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CHAMPLAIN HUDSON EXPRESS TRANSMISSION

LINE PROJECT

DOE EIS PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, November 18, 2013

Courtyard Marriott LaGuardia  
9010 Ditmars Boulevard  
East Elmhurst, New York 11369

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PARTICIPANTS

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES/HEARING OFFICERS:

BRIAN MILLS

JODI MCDONALD

JULIE SMITH

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS:

THOMAS RYAN

VINCENT ALBANESE

RICHARD THOMAS

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (12:03 p.m.)

3 MS. SMITH: Hello. Good afternoon. Please go  
4 ahead, get signed up, and get seated as soon as you can.

5 I'm Julie Smith. I'm with the U.S. Department of  
6 Energy. Just before we get started with the actual  
7 hearing and the proceeding, I'd like to have -- give  
8 some general housekeeping items.

9 For folks that want to make verbal comments,  
10 please make sure that you sign up on the registration  
11 table back of the room. As stenographer will be  
12 recording all of the verbal comments, so we ask that you  
13 speak clearly into the microphone, and please also state  
14 your name before you make your comment so that we can  
15 make sure that we have an accurate record of that. Any  
16 written comments that you have on the draft  
17 Environmental Impact Statement that you would like to  
18 hand in can be submitted, again, at the registration  
19 table at any point during the meeting.

20 One thing about hotel parking, you can have  
21 your hotel parking stubs validated at the front desk for  
22 a reduced charge of \$7.00. And with that, we can get

1 started with the hearing. Thanks for coming.

2 MR. MILLS: Hi. I'm Brian Mills. Thank you  
3 for taking the time to attend this hearing. I work for  
4 the Department of Energy in the Office of Electricity  
5 Delivery and Energy Reliability. I along with Jodi  
6 McDonald from the U.S. Corps of Engineers will be the  
7 hearing's officers today.

8 The reason we are here is Champlain Hudson  
9 Power Express is proposing to construct an international  
10 transmission line. They've asked the Department of  
11 Energy for a presidential permit. A presidential permit  
12 is needed before any transmission line can be built  
13 across the U.S. international border. DoE determined  
14 that an environmental impact statement would be the  
15 appropriate level of analysis for a presidential permit.

16 This is a public hearing on the Champlain  
17 Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project draft  
18 Environmental Impact Statement. That's a mouthful, so  
19 I'll call it the draft EIS. Once we begin the hearing,  
20 we will hear from you in the order you have signed up.  
21 If you wish to speak but do not -- but have not signed  
22 up, you can sign up at the registration table.

1           For those of you who may not be familiar with  
2 the process we go through in preparing an environmental  
3 impact statement or EIS and where we are for this  
4 particular project, I'll cover the steps. Although I'm  
5 sure all of you have read the draft EIS available on our  
6 EIS website, you can also find more detailed information  
7 for the process and this project on the website.

8           The first step in the process, we start public  
9 participation by issuing a Notice of Intent to Prepare  
10 an EIS. For this project, DoE issued our Notice of  
11 Intent on June 18th, 2010 and an amended notice on April  
12 30th, 2012. The Notice of Intent begins a process we  
13 call scoping, which is an opportunity for the public to  
14 tell us their issues and concerns related to the  
15 project. We use this input to help us prepare a draft  
16 EIS. If you commented during the scoping period, we  
17 used your scoping comments to determine which  
18 alternatives and issues we needed to address.

19           The next step in the process is to prepare a  
20 draft EIS. The draft EIS analyzes the foreseeable  
21 environmental impacts that might result from granting  
22 the permit. The draft EIS also identifies steps that

1 might be needed to mitigate impacts. For this project,  
2 we issued the draft EIS on October 21st, 2013. After we  
3 issue a draft, we ask the public to comment on it during  
4 a public comment period. EPA opens the comment period  
5 by publishing a Notice of Availability in the *Federal*  
6 *Register*. The EPA notice for this draft EIS was in the  
7 *Federal Register* November 1st, 2013.

8           Since this is where we are in the process, I'm  
9 going to cover this a little bit more thoroughly. The  
10 comment period gives you the opportunity to tell us any  
11 changes that you would like to see in the draft EIS,  
12 what you think is wrong with the document, and how you  
13 think we should fix it. We are also looking for issues  
14 you think we missed or didn't cover as well as we  
15 should.

16           If you have questions as part of your comment,  
17 we will not be able to answer your questions today, but  
18 we will do so in the final EIS. It's also very helpful  
19 for your comments to cite specific sections or page  
20 numbers from the document itself. None of this is  
21 required, but it will help us to understand your  
22 comments.

1           During the hearing, the hearing's officers may  
2 ask questions to allow you to clarify points you may be  
3 making. Whether you choose to speak or not, you are  
4 invited to submit written comments. Instructions to do  
5 so are provided on the board back here or are available  
6 on the registration table. All comments, whether  
7 written or oral, are treated the same and have equal  
8 weight.

9           For this draft EIS, we will continue to accept  
10 comments until December 16th, 2013. To the extent we  
11 can, we will also consider your comments submitted after  
12 that date. After the close of the comment period, we  
13 will write the final Environmental Impact Statement,  
14 which considers your comments. The final EIS will  
15 contain a comment response document that addresses  
16 comments received on the draft EIS. When completed, EPA  
17 will issue a Notice of Availability of the final EIS in  
18 the *Federal Register*, and again, we will post the  
19 document on the EIS website and send it out to the  
20 mailing list. No sooner than 30 days after EPA lets all  
21 of you *Federal Register* readers know the final EIS is  
22 out there, DoE may issue a Record of Decision on the

1 presidential permit application. I hope that very  
2 general process outline is helpful to you.

3 I'd also like to mention a couple of other  
4 things about the draft EIS and this project. The  
5 Department of Energy has authority to permit the border  
6 crossing. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues Clean  
7 Water Act permits. The State of New York has authority  
8 to cite transmission lines in New York. Several other  
9 Federal and State agencies are working with DoE and the  
10 Corps in preparing the draft EIS. The U.S.  
11 Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the New York  
13 State Department of Public Service, and the New York  
14 State Department of Environmental Conservation, are all  
15 cooperating agencies in the preparation of the draft  
16 EIS.

17 That was a lot to remember, so what you need  
18 to remember for this hearing is, one, comments received  
19 on the draft EIS will be included in the final EIS, and  
20 we will respond in the document to the comments  
21 received. Comments expressed at one of our hearings or  
22 provided to us by email or letter will be considered



1 equally. And three, the comment period for the draft  
2 EIS closes on December 16th, 2013.

3 I will now turn this over to your hearing's  
4 officer, Jodi McDonald, from the U.S. Army Corps of  
5 Engineers.

6 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Brian. Good  
7 afternoon. I'm Jodi McDonald, Chief of the Regulatory  
8 Branch for the New York District, U.S. Corps of  
9 Engineers. I will be the presiding officer on behalf of  
10 the Corps of Engineers.

11 The Corps of Engineers is here today to obtain  
12 information and evidence and ensure coverage of core  
13 concerns, to assist in the regulatory review of a permit  
14 application by the Champlain Hudson Power Express for  
15 the installation and construction of a 336-mile power  
16 cable from the Canadian border through waters of the  
17 United States, including wetlands, as well as Lake  
18 Champlain, the Hudson River, Harlem River, and East  
19 River. The U.S. Department of Energy as lead Federal  
20 agency will make a decision whether to issue a  
21 presidential permit to allow crossing of the U.S. border  
22 to facilitate the operation of this power cable.

1           The Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent  
2 for nor an opponent of the proposed work. Our role is  
3 to determine whether the proposed activity -- in this  
4 case, the installation of a power line in waters of the  
5 United States -- is in the overall public interest.  
6 This hearing will play an important part in that  
7 determination.

8           Please understand that we do not expect to  
9 answer questions from the dais in this hearing related  
10 to the proposal as we are here to obtain information and  
11 your comments. Questions on the regulatory process in  
12 general can be directed to my staff who are sitting in  
13 the audience here today.

14           The New York District has issued a public  
15 notice for this project with the comment period closing  
16 on December 16th, which is the same date as the EIS  
17 comment period. That public notice is currently posted  
18 on the New York District website, and that web address  
19 is [www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil), as in "military." We do have  
20 some copies available on the registration table as well.

21    If you are not currently on our public notice email  
22 distribution list and would like to receive an

1 announcement for future public notices from my office,  
2 please provide your email address to one of the staff at  
3 the registration table today. Thank you.

4 MR. MILLS: We will now start the hearing.  
5 Thomas Ryan?

6 MR. RYAN: Thank you. My name is Thomas Ryan.  
7 I'm President of the Boilermaker's Local 5.  
8 Distinguished members from the U.S. Department of  
9 Energy, thank you for providing this opportunity to the  
10 people of New York to weigh in on some of their concerns  
11 with the Champlain Hudson Power Express. I'm here today  
12 as the President of Boilermaker's Local 5, representing  
13 over 500 members from Long Island, New York City, from  
14 the southern tier, and throughout the north country.  
15 But I'm also here as a proud New Yorker and a father of  
16 four children with further reservations about this  
17 proposal -- proposed project and the negative  
18 environmental impact it would have for the next  
19 generation.

20 The developers of this line that would snake  
21 its way through New York and its great waterways have  
22 touted the signatures of some representatives of the New

1 York delegation in support of the line. Yet when my  
2 colleagues and I personally met with the vast majority  
3 of these congressmen and women last spring, we were met  
4 with blank stares and disbelieving shakes of their  
5 heads. Some had no recollection of signing. Others  
6 seemed not overly committed to the project. But all of  
7 them had second thoughts and promised to look into the  
8 matter further and revisit their commitment. For that  
9 we are grateful to them and their staffs.

10           The Champlain Hudson Power Express will be a  
11 jobs killer for the greater New York City area,  
12 outsourcing skilled labor positions to a foreign country  
13 in exchange for a product we can and should be making  
14 here in New York. Our economy, environment, and our  
15 quality of life now hang on a delicate thread. Do we as  
16 a Nation give our environment over to the hands of  
17 another country, albeit currently a friendly one? I, my  
18 family, and the tens of thousands of vital building and  
19 constructions trades members in this great metropolis  
20 emphatically respond no.

21           Just in the last couple of years, our great  
22 city and State has had a tragic loss of life,

1 infrastructure, and the environment due to severe  
2 storms. As catastrophic losses they were, could we  
3 imagine if we were held hostage by power traveling  
4 hundreds of miles on towers over land and within our  
5 rivers and lakes? We need to rely on power generation  
6 produced in our back yards to survive whatever storms we  
7 must weather.

8           I swam in the Hudson River and lived to tell  
9 about it. I wish my children and my children's children  
10 the same. But this Canadian power line is nothing more  
11 than a large extension cord with a single customer,  
12 whose only vested interest in the delicate environment  
13 of the great State of New York is one of commercialism  
14 and greed. Just in my short lifespan, I have seen where  
15 dependence on foreign energy and foreign natural  
16 resources has led this great Nation of ours: embargo,  
17 rationing, and war. We should not depend on others for  
18 our vital needs, but ourselves and our fellow New  
19 Yorkers. Americans should not sacrifice their  
20 environment, their energy independence, or their  
21 children's future for the promise of miniscule savings  
22 on our electrical bill.

1           I would like to thank you again for this  
2 opportunity, and we trust the United States Department  
3 of Energy and ultimately the Office of the President of  
4 the United States to hear the cry of its citizens and  
5 say no to the Champlain Hudson Power Express. I will  
6 save the time, but I would also like to submit an open  
7 letter that ran in one of the publications, city and  
8 State, that was signed by members -- representing  
9 members of the District Council of Carpenters, Local 638  
10 of the Steam Fitters, Boilermaker's Local 5, Utility  
11 Workers Union of America, and also the IBEW. Thank you.

12           MR. MILLS: Vincent Albanese?

13           MR. ALBANESE: Vincent Albanese, New York  
14 State Laborers. I represent the New York State  
15 Laborers' Union with 40,000 members employed in the  
16 construction industry and other fields throughout the  
17 State. Our members are organized into more than 35  
18 local unions and five district councils. We're a proud  
19 affiliate of the Laborers' International Union of North  
20 America.

21           The Champlain Hudson Power Express  
22 Transmission Project would create more than 300

1 construction jobs for our members from Clinton County  
2 along the route to Queens County during the three and a  
3 half year construction period. It's also estimated that  
4 during peak construction, there'll be up to 600  
5 construction jobs. The construction jobs will be  
6 associated with the construction of a power -- of a  
7 converter station and the installation of the  
8 transmission cable within the State. Our members would  
9 also be involved in the construction of temporary access  
10 roads, site excavation, and site restoration.

11           We have eight local unions represented  
12 throughout the geographic region of this project. The  
13 Champlain Hudson Power Express would provide work  
14 opportunity in the communities where they live, which  
15 would benefit these communities greatly. The Champlain  
16 Hudson Power Express is a 333-mile underground  
17 transmission line that will bring up to a thousand  
18 megawatts of clean, renewable energy to New York State.

19           Two six-inch wide cables will be buried under  
20 Lake Champlain, the Hudson, Harlem, and East Rivers,  
21 along railroads, and other public rites-of-way. By  
22 burying the line, this project will have minor impacts

1 on communities and the environment. There will be  
2 temporary minimal impact during construction of the  
3 line. Once installed, there will be no visual impacts.  
4 Transmission Developers, Inc., or TDI, is committed to  
5 constructing the line using the highest environmental  
6 standards to protect New York State's, waters and  
7 communities, and natural beauty.

8           The Champlain Hudson Power Express Project  
9 will provide clean hydropower to fuel economic growth  
10 with significant environmental and consumer benefits.  
11 The project will reduce sulphur dioxide and greenhouse  
12 gas emissions. The project will add options to the  
13 State's energy selection and increase the electric  
14 grid's safety and security. This new, tough  
15 infrastructure will be less susceptible to damage from  
16 natural disasters. A \$117 million environmental trust  
17 will be established to improve the aquatic environments  
18 in Lake Champlain, the Hudson, Harlem, and East Rivers.

19           The construction jobs created by the Champlain  
20 Hudson Power Express Project will result in an increase  
21 in the demand of goods and services within the State.  
22 The project will also mean direct spending in New York,



1 including non-labor installation costs, as well as fees  
2 and taxes paid to the local and State government. As  
3 there are more revenues and sales, businesses will have  
4 more profits and, therefore, be able to hire more people  
5 to make investments in the community.

6           The \$2.2 billion project will be financed  
7 completely by the private sector with no responsibility  
8 on the customer for the cost of development or operation  
9 of the line. Three hundred direct jobs will be created  
10 during the three and a half year construction period,  
11 peaking at 600 construction jobs. During the  
12 construction phase of the Champlain Hudson Power Express  
13 Project, there will be more than 1,200 indirect jobs in  
14 New York State from suppliers, businesses, and the local  
15 community along the route.

16           The New York State Public Service Commission  
17 approved the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project in  
18 April of this year. We're here to urge you to grant  
19 Federal permits to transmission developers quickly so  
20 that this important transmission line project can move  
21 forward. This project means jobs for many of our local  
22 union members and opportunities for the State that would

1 benefit our communities for years to come. Thank you.

2 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you.

3 MR. MILLS: Are there any other registered --  
4 anyone else would like to speak? If not -- would you  
5 like to -- if no one else wants to speak, this hearing  
6 is adjourned. No, we have one?

7 MR. THOMAS: Yes. Thank you. My name is  
8 Richard Thomas. I'm the Director of New York AREA.  
9 It's an acronym for Affordable Reliable Electricity  
10 Alliance. I have a statement on behalf of my Chairman,  
11 Jerry Kremer.

12 In conjunction with today's Army Corps of  
13 Engineers' hearing on the draft Environmental Impact  
14 Statement on the Champlain Hudson Power Express, a 330-  
15 plus mile high voltage transmission line running from  
16 Quebec to Queens, New York AREA issues the following  
17 statement.

18 The Champlain Hudson Power Express Project is  
19 unquestionably bad for New York. It means higher  
20 electricity prices, lost jobs, and a less reliable  
21 electric grid. In fact, it is merely a special interest  
22 project that will have no benefit for hardworking New

1 Yorkers, including those struggling upstate communities.

2           Indeed, the Champlain Hudson Power Express  
3 Project is nothing more than a high voltage extension  
4 cord from Canada to New York City that will make a giant  
5 sucking sound as it takes billions of dollars annually  
6 out of New Yorkers' pockets and across the border.

7 There is no doubt that we can make electricity at a  
8 lower cost and more reliably here in New York, and that  
9 should be the focus of our energy policy. At a time  
10 when America is on the verge of becoming energy  
11 independent, and indeed an energy exporter, the  
12 Champlain Hudson Project takes us backwards.

13           Our energy infrastructure will also be  
14 degraded by this precedent-setting project. The greater  
15 the distance that electricity has to travel, the more  
16 expensive and less reliable it is. And due to these  
17 reasons, a broad coalition from labor, business, and the  
18 environment community opposes this project and will  
19 continue to do so through all available avenues. I'll  
20 submit this statement to you.

21           MR. MILLS: Thank you.

22           MS. MCDONALD: Thank you.

1 MR. MILLS: Anyone else want to speak?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. MILLS: This hearing is adjourned.

4 (Whereupon, at 12:36 p.m., the meeting was  
5 adjourned.)

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CHAMPLAIN HUDSON EXPRESS TRANSMISSION  
LINE PROJECT

DOE EIS PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, November 18, 2013

Stony Point Center  
17 Cricketown Road  
Stony Point, New York 10980

Alderson Court Reporting  
1-800-FOR-DEPO

## 1 PARTICIPANTS

2

## 3 AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES/HEARING OFFICERS:

4 BRIAN MILLS JULIE SMITH

5 JODI MCDONALD JAMES PALMER

6

## 7 PARTICIPANTS:

8 DOUGLAS JOBSON BRIAN MCPARTLAND

9 THOMAS BASILE MARY ELLEN FURLONG

10 GEOFFREY FINN BREDA BECKERLE

11 ANNIE WILSON TIMOTHY WALDRON

12 DEAN TAMBURRI ROBERT KNIGHT

13 SUSAN FILGUERAS BARRY BROOKS

14 FRANK COLLIER RICH THOMAS

15 STEVEN REICH STEVEN BECKERLE

16 WELLINGTON CASSCLES JACQUELYN DRECHSLER

17 REBECCA CASSCLES MICHAEL DIEDRICH

18 HAYLEY CARLOCK ALEX GUARINO

19 LAURRIE COZZA JIM MCDONALD

20 KATHERINE REDMOND LUANNE KONOPKA

21 STEVEN LUDWIGSON

22

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (6:00 p.m.)

3 MS. SMITH: Good evening. Folks that are  
4 congregated by the door, if you could find a seat, that  
5 would be really helpful just for safety and fire hazard  
6 reasons. Folks? All right, please go ahead and get  
7 seated. We're going to start.

8 Good evening. My name is Julie Smith, and  
9 I'm with the U.S. Department of Energy. Before we get  
10 started with the hearing, there's always some  
11 housekeeping items to take care of.

12 So just so that everybody understands how the  
13 hearing will proceed, those folks who would like to make  
14 verbal comments, if you haven't signed up at the  
15 registration table, please do so so that we can make  
16 sure that we get you on the speaker list. A  
17 stenographer will be recording all verbal comments, so  
18 we ask that you speak clearly in the microphones as well  
19 as state your name before you speak so that we have an  
20 accurate record and that we know what you're saying.  
21 Any written comments that you may have on the draft  
22 Environmental Impact Statement, we ask that you hand

1 those over tonight so that we can also get a proper  
2 record of those and make those a part of the public  
3 record for the document. And you can submit those also  
4 at the registration table.

5 SPEAKER: Is it the 16th we should mail it  
6 in?

7 MS. SMITH: Absolutely. The public comment  
8 period closes on December 16th, so you can mail those or  
9 email those in. But if you just wanted to provide  
10 written comments tonight, we are accepting those.

11 Also because of the crowd and the number of  
12 speakers that we have this morning, we will ask that you  
13 keep your verbal comments to three minutes. We do have  
14 a timekeeper to help you move your comments along. But  
15 if you don't get through your entire comments and you  
16 have that in written form, again, please make sure you  
17 submit that so that we have a full record of your full  
18 comments.

19 And with that, thank you very much for your  
20 time in coming, and we will get started with the  
21 hearing.

22 MR. MILLS: I'm Brian Mills. Thank you for



1 taking your time to attend this hearing. I work for the  
2 Department of Energy in the Office of Electricity  
3 Delivery and Energy Reliability. I along with Jodi  
4 McDonald from the U.S. Corps of Engineers will be the  
5 hearing's officers today.

6           The reason we are here is Champlain Hudson  
7 Power Express is proposing to construct an international  
8 transmission line. They've asked the Department of  
9 Energy for a presidential permit. A presidential permit  
10 is needed before any transmission line can be built  
11 across the U.S. international border. DoE determined  
12 that an environmental impact statement would be the  
13 appropriate level for analysis for this presidential  
14 permit.

15           This is a public hearing on the Champlain  
16 Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project draft  
17 Environmental Impact Statement. That's a mouthful, so  
18 I'll call it the draft EIS. Once we begin the hearing,  
19 we will hear from you in the order you have signed up.  
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21 sign up at the registration table.

22           For those of you who may not be familiar with

1 the process we go through in preparing an environmental  
2 impact statement -- an EIS -- and where we are at for  
3 this particular project, I'll cover the steps. Although  
4 I'm sure you've all read the draft EIS available on our  
5 EIS website, you can also find more detailed information  
6 for the process and this project on the website.

7           The first step in the process, we start  
8 public participation by issuing a Notice of Intent to  
9 Prepare an EIS. For this project, DoE issued our Notice  
10 of Intent on June 18th, 2010 and an amended notice on  
11 April 30th, 2012. The Notice of Intent begins a process  
12 we call scoping, which is an opportunity for the public  
13 to tell us their issues and concerns related to the  
14 project. We use this input to help us prepare a draft  
15 EIS. If you commented during the scoping period, we  
16 used your scoping comments to determine which  
17 alternatives and issues we needed to address.

18           The next step in the process is to prepare a  
19 draft EIS. The draft EIS analyzes the foreseeable  
20 environmental impacts that might result from granting  
21 the permit. The draft EIS also identifies steps that  
22 might be needed to mitigate impacts. For this project,

1 we issued the draft EIS on October 21st, 2013. After we  
2 issue a draft, we ask the public to comment on it during  
3 a public comment period. EPA opens the comment period  
4 by publishing a Notice of Availability in the *Federal*  
5 *Register*. The EPA notice for this draft EIS was in the  
6 *Federal Register* November the 1st, 2013.

7           Since this is where we are in the process,  
8 I'm going to cover this a little bit more thoroughly.  
9 The comment period gives you the opportunity to tell us  
10 any changes you would like to see in the draft EIS, what  
11 you think is wrong about the document, and how you think  
12 we should fix it. We are also looking for issues you  
13 think we missed or didn't cover as well as we should.

14           If you ask questions as part of your comment,  
15 we will not be able to answer your questions today, but  
16 we will do so in the final EIS. It's also very helpful  
17 for your comments to cite specific sections of the -- or  
18 page numbers from the document itself. None of this is  
19 required, but it will help us to understand your  
20 comments.

21           During the hearing, the hearing's officers  
22 may ask questions to allow you to clarify points you are

1 making. Whether you choose to speak or not, you are  
2 invited to submit comments -- written comments.  
3 Instructions to do so are provided on this board behind  
4 -- standing room only -- or are available at the  
5 registration table. All comments, whether written or  
6 oral, are treated the same and have equal weight.

7           For this draft EIS, we will continue to  
8 accept comments until December 16th, 2013. To the  
9 extent we can, we will also consider your comments  
10 submitted after that date. After the close of the  
11 comment period, we will write the final Environmental  
12 Impact Statement, which considers your comments. The  
13 final EIS will contain a comment response document that  
14 addresses comments received on the draft EIS. When  
15 completed, EPA will issue a Notice of Availability of  
16 the final EIS in the *Federal Register*, and again, we  
17 will post the document on the EIS website and send it  
18 out to the mailing list. No sooner than 30 days after  
19 EPA lets all of you *Federal Register* readers know the  
20 final EIS is out there, DoE may issue a Record of  
21 Decision on the presidential permit application. I hope  
22 that very general process outline is helpful to you.

1           I'd also like to mention a couple of other  
2 things about the draft EIS and this project. The  
3 Department of Energy has authority to permit the border  
4 crossing. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues Clean  
5 Water Act permits. The State of New Mexico -- New York  
6 has authority to cite transmission lines in New York.  
7 Several other Federal and State agencies are working  
8 with DoE and the Corps in preparing the draft EIS.  
9 These are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the  
10 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard,  
11 the New York State Department of Public Service, and the  
12 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.  
13 These are all cooperating agencies in the preparation  
14 of the draft EIS.

15           That was a lot, so what you need to remember  
16 for this hearing is, one, comments received on the draft  
17 EIS will be included in the final EIS, and we will  
18 respond in the document to the comments received. Two,  
19 comments expressed at one of our hearings or provided to  
20 us by email or letter will be considered equally.  
21 Three, the comment period for the draft EIS closes on  
22 December 16th, 2013.

1           I will now turn this over to your other  
2 hearing's officer, Jodi McDonald, from the U.S. Army  
3 Corps of Engineers.

4           MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Brian. Good  
5 afternoon. I am Jodi McDonald. I'm Chief of the  
6 Regulatory Branch for the New York District Army Corps  
7 of Engineers. I will be the presiding officer on behalf  
8 of the Corps at today's hearing.

9           The Corps of Engineers is here today to  
10 obtain information and evidence and ensure coverage of  
11 core concerns, to assist in the regulatory review of a  
12 permit application by Champlain Hudson Power Express,  
13 Incorporated for the installation and construction of a  
14 336-mile power cable from the Canadian border through  
15 the waters of the United States, including wetlands, as  
16 well as Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, Harlem River,  
17 and East River. The U.S. Department of Energy as lead  
18 Federal agency will make a decision whether to issue a  
19 presidential permit to allow the border crossing to  
20 facilitate the operation of this power cable.

21           The Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent  
22 for nor an opponent of the proposed work. Our role is

1 to determine whether the proposed activity -- in this  
2 case, the installation of a power line in waters of the  
3 United States -- is in the overall public interest.  
4 This hearing will play an important part in that  
5 determination.

6           Please understand that we do not expect to  
7 answer questions from the dais in this hearing related  
8 to the proposal as we are here to obtain information and  
9 to receive your comments. Questions on our regulatory  
10 process in general can be directed to my staff member  
11 who's in the audience today. June, if you would raise  
12 your hand.

13           The New York District has issued a public  
14 notice for this project with the comment period closing  
15 on December 16th, which is the same closing date as the  
16 draft EIS. That public notice is currently posted on  
17 our New York District website. The website address is  
18 [www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil), as in "military." We do have  
19 some copies of that public notice available on our -- on  
20 the registration table as well. If you're not currently  
21 on our public notice email distribution list and would  
22 like to receive an email announcement for future public

1 notices from my office, please provide your email  
2 address to one of the staff members at the registration  
3 table. Thank you.

4 MS. SMITH: Yeah. Again for the folks that  
5 are by the door, if you want -- we need to create some  
6 space back by the doors. So please find a seat if you  
7 will and sit in the audience with us.

8 MS. MCDONALD: There are seats.

9 MS. SMITH: Yeah, there are definitely seats  
10 to the left of the room. We do want you to stay.

11 MS. MCDONALD: Are we ready?

12 MR. MILLS: We're ready.

13 MS. MCDONALD: Should I bang the gavel?

14 MR. MILLS: Yes, bang the gavel, and we'll  
15 call these first speakers.

16 MS. MCDONALD: We don't usually -- do you  
17 usually do Pledge of Allegiance?

18 MR. MILLS: We don't, but we can.

19 MS. MCDONALD: I don't have a problem with  
20 it.

21 MR. MILLS: Let's -- do you want to lead it?

22 MS. MCDONALD: We've had a request to do the



1 Pledge of Allegiance, so if you would all stand, please.

2 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

3 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you.

4 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

5 (Pounding of gavel.)

6 MS. MCDONALD: We're going to begin the  
7 hearing right now. Mr. Mills will call the first  
8 speaker.

9 MR. MILLS: Douglas Jobson

10 MR. JOBSON: Good evening, everyone, ladies  
11 and gentlemen. Locals of -- members of Local 754 and,  
12 you, the members of the Department of Energy and the  
13 Army Corps of Engineers, I'd like to thank you for  
14 coming to our community tonight to hear our concerns.

15 I rise in opposition of this line, and I will  
16 explain to you why. I know there's another unionized  
17 group in the county that is in favor of this because  
18 it's going to bring some work to their membership, and I  
19 respect their view on that. But I have to rise in  
20 opposition to this, and I feel that there is no economic  
21 nor environmental benefit to the Town of Stony Point to  
22 allow this line to begin in another nation north of us

1 in Canada to come through out backyard and end up in the  
2 five boroughs where it's going to end.

3 Over time, if you listen to what's been said  
4 and you understand what's going on here, I don't  
5 understand why we should be played, a small community,  
6 with sensitive things, such as Revolutionary War  
7 cemeteries, marinas, waterways, environmental concerns  
8 that should really be heard out totally before this  
9 takes place and this thing could be pushed through. The  
10 problem with things like this is they're never put to a  
11 public referendum because you know the way the public  
12 would vote. It would easily be voted down. So it's  
13 brought this way, which I think is bad for our  
14 community.

15 I don't think that after what this community  
16 went through with divestiture of our assets -- we had  
17 two perfectly good power plants in our back yard here  
18 forever and ever, amen, and all of a sudden --

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. JOBSON: -- overnight people had to -- we  
21 had to basically auction them off and the local utility  
22 had to sell their means of production. They had to sell

1 these companies and form two smaller companies out of  
2 it. Horrible from day one. They bring people up from  
3 right-to-work States down south, one of the outfits that  
4 bought it. They hire people for a slashed wage. They  
5 learn everything they can from these people, and they  
6 turn around and fire them after they drain all the  
7 information and the years of experience that they have  
8 from these people.

9           There's no benefit for us. With terrorism  
10 and all the things that go on in this Nation today that  
11 we see and throughout the world, why would you want to  
12 put a power line with the on and off switch in a foreign  
13 country's hands in Canada, north of us, to control  
14 something that's going to come through our State and our  
15 backyard? There's no real rational reason for it. And  
16 it's unfortunate that it has come to this. I was hoping  
17 the idea for this would never get off the ground.

18           It's bad economically. It's bad  
19 environmentally. There's going to be no major job  
20 creation long term out of this. And I just don't feel  
21 that there's any grabbing rationale that we'd let this  
22 go forward. I would -- wish that the Public Service

1 Commission when they do review this, I wish they would  
2 choose not to go forward and deny this permit. Thank  
3 you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. MILLS: Thomas Basile?

6 MR. BASILE: Good evening. From my time at  
7 EPA in Washington and working for the Department of  
8 Defense, I've had the opportunity to work with the DoE  
9 and the Army Corps for -- on a number of occasions. We  
10 appreciate your professionalism, and we appreciate you  
11 being here tonight.

12 I also rise in opposition to this line. It  
13 is very clear that from cross border conversations that  
14 have happened between the State and the Federal  
15 government that there is an interest in increasing  
16 hydroelectric power into the United States. But you  
17 need to know that if the Federal government backs this  
18 project in any way, that people of the Town of Stony  
19 Point and Rockland County will fight in the courts and  
20 in the court of public opinion to prevent this cable and  
21 the others that will likely follow it from coming on  
22 shore here in our historic town.

1           If CHPE is to proceed, it should be routed  
2 through the Hudson River bed where it is currently  
3 slated to run for hundreds of miles, bypassing every  
4 other town along its route except this one. The  
5 presidential permit is to allow a cable line to come  
6 through the territorial waters of the United States.  
7 But in the Town of Stony Point where you are standing,  
8 it comes on land, and that would be a grave injustice to  
9 the people of this town.

10           There is no conclusive evidence or convincing  
11 evidence that the cable will adversely impact the  
12 river's ecosystem adjacent to here in Stony Point as  
13 opposed to anywhere else. And let me tell you  
14 something. I've always been of the opinion that the  
15 needs of people be considered the higher purpose and  
16 priority than those of fish.

17           This is not about nimbyism, it's not about  
18 opposing progress, and this is not political in any way.

19           It's about the lives of the people of this town, its  
20 economic future, and the jobs for local area residents.

21           According to the most recent route maps, the  
22 land-based route through Stony Point will require CHPE

1 to pursue eminent domain or condemnation against  
2 homeowners and other private and commercial entities  
3 across the town to accommodate a 50-foot deviation zone  
4 for the cable. The number of jobs that would be created  
5 by this project are also highly suspect, but this is one  
6 thing that is absolutely clear. The number of jobs that  
7 are created by this project, if any, would have the  
8 effect of killing, by my calculation, at least 1,000  
9 local jobs, particularly in the construction trades, but  
10 also in engineering, retail, and facility management.  
11 The Town of Stony Point is currently advancing an  
12 economic development program and a Sandy recovery  
13 strategy that will revitalize our community and drive  
14 hundreds of million dollars' worth of investment capital  
15 to this town and also produce revenue -- millions of  
16 dollars in revenue to make this town more affordable and  
17 sustainable to the future.

18           Let me be clear. Should CHPE be allowed to  
19 come on land, not only will dozens of residential  
20 properties be adversely affected and the property values  
21 of hundreds of town residents, costing residents  
22 millions in personal wealth, be affected, the

1   aforementioned commercial projects and the ancillary  
2   economic development derived may not be possible. The  
3   route and the deviation zone will scar the landscape of  
4   this town through its most vital areas, leaving a trail  
5   of human and economic wreckage in its wake.

6           Take this message back to General Bostick and  
7   take it back to the Secretary, please. Do not  
8   underestimate the amount of opposition to this cable  
9   being brought on land in Stony Point and in Rockland  
10   County. You want your cross-border hydroelectric? I  
11   think I can probably live with that. But put the cable  
12   in the river where it belongs, and do not underestimate  
13   our ability or our willingness to fight this proposed  
14   route. Jobs will be lost, personal wealth will be lost,  
15   economic development will be stifled, and the damage  
16   will be irreparable. We will not permit this  
17   discrimination, and we will not permit this injustice to  
18   be perpetrated against the people of this town. Thank  
19   you very much.

20           (Applause.)

21           MR. MILLS: Geoffrey Finn?

22           MR. FINN: Thank you. Geoffrey Finn,

1 Supervisor, Town of Stony Point. We've had these  
2 meetings. I'm glad to see this room packed here  
3 tonight, and I see a lot of 754 members here as well. I  
4 used to be a 754 member. My father is a 50-year  
5 member, so --

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. FINN: That being said, I represent the  
8 people of Stony Point. I'm not sure that this will  
9 create jobs for 754. This will create for Canadians,  
10 people north of Albany and whatnot. We want to create  
11 our own energy right here. That's how we can put our  
12 people back to work. Let's put our Stony Pointers or  
13 Rockland County employees --

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. FINN: Let's put our people from New York  
16 back to work. And we can do that by creating our own  
17 energy here. We had a Lovett site. It's torn down.  
18 It's a piece of grass right now. It's doing nothing  
19 except -- well, I'll get into that in a minute. We can  
20 create our own energy right here -- Haverstraw or Stony  
21 Point, and put everyone back to work.

22 I was in a deli this morning. I'll give an



1 example. We just signed a contract with Tappan Zee  
2 Bridge Constructors for a staging area here in Stony  
3 Point. We have a vacant piece of land where our Lovett  
4 site used to stand. And right now, we have probably  
5 about 30 to 40 people on the grounds up there. Let's  
6 have that trickle-down effect.

7 I'm in the deli this morning. I got someone  
8 in front of me ordering about 30 to 40 sandwiches, 30 to  
9 40 cups of coffee. That all trickles down and helps all  
10 our local businesses. We bring people to work in our  
11 town. They will help each and every one of us. They'll  
12 help our taxpayers. They'll help our tax -- businesses  
13 that are paying top dollars here in Stony Point. That's  
14 what we need.

15 This will also affect many other  
16 opportunities we have here. We're talking about  
17 waterfront property with about 100 condos and two  
18 waterfront restaurants that this line will run right  
19 through. That will probably stop that project. We're  
20 also looking at a half a billion dollar green energy  
21 plant right here in Stony Point. This line runs right  
22 through that. Those are millions of dollars in business

1 that we can generate here in Stony Point, in Rockland  
2 County, in New York. Not New Mexico, sir, New York.  
3 And that's what we need to do.

4 And we cannot jeopardize this by allowing  
5 this line to come here. It's an extension cord. That's  
6 all it is, a 330-mile extension cord coming from Canada  
7 all the way to Queens. We don't need it. We don't want  
8 it. We can put our own people back to work here. And  
9 we may be a small town, but we're going to be loud. I  
10 know Susan has been leading the pack on this for a long  
11 time, the Casscles.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. FINN: But we're not going to sit down  
14 and be quiet about this. We're going to make sure we're  
15 heard, and we would appreciate if you guys would respect  
16 the people of Stony Point, the people of Rockland  
17 County, and get these people back to work right here in  
18 our town. Thanks.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. MILLS: Are there any other elected  
21 officials who wish to speak?

22 (No response.)

1 MR. MILLS: Annie Wilson?

2 MS. WILSON: Okay. Hi, good evening. I'm  
3 Annie Wilson, and I work with the New York Environmental  
4 Justice Project in the city, and generally, we serve the  
5 disenfranchised and underserved populations, and I have  
6 been involved in this process since its beginning. And  
7 I would like to bring several issues to your attention  
8 tonight and will follow up with written comments by due  
9 date.

10 First of all, would it be possible to extend  
11 the comment period by at least 45 to 180 days given the  
12 volume of review and the expertise needed for both the  
13 Department of Energy, EIS, and the U.S. Corps of  
14 Engineer materials? It's a lot to demand competent  
15 review in such little time.

16 There are many details which I cannot cover  
17 here tonight. But, for example, the three-mile  
18 extension in Queens, which was not part of your initial  
19 review by the State Public Service Commission and  
20 certificate that was issued in April of this past year.

21 Wouldn't that require some kind of amended application  
22 by the developer back to the State -- back to the State?

1 It seems to be appropriate. And I think this needs to  
2 be one of the top priorities as a next step for this  
3 process.

4 I would like to address specifically for  
5 tonight because the jobs issue is obviously very, very,  
6 very relevant, and the fact that there are so little  
7 jobs -- long-term jobs created by this cable of a  
8 thousand megawatts into Queens. The jobs are in Canada;  
9 they're not here in New York. This project displaces  
10 New York jobs. New York City, for example, has quite a  
11 bit of program for 5,000 megawatts of potential solar  
12 roofs. The State has a SunShot Program. There's plenty  
13 of potential here in Stony Point and issues with other  
14 power suppliers that are being disregarded as a supply  
15 option.

16 And I will cite Section 7.2 in the -- what is  
17 the summary document? Past sentences state that the  
18 "DoE has determined that conservation and demand  
19 reduction measure alternatives alone is not a reasonable  
20 alternative, and, therefore, not addressed further in  
21 the EIS." This decision is based on the New York State  
22 2009 Energy Plan. There has been the Governor's -- what

1 is known as the Energy Highway Plan. There have been  
2 other initiatives. And certainly the Department of  
3 Energy needs to review what are -- what is the existing  
4 potential at this time and other programs that exist in  
5 the State of New York.

6 The national interest determination by the  
7 Department of State needs to look at the economic  
8 reasons to oppose this project. This project is not in  
9 the national interest. Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. MILLS: Dean Tamburri? Dean Tamburri?

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. TAMBURRI: Good evening, everyone. My  
14 name is Dean Tamburri. I am in favor of this project.  
15 The company TDI has committed to using local labor.  
16 They have committed to using trained labor. We,  
17 Laborer's Local 17 and Laborer's Local 754, have trained  
18 hundreds of construction workers anywhere from OSHA 30,  
19 HAZMAT, asbestos, currently working with Orange and  
20 Rockland on the downed power lines for emergency  
21 services.

