

Scenic Hudson, Inc.

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April 1, 2010

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Champlain Hudson Power Express Project

Dear Dr. Pell:

Scenic Hudson, Inc. is a 47-year-old nonprofit environmental organization and separately incorporated land trust dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, natural, historic, agricultural and recreational treasures of the Hudson River and its valley.

We are writing to request status as an intervener in the Presidential Permit process for the above-referenced project.

Scenic Hudson was founded in 1963 by citizens concerned about Con Edison's proposed pumped storage hydroelectric project and the potential adverse impacts on the scenic and natural resources of the Hudson River valley, the same area through which the proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express would pass.

Scenic Hudson is deeply concerned that our current dependence on fossil fuels is unsustainable for a number of reasons, including poor air quality and associated health risks, the need for energy independence, and carbon emissions that have contributed to global climate change and sea level rise. The development of new technologies must be encouraged in order that existing power plants can be replaced with clean energy sources.

To address these issues, New York State has adopted an energy plan that sets a goal to increase the proportion of renewable generation to 30 percent of electricity demand by 2015. Further, on August 6, 2009 Governor Paterson signed Executive Order No. 24, which sets an ambitious goal to reduce NYS greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050 (known as the "80 by 50" goal), using the baseline year of 1990.

By providing 2,000 MW of clean renewable energy capacity to the New York Metropolitan Area, the Champlain Hudson Power Express would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and help New York State meet its energy goals.

However, like all electric transmission projects, site specific environmental impacts must be identified, studied, and addressed and more information is needed before Scenic Hudson can formulate a position regarding this proposal.

As watchdogs of the Hudson River's scenic and ecological resources since 1963, we will also submit a letter requesting party status when the NEPA process begins.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey Anzevino".

Jeffrey Anzevino, AICP
Assistant Director of Land Use Advocacy

Cc: D. Jessome