



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State  
for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs*

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

February 14, 2014

Brian Mills  
Office of Electricity Delivery &  
Energy Reliability  
U.S. Department of Energy OE-20  
Washington, D.C. 20585

REF: Champlain Hudson Power Express  
OE Docket No. PP-362  
Presidential Permit

Dear Mr. Mills:

Your Department of Energy letter dated January 22, 2014, requested the Department of State to provide its views on the application filed by Champlain Hudson Power Express Inc. with the Department of Energy in Docket No. PP-362. The Department of State has reviewed the materials provided with a particular focus on the foreign policy implications of the application and has no objections to the issuance of the proposed Presidential Permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Dunn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Dunn  
Deputy Office Director  
Office of Europe, Western Hemisphere and  
Africa  
Bureau of Energy Resources



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

January 22, 2014

Mr. Stephen J. Gallogly, Director  
International Energy &  
Commodities Policy (EEB/ESC/IEC)  
2201 C Street, NW, Suite 4843  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

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

Dear Mr. Gallogly:

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](mailto: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 Defense for their consideration. If they make an unfavorable recommendation, we will advise you.

Very truly yours,



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