

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
FirstLight Power DRAFT 401 Water Quality Certification**

This Public Hearing Notice is available in alternative languages (Español) on MassDEP's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities>

Notice is hereby given that FirstLight Power has filed an application for a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC application) with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). That application is required as part of FirstLight's pending application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to relicense FirstLight's Connecticut River hydroelectric dam and associated facilities in Turners Falls and Montague and the pumped storage facility in Northfield, all under the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 797(e).

The WQC application is available on FirstLight's and MassDEP's websites at: https://www.northfield-relicensing.com/401-wqc-documents?per_page=1000 and <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/401-wqc-for-the-firstlight-hydroelectric-re-licensing-project>

For additional information, please email FirstLight at relicensing@firstlight.energy or MassDEP at dep.hydro@mass.gov

Public Comment and Hearing

MassDEP will conduct a hybrid public hearing (in-person and remote) on MassDEP's DRAFT WQC on **February 19, 2025, at 6:00 pm**, at the Cohn Family Dining Commons, Greenfield Community College, One College Drive, Greenfield, MA.

For remote participation registration is *required* at this link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h1z45n9HRnq51xAECMJ1TQ

After registering for the remote session, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The purpose of the hearing is for members of the public to comment orally on the DRAFT WQC.

The DRAFT WQC will be published on January 24, 2025, on MassDEP's project website at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/401-wqc-for-the-firstlight-hydroelectric-re-licensing-project>

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on February 24, 2025. The Department encourages electronic submission by email to dep.hydro@mass.gov which *must* include *FirstLight 401 WQC* in the subject line. In lieu of electronic submittal, paper comments may be mailed to Elizabeth Stefanik, Attn: *FirstLight 401WQC*, MassDEP-BWR, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

For special accommodations for these hearings, please call the MassDEP Diversity Office at 617-292-5751. TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370. This information is available in alternate format upon request. MassDEP provides language access interpreter/translation services to limited

English proficient individuals free of charge. If you need an interpreter to participate in this meeting, translation services can be found at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-language-translation-assistance>.

By Order of the Department of Environmental Protection
Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner