

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
CHAMPLAIN HUDSON POWER EXPRESS  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: JULY 8, 2010

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

HELD: BRIDGEPORT CITY HALL

45 LYON TERRACE

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

## 1 APPEARANCES:

2 Jerry Pell, Ph.D., CCM

3 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

4 Office of Electricity Delivery

5 and Energy Reliability

6 1000 Independence Avenue, SW

7 Washington, DC 20585

8

9 Donald Jessome, President

10 TRANSMISSION DEVELOPERS INC.

11 200 Bay Street, Suite 3230

12 Toronto, Ontario

13 Canada M5J2J4

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1 DR. PELL: Good evening.

2 Those of you that are here, I want you to  
3 know that we appreciate your taking the trouble to come  
4 out this evening, on a warm evening like this; I'm  
5 afraid it's not much cooler in here. I want to thank  
6 you for joining us this evening.

7 Just to get the proceedings going, I'm  
8 Jerry Pell with the Department of Energy in Washington.  
9 I'm an environmental scientist. I've been with DOE for  
10 34 years. I'm originally from Montreal, and I know the  
11 northeastern Adirondack north corridor extremely well,  
12 having driven it a great many times.

13 We're here, of course, to discuss the  
14 Champlain Hudson project. And the reason the  
15 Department of Energy is involved is because the project  
16 proposes to cross the border from Canada into the  
17 United States, and that results in the requirement for  
18 a Department of Energy {residential permit for the  
19 border crossing into the United States.

20 The theory is that if we do not issue the  
21 permit and do not allow the connection to energy  
22 sources in Canada, that the line would not be built so

1 as a result the issuance of a permit is considered a  
2 major Federal action under the National Environmental  
3 Policy Act, or NEPA, as it's well known. So we are  
4 doing an Environmental Impact Statement on the  
5 potential environmental impacts from the entire project.

6 This is not the only, but a major portion  
7 of, the process that goes into the decision making as to  
8 whether to issue a permit. The other things that we  
9 look at outside of the environmental area are things  
10 like the reliability of the electric power grid.

11 We also needed concurrences from the State  
12 Department and the Department of Defense; they get a  
13 chance to review the project as well. So it's a fairly  
14 complex process of which the environment analysis is  
15 important but not the only element.

16 It's a pleasure to introduce Don Jessome  
17 on my right. Don is Mr. Champlain Hudson, he's the  
18 head of the Transmission Developers Inc., company,  
19 comes here today from Toronto, and Don will tell you a  
20 little bit about the project and we will then get into the  
21 DOE aspect.

22 MR. JESSOME: Thank you, Dr. Pell.

1                   Again, I'd just like to thank everyone for  
2 coming out this evening. It's a pleasure to be here  
3 tonight. I want to talk a little bit about  
4 Transmission Developers Inc., and the Champlain Hudson  
5 Power Express project.

6                   First off, the Champlain Hudson Power  
7 Express project made an announcement on July 6,  
8 Tuesday, that we will no longer be developing the  
9 Connecticut portion of the project, which is one of the  
10 1,000-megawatt projects, comes down to New York, comes  
11 down into Connecticut.

12                   On Tuesday we announced that we are no  
13 longer developing the Connecticut portion of the  
14 project, so the description tonight will be just for the  
15 New York component of the project.

16                   So Transmission Developers Inc. is a  
17 company based out of Toronto with a mandate to develop  
18 each piece of the transmission projects to highly tested  
19 markets and using best available HVDC technology. And  
20 the reason we chose the HVDC technology is because of  
21 the fact we can bury the cables, which is incredibly  
22 important as part of our development strategy.

1                   So the Champlain Hudson Power Express  
2 project is the 1,000-megawatt project that starts at  
3 the Canada/U.S. border, our component of it. It's  
4 buried in the Richelieu River into Lake Champlain, so  
5 it's two cables, five inches in diameter, that come  
6 down the Richelieu River into Lake Champlain into the  
7 Hudson River. They come out at Glens Falls, just north  
8 of the capital district in New York. They go along  
9 railway tracks, all buried, and then back into the  
10 Hudson River, where they terminate at a converter  
11 station in Yonkers, and then into New York City.

12                   Transmission Developers Inc. is  
13 pleased to be here tonight to talk about the project.  
14 And, with that, I will pass it back to Dr. Pell, and  
15 I'll be at the back the room to answer questions that  
16 people may have.

17                   DR. PELL: Thank you very much, Don.

18                   The environmental impact assessment process  
19 is in a very early phase where we try to determine what's  
20 the appropriate scope, which is the technical term we  
21 use to describe the range of impacts we should be  
22 looking at.

1                   We're pretty experienced with transmission  
2 lines, so we know roughly what we should be looking at,  
3 but you never know when we might miss something.

4                   I remember a project in Alaska, which I  
5 was once familiar with, and we did a meeting like this,  
6 and one of the impacts that we had not anticipated and  
7 would never have known about if it weren't for the  
8 audience, that this was going to be a coal powered  
9 project, going to be discharging warm water into a  
10 river.

11                  And the neighbors were concerned that the  
12 river, when it freezes in the winter, it's a major  
13 transportation corridor because they can go right  
14 across the river, and that hot water could really  
15 change that transportation route. And we in Washington  
16 would not have thought of that.

17                  So that's why the meeting is here, because  
18 people that live along the route, people that  
19 potentially could be affected, are in the best possible  
20 position to tell us what they think we should look at.

21                  Now, of course it doesn't end tonight  
22 because when we do determine the environmental effects

1 we look at the issues, draft a report, which will be  
2 widely available. And then we will have what are  
3 called public hearings, probably in the same locations,  
4 where actually we'll have a document to review, so that  
5 you'll be able to talk specifically about what's good  
6 and bad in the actual draft document, and the final is  
7 supposed to capture everything we miss in the draft.  
8 So there's plenty of public input.

9 We do have a project website, we have two  
10 actually, the company has one, but DOE has it's own,  
11 that's CHPEXpressEIS.org, which I encourage you to look  
12 at because everything we do in the impact assessment  
13 process is public.

14 We will be posting all the documents on  
15 that website, and transcripts of this and all the other  
16 meetings will be on the website. Anyone who makes a  
17 comment, their statement will be on the website.  
18 Anybody who submits any written material for our  
19 consideration, that will be on the website. So it's a  
20 totally transparent open public awareness process, and we  
21 encourage you to look at the website when you get a  
22 chance.



1                   And you can subscribe to the website, you  
2                   can e-mail your address so that as something new comes  
3                   up, you'll get a message saying, hey, guess what, we  
4                   just posted such and such.

5                   There are seven of these meetings, of  
6                   which this is the first; we'll be snaking our way up to  
7                   Plattsburgh, New York. And then there will be the  
8                   scoping report, which will describe what we heard at  
9                   these seven meetings, and that will be on the website  
10                  as well.

11                  By the way, while we're at it, I want to thank  
12                  our contractor, HDR, Incorporated, for handling all of  
13                  the logistics and the registration desks and what have  
14                  you and reservations and all the other aspects that go  
15                  into making meetings like this possible. I don't want  
16                  that to go unacknowledged.

17                  Is there anybody in the audience that's an  
18                  elected official?

19                  Anybody from a government agency that would  
20                  like to speak?

21                  How about from an organization such as an  
22                  environmental organization or a trade association,

1 trade group?

2 Nobody has indicated on the sign-in sheet that  
3 they would like to speak, but you still are  
4 certainly welcome to do so. If any of you would like  
5 to make a statement for the record, please just show  
6 your hand and come on up front and we'll be glad to  
7 listen to you.

8 Okay. Well, what we're going to do, we're  
9 going to stop the formal transcription of the meeting  
10 now, and I asked our stenographer, Lori Miller, to stay  
11 and the company to stay.

12 We're going to be here at least until a  
13 little bit later in the evening, so if you decide you  
14 want to make a statement on the record, we can open up  
15 the record again, and we will all be here if you want  
16 to talk to us personally off the record.

17 And, again, thank you very much for coming  
18 out tonight. Really appreciate it.

19 It's good to get out of Washington, DC, and  
20 to meet the public that we affect when we do our work.

21 (Off the record at 7:46 p.m.)

22

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LORI MILLER, a Licensed State Reporter,  
duly commissioned and qualified in and for the State of  
Connecticut, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages  
are a complete and accurate computer-aided  
transcription of my stenographic notes in this  
proceeding taken July 8, 2010, at Bridgeport City Hall,  
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

---

LORI MILLER

LSR No. 409