



MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wellesley Municipal Light Plant Joins in Historic Purchase of Clean, Green Massachusetts-made Hydropower**

**November 13, 2020 (Wellesley, MA)** - The Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) has joined 20 public power utilities from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont in the largest municipal electric department purchase of “green power” in New England history, a contract for hydropower generated in Western Massachusetts that will lower WMLP’s customers’ bills and greenhouse-gas emissions.

The purchase agreement, structured and executed by Energy New England with hydro generator FirstLight Power, will cover the year-round electric power demands of 23,000 typical homes across the region. By relying on clean hydropower from the Turners Falls and Cabot generating facilities on the Connecticut River in Montague instead of electricity produced by natural gas or oil, the contract will deliver carbon-dioxide emissions reductions equal to taking 30,000 cars off the road by 2023.

In Wellesley, the WMLP’s participation in the contract will mean that close to 5 percent of its energy portfolio will be supplied by this green resource. Over the last number of years, the WMLP has been intently building its energy portfolio with green and non-emitting resources. Adding this new resource will allow the WMLP to reach a 57 percent non-GHG emitting portfolio by 2023.

WMLP Director Donald Newell said, “The WMLP is very pleased with what FirstLight and Energy New England were able to accomplish, putting together this exceptional opportunity. It is not often that we get these opportunities to increase our procurement of clean, local, renewable energy at highly competitive rates for our customers. We are thrilled to be part of this history-making purchase by public power entities, and look forward to other similar opportunities in the future.”

“Never before have so many municipal light plants, municipal electric departments, and other public power utilities come together to buy emissions-free renewable power on this scale,” said Energy New England president and CEO John G. Tzimirangas. “We are honored to have had the chance to connect our ‘munis’ with one of Massachusetts’ premier energy suppliers, FirstLight Power, for this landmark transaction that will deliver environmental and economic benefits for years to come.”

FirstLight CEO Alicia Barton said, “This landmark transaction demonstrates that New England municipal utilities are leading the charge nationally when it comes to delivering clean, locally-produced and low-cost power to their customers. FirstLight’s Turners Falls and Cabot hydroelectric generating stations have been generating renewable power for more than a century and help support more than 110 great jobs in Western Massachusetts and across the state. With this transaction we amplify those local benefits to help communities across Massachusetts and New England reach their carbon reduction goals.”

Because the WMLP and other utilities throughout New England are connected in a six-state power grid, electricity produced by FirstLight in Western Massachusetts won’t be physically delivered directly to Wellesley, MA. Instead, FirstLight will provide to the grid the contracted amount of electricity the WMLP draws out to serve customers, ensuring that Wellesley directly reduces emissions associated with its share of the overall grid’s power generation.

#### **ABOUT WELLESLEY MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT**

The Wellesley Municipal Light Plant ("WMLP") implements best business practices to protect the safety of our employees and the public, deliver environmentally sustainable and highly reliable electricity and telecommunication services at competitive rates and provide financial and in-kind support to the Town. The WMLP conducts its affairs in a socially responsible and ethical manner, with respect for our many stakeholders.

#### **ABOUT FIRSTLIGHT POWER**

FirstLight’s mission is to provide safe and affordable energy solutions leading to a cleaner, more reliable energy future. We are dedicated to being conscientious stewards promoting a greener environment in our communities. Based in Burlington, Mass., with operating offices in Northfield, Mass., and New Milford, Conn., FirstLight operates a diversified electric-generation portfolio including hydroelectric, pumped-storage hydro, battery storage, and solar. FirstLight also provides, under our federal operating licenses, stewardship of and recreational access to 14,000 acres of land and waters along the Connecticut, Housatonic, Shetucket, Still, and Quinebaug Rivers.

#### **ABOUT ENERGY NEW ENGLAND (ENE)**

ENE is the largest wholesale risk management and energy trading organization serving the needs of municipal utilities in the northeast. ENE works with numerous businesses, residents and utilities to help promote the principles of conservation, efficiency, and environmental stewardship, and advances the many benefits available through integrated sustainability planning. [www.ene.org](http://www.ene.org)

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