three 40-foot-wide, 39-foot-high tainter gates; and (ii) 97.3- and 207.5-foot-long fixed sections with crest elevations of 185.5 feet NGVD 29; (3) a 2,110-acre impoundment with a useable storage volume of 16,150 acre-feet

between elevations 176.0 feet and 185.0 feet NGVD 29; (4) a 214-foot-long, 33-foot-high gatehouse that includes six 9-foot-wide, 10.66-foot-high gates and nine 9.5-foot-wide, 12.6-foot-high gates; (5) a 2.1-mile-long, 120- to 920-foot-wide, 17- to 30-foot-deep power canal; (6) a 700-foot-long, 100-foot-wide, 16- to 23-foot-deep branch canal; (7) the Station No.1 generating facility that includes: (i) Eight 15-foot-wide bays with trashracks with 2.625-inch clear-bar spacing; (ii) four 100-foot-long, 13.1- to 14-foot-diameter penstocks; (iii) a 134-foot-long, 64-foot-wide powerhouse that contains five turbine-generator units with a total installed capacity of 5.693 megawatts (MW); (iv) four 21-foot-long, 6.5-foot-diameter draft tubes; (v) five 40- to 70-foot-long, 2.4-kilovolt (kV) generator leads that connect the turbine-generator units to a generator bus; (vi) a 110-foot-long, 2.4-kV generator lead that connects the generator bus to a substation; and (vii) a 20-foot-long, 2.4-kV generator lead that connects the substation to three transformers; (8) the Cabot Station generating facility that includes: (i) An intake structure with 217-foot-wide, 31-foot-high trashracks with 0.94-inch and 3.56-inch clear-bar spacing; (ii) six 70-foot-long penstocks; (iii) a 235-foot-long, 79.5-foot-wide powerhouse that contains six turbine-generator units with a total installed capacity of 62.016 MW; (iv) six 41-foot-long, 12.5- to 14.5-foot-diameter draft tubes; (v) six 80- to 250-foot-long, 13.8-kV generator leads that connect the turbine-generator units to a generator bus; (vi) a 60-foot-long, 13.8-kV generator lead that connects the generator bus to the powerhouse roof; and (vii) a 200-foot-long, 13.8-kV generator lead that connects to a transformer; (9) eight 13.6-foot-wide, 16.7-foot-high power canal spillway gates that are adjacent to Cabot Station; (10) a 16.2-foot-wide, 13.1-foot-high log sluice gate in the Cabot Station forebay with an 8-foot-wide weir for downstream fish passage; (11) a 200-foot-long, 7-foot-diameter drainage tunnel (Keith Drainage Tunnel) and headgate; (12) a 955-foot-long, 5-foot-diameter lower drainage tunnel; (13) an 850-foot-long, 16-foot-wide, 10-foot-high fishway (Cabot fishway); (14) a 500-foot-long, 10-foot-wide, 10-foot-high fishway (Spillway fishway); (15) a 225-foot-long, 16-foot-wide, 17.5-foot-high fishway

(Gatehouse fishway); and (16) appurtenant facilities.

The Turners Falls Project operates in peaking and run-of-river modes, depending on inflows. Average annual generation from 2011–2019 was approximately 332,351 MW-hours.

FirstLight proposes three changes to the current project boundary: (1) Remove 0.2 acre of land associated with residential property; (2) add 0.8 acre of land for recreation purposes; and (3) remove 20.1 acres of land associated with the U.S. Geological Survey's Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory.

FirstLight proposes to construct new fish passage facilities and recreational access trails. FirstLight also proposes changes to project operation that would generally reduce impoundment fluctuations and increase flow releases to the portion of the Connecticut River that is bypassed by the project. The specific proposed changes are described in the amended application.

m. In addition to publishing the full text of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this notice, as well as other documents in the proceeding (e.g., license application) via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document (P–1889). At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19) issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact FERC at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll-free, (866) 208–3676 or (202) 502–8659 (TTY).

n. You may also register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. *Procedural Schedule*: The application will be processed according to the following preliminary Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target date
Commission issues letters identifying application deficiencies and requesting additional information .....	January 2021.
Notice of Acceptance/Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis .....	May 2021.
Filing of recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and fishway prescriptions .....	July 2021.
Reply Comments due .....	August 2021.

p. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Dated: December 16, 2020.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2020–28235 Filed 12–21–20; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2485–071]

#### Northfield Mountain LLC; Notice Establishing Procedural Schedule for Licensing and Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

(December 16, 2020)

Take notice that the following amended hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.

b. *Project No.:* 2485–071.

c. *Date Material Amendments Filed:* December 4, 2020.

d. *Applicant:* Northfield Mountain LLC (Northfield).

e. *Name of Project:* Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project.

