



March 1, 2018

## **Senate Bill 9: AAC Connecticut's Energy Future**

### **Who We Are**

FirstLight Power Resources (FirstLight) is a hydropower, energy storage, and solar generation company with assets based in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Our hydro facilities in New England deliver over 690,000 MWh of emissions free generation, reducing the region's carbon footprint by more than 780,000 tons annually. In addition to our traditional hydro facilities, we also own and operate Northfield Mountain pumped hydro storage station and Rocky River pumped hydro storage station, which are respectively the largest and third largest energy storage facilities in New England. These storage assets; which can provide approximately 1,000 MW of storage charging and 1200MW of storage release capacity for up to 8 hours at a time daily; provide New England with the ability to store more than 11,229 MWh of emission-free energy during off-peak hours when demand is low and deliver that clean energy during the on-peak periods when demand is high.

### **Testimony**

The State of Connecticut, like all states facing significant carbon emissions reductions goals, has a long road ahead of it to achieve those goals in the coming years. The significant introduction of renewable resources, particularly solar and wind technologies leaves the region with a difficult question of how to maintain electric reliability with large quantities of resources that operate intermittently. Energy storage, which is comprised of many different technologies, both old and new, can provide a solution to that problem as well as leverage even greater energy savings and emission reduction from those renewable resources by bring the renewable energy to peak demand periods.

Approximately 1,800 MW of energy storage capacity already exists in New England and is generally underutilized on a day-to-day basis due to the current construct of the energy markets. Maximizing the throughput of existing energy storage, either on a standalone basis or through pairing with emissions-free resources, will provide the State of Connecticut with significant economic and environmental value and should be considered as part of the solution to Connecticut's future energy needs.

Public Act 17-144 was written to specifically include energy storage systems in future clean energy procurements and did not specify preference for exclusion of any storage technology type or vintage.

Unfortunately in its most recently issued request for proposals to initiate procurement of clean energy resources, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection added co-location and delivery requirements that effectively exclude certain technologies and vintages otherwise eligible to offer a bid into the request for proposals. Though it may be well intentioned, this unnecessarily eliminates multiple options for existing storage to deliver greater immediate value to Connecticut consumers. Under a recent RFP issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, FirstLight offered a paired arrangement with Deepwater Wind and National Grid to store large quantities of off-peak, offshore wind energy and deliver it back into the grid to meet demand in peak hours. A similar bid could be structured for the recent Connecticut RFP but for the co-location requirement added by DEEP during the development of the RFP.

We urge the committee to include both new and existing energy storage resources to participate on both a standalone basis or as part of a paired arrangement with clean energy resources as part of all future clean energy procurements. We recommend that the committee amend Sections 16a-3f and 16a-3g to allow for new and existing energy storage bids. We also recommend that the committee amend 16a-3h to clarify the ability for existing storage resources to submit bids without collocation requirements or other such restrictions that would hinder innovative solutions. These changes will only serve to offer the state more opportunities to deliver greater carbon reductions and energy savings to its consumers.

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