22 We have -- currently have hundreds of members

1 at the United States Military Academy, DEP projects, New  
2 Bridge, Beacon Bridge, Tappan Zee Bridge. These jobs  
3 are for the construction workers who have suffered for  
4 so many years without projects. They're going to be  
5 great paying jobs for them and their families with  
6 benefits.

7 We believe that the -- this is going to be  
8 built and we're going to be a part of it. And we would  
9 like to ask at this point is that everyone on all  
10 projects would support local building trades on all the  
11 projects and help them out as well. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. MILLS: Susan?

14 MS. FILGUERAS: Me?

15 MR. MILLS: Yes.

16 MS. FILGUERAS: Susan Filgueras. I live here  
17 in the Town of Stony Point, and, yes, I have headed the  
18 opposition to this. But first, let me acknowledge all  
19 of the men here in orange tonight, and thank you for  
20 coming out and supporting your union and yourselves.

21 What bothers me and what is, I find, very  
22 frightening is that as I read through these documents,

1 there are 26 jobs, and labor will be imported because it  
2 is specialized. And I will continue, but I want you to  
3 know that I appreciate, I sympathize, and I want you to  
4 go to work. I want you to go to work six days a week,  
5 eight hours a day, maybe 10 for two hours' overtime. I  
6 want you working. But I want you working building the  
7 Bowline and the Lovett and power here in New York State  
8 in Rockland County. But thank you, gentlemen.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. FILGUERAS: Now, onto the harder stuff.  
11 I am going to ask tonight for a 180-day extension on  
12 this process for the following reasons. We have been  
13 frantically trying to clear through well over 3,000  
14 pages of material. And we are not utility specialists.  
15 We are not all of you folks, and thank you, thank you  
16 for being here. We are trying to understand what this  
17 mammoth process is that is going to tear through our  
18 county. We need that extension.

19 Added to that, I tried to confirm this  
20 meeting here at this facility tonight. I called and  
21 asked for the DoE Champlain Hudson Power Express  
22 meeting. What? We don't have one of those meetings.

1 I'll be right down. And as I came down, we had to  
2 literally call the manager at home to call somebody else  
3 to get it -- to figure out that this was the Champlain  
4 Hudson Power Express-Department of Energy DEIS hearing.

5 People didn't know.

6 Added to that, we have a Hispanic population.

7 I have not seen Hispanic outreach. And if this project  
8 -- there are six different maps or I've lost count of  
9 how many there are -- goes through some of the low lying  
10 areas in Stony Point, they will go clear through a  
11 fairly substantial population. Haverstraw, the back end  
12 of Hudson Avenue, is Hispanic, yet no Hispanic outreach  
13 has been done. Typically through this process, the  
14 Champlain Hudson Power Express has shown nothing but  
15 contempt for the people of Rockland County. I am asking  
16 for a 180-day extension.

17 Added to that, I also sent to the New York  
18 State Public Service Commission the following: "This  
19 notice is to inform you that the trajectory for the  
20 Champlain Hudson Power Express has been extended by  
21 three miles from 333 to 336, depending on which document  
22 you read. At the end -- and it ends at the Ravenswood



1 Generating Station owned by TransCanada. Does this  
2 significant change require a review by the New York  
3 State Public Service Commission, or will an amended  
4 application be required?" I've gone through the  
5 documents. I'm not saying it's not there. It has ended  
6 at each point at Rainey. The maps show it ends at  
7 Ravenswood, so I have asked the New York State Public  
8 Service Commission officially for clarification on that.

9 I need to sit down. I didn't finish.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. SMITH: Please submit the written  
12 comments to us so that we have all of those.

13 MS. FILGUERAS: So that you know, I'll have  
14 written comments.

15 MS. SMITH: Okay, great.

16 MR. MILLS: Frank Collins?

17 MR. COLLIER: Collier.

18 MR. MILLS: Collier, gotcha.

19 MR. COLLIER: Good evening. Frank Collier of  
20 the Town of Stony Point. Thank you all very much for  
21 having this meeting.

22 A couple of things that caught my eye in this

1 -- in this EIS is the economic impact on our town. Now,  
2 as this thing has been wending its way through, we've  
3 had meetings here in town. We see that there is -- it's  
4 going to come down the railroad, but there's going to be  
5 a deviation zone off here so they can kind of fit it all  
6 in as they need. The deviation zone goes into private  
7 property, so the deviation zone will probably take this  
8 private property by eminent domain. So it will affect a  
9 number of people in Stony Point, like the Casscles, the  
10 Beckerles. One other -- a large organization in Stony  
11 Point is going to put in this gasification plant that  
12 was talked about before. That's not been considered. I  
13 don't believe there has been any consideration for the  
14 economic impact on our town of what's coming through.

15           Now, when this -- when this deviation zone  
16 comes through, there are other companies out there now  
17 in the wings who waiting to come through with their  
18 extension cord from Canada, and they're going to come  
19 down, and they're going to have to either stay in a  
20 deviation zone or alongside it. So this is going to  
21 expand and expand and expand. What you will allow with  
22 this is will become magnified in the future. So we

1 really have to pay attention to what that's going to be.

2 So I would ask you to please take a look at that.

3 And again, I'd like to thank you for the  
4 union guys that are here. I'd like to see you bring an  
5 American company building an American power plant in  
6 Stony Point for Americans to work in. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MILLS: Steven Wright?

9 MR. REICH: Good evening, everybody. My name  
10 is Steven Reich. I'm the Business Manager for the  
11 Laborers. I represent a lot of these orange guys. And  
12 we absolutely hear everything you guys are saying, and  
13 actually in the beginning we were not fully supportive  
14 of this whole thing. But as time has gone by, we got to  
15 put men to work. We've seen Bowline 3 stall. We've  
16 seen, you know, Lovett stall. We've seen the energy  
17 highway just blah. TDI, they talked to our  
18 international people, signed an agreement, made an  
19 agreement to use local union laborers on this part of  
20 this. We had the agreement signed. And we agreed to  
21 support them.

22 After looking at -- what we can tell from the

1 DEIS and from what we see in general, the vast majority  
2 of it is on already established rights-of-way. There is  
3 some deviations, like the gentleman before me said, and  
4 those definitely have to be dealt with. I wasn't able  
5 to read fast enough to see --

6 SPEAKER: (Off audio.)

7 MR. REICH: I'm not saying -- it has changed  
8 the route. The route has changed. But we -- in general  
9 we see this as one part of the overall thing, and we  
10 would like to see this in combination with Bowline 3 and  
11 -- or whether it be Tompkins Cove, because the energy,  
12 as we all know, is going to be needed in the next 20,  
13 40, 60, 80 years. So just to have -- and we definitely  
14 want home generation. But to have one part of our  
15 energy source at least as an outlet from Canada, who --  
16 I don't consider them our enemies. I don't think it's a  
17 bad thing.

