



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 22, 2014

Dr. Dorothy Robyn
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment)
3400 Defense Pentagon, Room 3B856A
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Subject: Presidential Permit, Champlain Hudson Power Express Inc., OE Docket No. PP-362

Dear Dr. Robyn:

Pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, the Department of Energy (DOE) is authorized to issue a Presidential permit for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of electric transmission facilities at the international border of the United States upon finding the issuance of the permit to be in the public interest and after receiving favorable recommendations from the Departments of State and Defense.

In determining whether issuance of a Presidential permit is in the public interest, DOE considers the environmental impacts of the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the project's potential impact on electric reliability, and any other factors it may also consider relevant to the public interest.

We have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) available on the project website at <http://chpexpresseis.org/> in which the DOE proposed Federal action is the granting of a Presidential permit to Champlain Hudson Power Express Inc. (CHPE), for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of a 1,000-megawatt (MW) high voltage direct current (HVDC) electric transmission line that would cross the U.S.-Canada border in the vicinity of the communities of Champlain and Rouses Point, New York.

The proposed CHPE Transmission Line Project would be an approximately 336-mile merchant electric power transmission system that includes a buried transmission line that would extend to Astoria, Queens, New York. The system would include the transmission line, a direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) converter station, transmission line cooling stations at certain locations along the route, and high-voltage alternating current interconnections from this converter station to New York Power Authority's (NYPA) Astoria Annex and Consolidated Edison's (ConEd) Rainey substations in Queens.

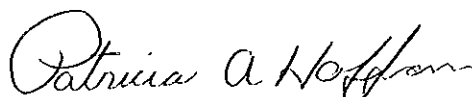
The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts in the United States of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative. Under the No Action alternative, the Presidential permit would not be granted, and the proposed transmission line would not cross the U.S.-Canada border.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, New York Field Office (USFWS Region 5), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Region 2), the U.S. Coast Guard, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the New York State Department of Public Service (NYSDPS) are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

Your recommendations on the proposed Presidential permit application should be addressed to Brian Mills at the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE-20, Washington, DC 20585. However, because of delays from security screening of conventional mail, it would be greatly appreciated if the response were transmitted either by overnight mail, by fax to 202-586-8008, or by e-mail to Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Brian Mills by e-mail or by telephone at 202-586-8267.

A similar letter also is being sent to the Department of State for their consideration. If they make an unfavorable recommendation, we will advise you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Hoffman".

Patricia A. Hoffman
Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability