

The Hudson River Pilots' Association is the state licensed group of pilots serving the pilotage needs on the Hudson River. As an association of marine professionals we are opposed to the CHPE project plan in its current form. The routing of the cable either follows or is very close to the deep water channel of the river for much of the cable's route. The planned burial depth of six feet and plans to simply lay the cable over rock areas of the river bottom are also a cause for concern.

The people of the state of New York and the northeastern United States rely on safe commercial navigation of the Hudson River for both environmental and economic reasons. A wide variety of commercial interests use the Hudson River for their transportation needs. The CHPE plan in its current form would impinge safe navigation of the river. Commercial vessels using the river often times have to anchor unexpectedly due to diminishing weather and visibility or to avoid running aground in an emergency situation. A cable buried to only six feet below the river bottom in or near the deep water channel of the river is very likely to complicate anchoring if an effort is made to avoid the cable, potentially resulting in a serious marine incident. If a vessel does snag the cable there would be likely damage to the cable followed by a disruption in the cable's transmission and a disruption in marine traffic.

There is also a concern with the impact this project will have on future navigational improvements to the Hudson River. A 1000 megawatt cable buried to a depth of six feet would conflict with any potential plans for dredging unless the dredging is a federal project. The Hudson River Pilots' Association would like to see this project carried out in a manner that will not adversely affect safe navigation or the future economic productivity of the Hudson River.