f. *Location:* The existing project is located on the Connecticut River in Windham County, Vermont, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, and Franklin County, Massachusetts. There are no federal lands within the project boundary.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)–825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Justin Trudell, Vice President, Operations, Northfield Mountain LLC, 111 South Bedford Street, Suite 103, Burlington, MA 01803; (781) 653–4247 or [justin.trudell@firstlightpower.com](mailto:justin.trudell@firstlightpower.com).

i. *FERC Contact:* Steve Kartalia, (202) 502–6131 or [stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov](mailto:stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov).

j. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

k. FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight) filed an application for a new license for the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. 2485 (project) on April 29, 2016. 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. On July 11, 2019, Commission staff approved the transfer of the license for the project from FirstLight to Northfield Mountain LLC. Northfield Mountain LLC filed material amendments to the final license application on December 4, 2020.

l. *Project Description:* The existing Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project consists of: (1) A 1-mile-long, 30-foot-wide, 30- to 140-foot-high main dam that includes: (i) An intake structure with two 7-foot-wide, 9-foot-high sluice gates and an 8-foot-diameter outlet pipe; and (ii) a 589-foot-long, 2-foot-diameter low-level outlet pipe; (2) a 425-foot-long, 25-foot-high dike (North dike); (3) a 2,800-foot-long, 45-foot-high dike (Northwest dike); (4) a 1,700-foot-long, 40-foot-long dike (West dike); (5) a 327-foot-long, 10- to 20-foot-high gravity dam; (6) an ungated 550-foot-long, 6-foot-high spillway structure with a 20-foot-long notch at an elevation of 1,005.0 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29); (7) a 286-acre impoundment (upper reservoir) with a useable storage volume of 12,318 acre-feet between elevations 938.0 feet and 1,000.5 feet NGVD 29; (8) a 2,110-acre impoundment (lower reservoir or Turners Falls impoundment); (9) a 1,890-foot-long, 130-foot-wide intake channel with a 63-foot-long, 9-foot-high submerged check dam and two 6-foot-wide, 2.75-foot-high sluice gates and two 18-foot-wide stoplogs; (10) a 200-foot-long, 55-foot-wide, 80-foot-high pressure shaft; (11) an 853-foot-long, 31-foot-diameter penstock; (12) two 22-foot-diameter, 100- to 150-foot-long penstocks; (13) four 340-foot-long, 9.5- to 14-foot-diameter penstocks; (14) a 328-foot-long, 70-foot-wide powerhouse that contains four reversible pump turbine-generator units with a total installed capacity of 1,166.8 megawatts (MW); (15) four 25-foot-long, 11-foot-diameter draft tubes that transition to a 20-foot-long, 17-foot-diameter draft tube; (16) a 5,136-foot-long, 33-foot-wide, 31-foot-high horseshoe-shaped tailrace tunnel; (17) 35-foot-long, 40-foot-high trapezoid-shaped stoplogs with 74.3- to 99.5-foot-wide, 48-foot-high trashracks with 6-inch clear-bar spacing; (18) four 26-foot-long, 13.8-kilovolt (kV) generator leads that connect the turbine-generator units to four transformers; (19) two 3,000-foot-long, 345-kV transmission lines; and (20) (21) appurtenant facilities.

The existing Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project generally operates in pumping mode when electricity demand is low and

generating mode when electricity demand is high. In the summer and winter, the project generally operates in a peaking mode in the morning and late afternoon. In the spring and fall, the project may operate in a peaking mode one or two times a day depending on electricity demand. The existing license requires maintaining the upper reservoir between elevations 938.0 feet and 1,000.5 feet NGVD 29 (*i.e.*, a maximum reservoir drawdown of 62.5 feet). Average annual generation at the Northfield Mountain Project from 2011–2019 was 889,845 MW-hours, and average annual energy consumption for pumping from 2011 to 2019 was 1,189,640 MW-hours.

Northfield proposes three changes to the current project boundary: (1) Remove 0.2 acre of land associated with residential property; (2) remove 8.1 acre of land referred to as “Fuller Farm” that includes residential and agricultural structures; and (3) add 135.5 acres of land that includes recreation trails.

Northfield proposes to increase the maximum water surface elevation of the upper reservoir to 1,004.5 feet NGVD 29 and decrease the minimum water surface elevation of the upper reservoir to 920.0 feet NGVD 29 (*i.e.*, a maximum reservoir drawdown of 84.5 feet) year-round. Northfield proposes to install a barrier net in the lower impoundment to prevent fish entrainment. Northfield also proposes to periodically dredge the upper reservoir and to construct new recreation access trails. The specific proposed changes are described in the amended application.

m. In addition to publishing the full text of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this notice, as well as other documents in the proceeding (*e.g.*, license application) via the internet through the Commission’s Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the eLibrary link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document (P–2485). At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission’s Public Reference Room due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19) issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact FERC at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll-free, (866) 208–3676 or (202) 502–8659 (TTY).

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