



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 17, 2021

Tim Sullivan
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New York Field Office
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045
Via email tim_r_sullivan@fws.gov

**SUBJECT: Champlain Hudson Power Express Project
Re-initiation of Section 7 Consultation - Request for Concurrence
Docket No. DOE/EIS-0447-SA-01; Docket No. PP-481-1**

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

In the letter dated December 4, 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) described CHPE LLC's application to DOE to amend their existing Presidential Permit ([PP-481](#)) for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project (the Project) and requested re-initiation of informal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). In addition to the minor route modifications and proposed relocation of the site of the converter station described in that letter, on January 15, 2021, CHPE LLC filed a supplement to its Amendment Application requesting that the capacity of the Project be increased from 1000 megawatts (MW), as currently permitted, to 1250 MW ([86 FR 11960; March 1, 2021](#)). Thank you for meeting with DOE several times regarding the above, most recently on March 4, 2021.

The December 4, 2020 consultation re-initiation letter described the informal ESA Section 7 consultation process in detail, which was previously concluded in 2014. The USFWS concurred with DOE's determination in our Biological Assessment that the Project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), the endangered Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*), or the threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) or critical habitat in a letter dated September 10, 2014. It is DOE's determination that the proposed changes do not alter this effects determination, or your analysis thereof. DOE requests your updated concurrence with this determination.

Thank you for your engagement in this consultation. DOE looks forward to your response and would be pleased to speak with you again at any time. I can be reached by email at Melissa.Pauley@hq.doe.gov or phone at 202-586-2942.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pauley

Melissa Pauley
Policy Analyst
Energy Resilience Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity
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cc: Stephan A. Ryba, Chief-Regulatory Branch, NY District, USACE
Josh Bagnato, Vice President, Project Development, Transmission Developers, Inc.