

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,  
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN  
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS,  
RANKING MEMBER



**Rita M. Lowey**  
**Congress of the United States**  
**17th District, New York**

**Comment 301**

[lowey.house.gov](http://lowey.house.gov)

**WASHINGTON**

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**ROCKLAND**

67 NORTH MAIN STREET  
SUITE 101  
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December 6, 2013

Ms. Patricia Hoffman  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20585

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

I am writing on behalf of many North Rockland County constituents, including the elected officials of the Towns of Haverstraw and Stony Point, who have contacted me regarding the proposal by Transmission Developers, Inc. (TDI) to construct the Champlain Hudson Power Express transmission line (CHPE). I understand the comment periods both for the Department of Energy (DOE) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Announcement of Public Hearings and Request for Public Comment on the Department of the Army Permit (Announcement) are scheduled to end December 16, 2013. I request that they be extended for sixty (60) days.

When first proposed, the CHPE transmission line was to run under the Hudson River for most of the project route, including the southern section near Rockland County. However, the current proposal has the line within the CSX Freight Railroad Tracks (CSX) right-of-way in the Rockland County towns of Stony Point, Haverstraw, and a small section of Clarkstown. This route is strongly opposed by many local residents, business groups, and elected officials. In particular, Town of Stony Point Supervisor Geoff Finn has expressed his concern that the construction of CHPE will involve the taking of residential and commercial property through eminent domain, which will further exacerbate the town tax bases after losing the Bowline and Lovett power plants.

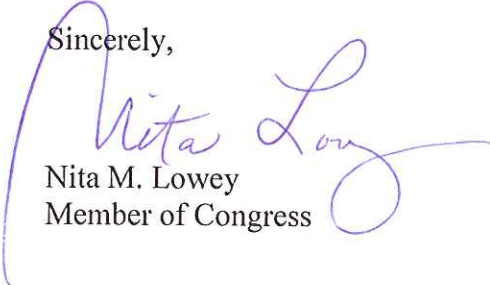
There is also significant concern regarding the manner in which the DEIS and Announcement were communicated to the community and discrepancies in the content of these documents. Several constituents from the North Rockland community complained that no notice was received regarding the Announcement, and they only learned of the Announcement and its comment period at the Hearing held at the Stony Point Center on November 18, 2013. Notice of the DEIS was delivered to residents in the mail, but many reported inconsistent and spotty

delivery. Additionally, the notice of the DEIS was only provided in English, despite the large Hispanic community in North Rockland. Furthermore, several residents of the Ba-Mar area on the Hudson River waterfront in Stony Point complained that they did not receive any notice of the DEIS.

Discrepancies in the content of the DEIS and the Announcement also remain. These include that the route proposed in the DEIS extends the CHPE transmission line by three miles to the Ravenswood Generating Station in Long Island City, while the route discussed in the Announcement still reflects the original 333-mile route ending in Astoria.

Given the high level of ongoing local opposition to this project, the questions about timely and complete dissemination of the DEIS and Announcement, and the inconsistencies in the two documents, it is important that Rockland elected officials, business leaders, and residents feel confident that the DOE and ACOE have thoroughly reviewed all pertinent information about the routing of the CHPE line before a final Environmental Impact Statement and ACOE Permits are issued. As such, I ask that you give full consideration to the concerns raised by my constituents regarding this project. I also request that you provide a sixty (60) day extension to the comment periods for both the DEIS and Announcement, so that my constituents have the opportunity to review the documents and make comments accordingly.

Sincerely,

  
Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

NML:sl

cc: Brian Mills, NEPA Document Manager, Department of Energy  
Jodi McDonald, Chief, Regulatory Branch, Army Corps of Engineers

From: Assemblywoman Rabbitt [<mailto:rabbita@assembly.state.ny.us>]  
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 12:17 PM  
To: Mills, Brian; [jun.yan@usace.army.mil](mailto:jun.yan@usace.army.mil)  
Cc: Susan Filgueras  
Subject: Re: "Draft EIS Comments" and -I am requesting a 180 day extension for Comments to the Depart of Energy and Army Corps of Engineers DEIS Public Comment Period for the Champlain Hudson Power Express

Dear Mr. Mills & Ms. McDonald:

Below please find an email I have received from my constituent Susan Filgueras who is concerned about a 330 mile High Voltage transmission line from Quebec to Queens proposed by Champaign Hudson Power Express(CHPE). I would like to request the Department of Energy and Army Corps of Engineers please take into consideration our constituent's requests to extend the Public Comment period by 180 days due to the amount of time needed to review over 5,000 pages of draft-DEIS documentation.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Annie Rabbitt  
Assemblywoman 98th District

Susan Filgueras wrote:

> Please find attached the first copies of our request for a 180 day  
> extension to the comment period for the Draft EIS for the Champlain  
> Hudson Power Express.  
>  
>  
>  
> Request to the DOE and USACE for extension of comment period, "Draft  
> EIS Comments"  
>  
> Army Corps of Engineers - "USACE" - NAN-2009-01089-EYA  
>  
>  
>  
> Mr. Mills,  
>  
>  
>  
> Please find attached a first set of letters requesting  
>  
> This letter serves to reiterates multiple requests at the Public  
> Hearing on Nov 18, 2013, in the Town of Stony Point for a reasonable  
> extension of a 180 days for the comment period. In NYS the Developers  
> for proposed power plants are required to provide intervener funds for  
> the impacted communities. In this case there are no intervener funds  
> from the developer which would allow, the residents, business owners

> and other stake holders to hire experts to review and respond  
> adequately to the "Draft EIS Comments" to both the DOE and USACE.  
>  
>  
>  
> The venue for the Hearings in both Stony Point and Queens were not the  
> most appropriate. The Hearing in Queens was not within the impacted community.  
> The Hearing in Stony Point, would have been better held in the local  
> Middle School, more seating and better parking.  
>  
>  
>  
> Public Notice in Rockland County was not adequate. For example, when  
> the Stony Point Center, was called they could not confirm the Hearing  
> on Monday Nov 18, 2013, was for the Champlain Hudson Power Express, DOE  
Hearing.  
> Apparently the Hearing Notice distribution within Rockland County was  
> inconsistent, some received a simple sheet of paper with a sticker,  
> easily lost in the general bulk mail.  
>  
>  
>  
> There was no outreach and translated information for our Hispanic  
> population.  
>  
>  
>  
> Stony Point was promised by CHPE that they would not go through the  
> Waldron Revolutionary and War of 1812 Cemetery, the maps in the DEIS  
> show differently. There are many contradictory installations issues,  
> that require due diligence.  
>  
>  
>  
> I sent a request to the New York State Public Service Commission,  
> regarding the new trajectory of the CHPE project. (see attached)  
>  
>  
>  
> We are respectfully requesting the extension based on the above reasons.  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Susan Filgueras  
>  
> 845-429-3229  
>  
> Committee,  
>  
> Just Say NO!, to the Champlain Hudson Power Express

>  
>  
>  
> 87 Mott Farm Rd  
>  
> Tomkins Cove, NY 10986



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

**DAVID CARLUCCI**  
**SENATOR, 38TH DISTRICT**

US Department of Energy

DEC 11 2013

Electricity Delivery and  
Energy Reliability

OFFICE:  
ROOM 205, LOB  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
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(518) 426-6737 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
85 SOUTH MIDDLETOWN ROAD  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10954  
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E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
CARLUCCI@NYSENATE.GOV

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VETERAN AFFAIRS & HOMELAND SECURITY

December 3, 2013

Brian Mills  
Senior Planning Advisor  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Mills:

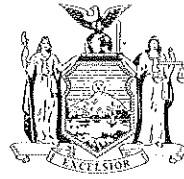
I am writing in reference to the public commenting period of the Presidential Permit Application Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Champlain Hudson Power Express.

This project stands to have an enormous impact on the County of Rockland, and, in particular, the Town of Stony Point, NY, where the power line emerges from the Hudson River. Citizens have expressed concerns that they have not had enough time to thoroughly review the hundreds of pages of case documents to develop adequate responses. I believe the citizens of New York State would be well served by an extension to the public commenting period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which is part of the Presidential Permit Application for the Champlain Hudson Power Express project.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Department of Energy consider extending the public comment period by 180 days. This 180 day extension would guarantee that the public has adequate time to analyze and respond to thousands of pages of information that is contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Please contact my office if you have questions or are in need of further information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Senator David Carlucci  
38th Senate District



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

US Department of Energy

DEC 14 2013

Electricity Delivery and  
Energy Reliability

COMMITTEES  
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES  
& COMMISSIONS  
FINANCE  
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INSURANCE  
RULES  
TRANSPORTATION  
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY  
& MILITARY AFFAIRS

WILLIAM J. LARKIN, JR.  
SENATOR, 39TH DISTRICT  
MAJORITY WHIP  
PLEASE RESPOND TO:  
 ROOM 502 CAPITOL  
ALBANY, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2770  
 1093 LITTLE BRITAIN ROAD  
NEW WINDSOR, NY 12553  
(845) 567-1270  
E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
LARKIN@NYSenate.GOV  
WEB ADDRESS:  
HTTP://LARKIN.NYSenate.GOV

December 9, 2013

Brian Mills  
Senior Planning Advisor  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Mills:

I am writing in reference to the public commenting period of the Presidential Permit Application Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Champlain Hudson Power Express.

I respectfully request that the Department of Energy consider extending the public comment period by 180 days. This 180 day extension will ensure that the public has a fair amount of time to review and respond to the 5,000 pages of draft-DEIS documentation.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or need any other information pertaining to this project. Thank you for your careful attention and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

William J. Larkin, Jr.  
Member of Senate

WJL:mf



JAMES SKOUFIS  
Member of Assembly  
99<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Consumer Affairs and Protection  
Insurance  
Labor  
Transportation

December 6, 2013

Mr. Brian Mills  
Senior Planning Advisor  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Mills:

One of the most important issues in my Assembly District is the proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) being developed by Transmission Developers Inc (TDI). My office staff and I have personally attended a number of public forums on the CHPE project to listen to TDI representatives as well as Stony Point residents. The message from Stony Point has been continuous and clear: CHPE has the potential to do serious harm to the community – residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal.

I share many of the concerns that residents and business owners have expressed regarding CHPE. First and foremost, the exact location and boundaries of the project are unclear at best: plans presented by TDI to the community differ from the ones on the company's website and, possibly, submitted to regulating agencies. Some versions of these plans include the transmission line running through the Waldron Revolutionary War Cemetery and Stony Point Battlefield, two historic sites that should never be touched by a project like this. Likewise, at a public forum that I attended and spoke at, TDI's representative refused to rule out the possibility of eminent domain being used in Stony Point, causing justified fear amongst residents and businesses alike.

Stony Point is one of a select few municipalities chosen as part of the NY Rising program, tasked with rebuilding after Superstorm Sandy. As someone who has worked with the NY Rising committee, it is possible that serious disruptions to Stony Point's efforts to rebuild will be caused by the CHPE project, adding further heartbreak and financial loss to those who have already lost so much. I respectfully ask that you ensure this not be allowed.

The argument for American jobs and American energy have likely been made by many other people which is why I am focusing on the direct, local impacts to my constituents in Stony Point. I understand a claim has been made suggesting that the transmission line is running through Stony Point because



of an adjoining, environmentally-sensitive area in the Hudson River. I urge you to re-explore all options to keep the transmission line in the Hudson River, thereby avoiding any and all local impact in the community I represent.

Last but not least, on behalf of my constituents, I would like to request a 180-day extension for public comment to allow as many residents and businesses to further study the proposal and voice their concerns to you. I know you are taking this application very seriously – you understand the magnitude of this project and its potential ramifications. Given the scope and interest demonstrated at the November public hearing you held, I believe an extension to be reasonable.

Thank you for your service to our state and country as well as your consideration to the points I have highlighted in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Skoufis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

James Skoufis  
Member of Assembly



JAMES SKOUFIS  
Member of Assembly  
99<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Consumer Affairs and Protection  
Insurance  
Labor  
Transportation

January 14, 2014

Mr. Brian Mills  
Senior Planning Advisor  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Mills:

I first would like to thank you for agreeing to extend the public comment period for the Champlain Hudson Power Express project that the Department of Energy is currently reviewing. As you know, there was a tremendous amount of material to review and the additional time was important to me and my constituents.

With the comment period closing shortly, I would like to re-iterate from my December 6, 2013 letter my opposition to the project plans as they stand. I am sure you have received many, detailed letters from my constituents who have studied the proposal – including a resolution that just passed the Rockland County Legislature in opposition to the Champlain Hudson Power Express – that I trust you and your colleagues will take into serious consideration.

In addition to examining the more general concerns and criticisms of the plan with regarding to energy production – which I believe are valid – I would also again ask you to re-explore the option and possibility of relocating the transmission line out of Stony Point and into the Hudson River, where the line spends most of its time traveling. This will alleviate any and all concerns of eminent domain and the devastating loss of personal property and, for the municipality, property tax revenue. Furthermore, there are versions of the project plan that have the line running through the Waldron Revolutionary War Cemetery and Stony Point Battlefield, both of which are unacceptable.

Thank you again for your consideration on this extremely important matter and I look forward to the Department of Energy's decision.

Sincerely,

James Skoufis  
Member of Assembly



KENNETH P. ZEBROWSKI  
Assemblyman 96<sup>th</sup> District  
Rockland County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN  
Administrative Regulations  
Review Commission

COMMITTEES  
Codes  
Environmental Conservation  
Governmental Employees  
Judiciary  
Labor  
Libraries & Education Technology

January 15, 2014

Mr. Brian Mills  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Mills:

I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed EIS draft of the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project.

As a State Representative for Rockland County where the proposed project will travel underneath, I am concerned with the impact it will have on residents, businesses and two state parks, Rockland Lake State Park and Hook Mountain State Park. The proposed path of the transmission line travels throughout my district and could negatively impact the integrity of the land.

In addition to the environmental concerns, the proposed project will transport 1,000 megawatts of energy from Canada to New York City for consumption. Our regional energy plan would best be served by local energy production. The State should concentrate major energy infrastructure investments within New York State and the Hudson Valley region. There are several older power plants in the region, including Bowline in Haverstraw, which could benefit from investments that improve production efficiency. The proposed plan offers 300 temporary jobs over a 3 ½ year period as where the re-tooling of the Bowline power plant could lead to more permanent jobs that will strengthen the Hudson Valley's economy and local tax base.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my concerns over the Champlain Hudson Power Express project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth P. Zebrowski".

Kenneth P. Zebrowski  
Member of Assembly