18 So overall, we're with you guys in Stony  
19 Point. Many of my members live here. I mean, we --  
20 North Rockland is here. I mean, we are North Rockland,  
21 we really are. And we understand your concerns. We  
22 also have members that would treat this place like they

1 live here because they do.

2 So however this thing turns out, either way,  
3 we're together, all right? Thanks.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. MILLS: Wellington Casscles?

6 MR. CASSCLES: Okay. Wellington Casscles is  
7 my name. I live at 69 Beech Road. I've lived there all  
8 my life. I come in this evening -- I have some maps in  
9 the back of the room, the terrestrial maps. The ones  
10 you guys got back there are from 2012. They've been  
11 changed four times since then. Mr. Jessome came to town  
12 in February with a new set of maps. I don't think you  
13 guys got them.

14 But going by the maps that you do have, Stony  
15 Point has about two miles worth of railroad right-of-  
16 way. Out of that two miles, this project is going to be  
17 in the right-of-way seven-tenths of a mile. The rest of  
18 it is town, county, private property that they're going  
19 to have to take eminent domain.

20 We've got, like they said, the gasification  
21 plant and condos at the end of the street where I am.  
22 If we lose those two, we're going to lose our whole tax

1 base, and there ain't nobody in this town that will be  
2 able to afford to live here.

3           This project does nothing for Stony Point but  
4 carve a path through. Like they said before, there's  
5 six or seven other outfits out there waiting for this.  
6 If this gets approved, you can't stop then. The  
7 deviation is always going to be even longer, okay?

8           Back in June, Mr. Jessome was here. I gave  
9 him a set of questions I needed answers, and they're  
10 just simple questions: how big are the reels of cable,  
11 how much does it weigh per foot, how do you plan on  
12 getting it here. To this day, I still haven't got an  
13 answer. Tonight he says he's going to send a guy to my  
14 house. We'll see.

15           Okay. As far as the labor union, hey, I'm  
16 pulling for you. I used to belong to IBEW's 363. This  
17 job is only going to be in Stony Point or Rockland  
18 County for six months tops. They're coming through and  
19 they're gone. Build a power house, you go five years  
20 plus, plus the people that are going to be here.

21           (Applause.)

22           MR. CASSCLES: Plus the people who are going

1 to be here afterwards running the place. Yeah,  
2 everybody's got a right to work. I would rather see you  
3 guys go out and fight for a five-year job versus a four-  
4 month job. You got the bridge and everything else going  
5 right now. Get behind us on this, and we'll see what we  
6 can do.

7 Worst case, put it back in the damn river.  
8 The DEC says we can't eat the fish.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CASSCLES: But in the meantime we're  
11 trying to protect the fish that we can't eat, you know,  
12 in Cornwall where the sturgeons spawn. They spawn in  
13 Cornwall so they're going to work around that time of  
14 the year. They won't work around it for Haverstraw  
15 because nothing spawns there. They spawn up above and  
16 they come back into Haverstraw. Well, while they're  
17 spawning, why don't we do the Haverstraw end of it?  
18 After they're done spawning, do the other half. Thank  
19 you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MILLS: Rebecca Casscles?

22 MS. CASSCLES: Rebecca Casscles, 69 Beech

1 Road. Please pardon my back. I think you labor  
2 gentlemen are going to be interested in knowing that TDI  
3 is a wholly owned company by the Blackstone Group. This  
4 is the company that -- with the financial advisors for  
5 the Mirant Company before, during, and after the  
6 bankruptcy. The very company that wants to hire you is  
7 the company that put two of our power plants out of  
8 business, took them offline, okay?

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. CASSCLES: My husband spoke about the  
11 deviation zone. TDI is going to give Rockland County  
12 for 7.66 miles, \$796,640 a year. Meanwhile, the houses  
13 -- one house along the rail line, not all the one-eighth  
14 of a mile, which, by the way, they're going to be able  
15 to take. We're losing a million dollars a year in  
16 revenue. If this goes through, I am going to file for a  
17 tax reduction because my home will not be worth what it  
18 normally is.

19 I'm also going to quote from the Public  
20 Service Commission decision of April 18th, 2013.  
21 "Eminent domain will be used." It has to be used, it  
22 must be used to make this go through.



1           Production cost analysis. The only ones that  
2 will capture any type of money from this will be  
3 captured by the applicants, their financial backers,  
4 and/or users of the facility. Jobs -- listen carefully,  
5 gentlemen and ladies. "The applicant's evidence on job  
6 creation was incomplete in a fundamental way," page 3.  
7 Also on page 3, "The record is void on the critical  
8 question of whether these jobs would be offset or more  
9 than offset by the jobs displaced at the conventional  
10 generating facilities that will not" -- will not -- "be  
11 built as a consequence."

12           Transmission corridor developers, page 19 and  
13 74. "Will the approval CHPE set a precedent" -- pardon  
14 me -- "for the approval of future transmission lines?"  
15 The answer is yes because there's already other  
16 companies out there waiting. Green power -- "At no time  
17 does the PSC decision confirm the percentage of green  
18 power. Fracking will be used to install the  
19 transmission line." No environmental impact statement  
20 was done for the land installation for Rockland County,  
21 none. I'd like to know why not. Everybody else has to  
22 do it.

1           The Ramapo Fault Line. CHPE will cross over  
2 the fault line. What are the consequences for us?  
3 Evacuation plans. I live right next to the CSX rails.  
4 Who's going to be responsible for developing an  
5 evacuation plan, which, by the way, ladies and  
6 gentlemen, is a Federal mandate. National security.  
7 Who's going to protect us if this line goes through?

8           Taxes. How do we recoup the lost revenue for  
9 the devaluation of our properties should the CHPE  
10 transmission, in fact, be built? One million dollars  
11 today, \$796,640 yearly from TDI. That's going to be  
12 divided by Rockland County, the towns that are involved  
13 in this, as well as the school district. It means each  
14 one of these entities, if they're lucky, will get  
15 \$222,000 a year, not a million, \$222,000.

16           And finally, this forces New York City's  
17 dependence on foreign produced electric. I say American  
18 jobs for American people. Let's build power plants.

19           (Applause.)

20           MR. MILLS: Hayley Carlock?

21           MS. CARLOCK: Good evening. My name is  
22 Hayley Carlock, and I am the environmental advocacy

1 attorney with Scenic Hudson. Scenic Hudson is a non-  
2 profit group which works to protect and restore the  
3 Hudson River and is the largest environmental group  
4 focused on the Hudson River Valley.

5 I participated in the Department of Energy  
6 scoping statement hearing back over three years ago now,  
7 and came there with serious concerns about the impacts  
8 of installing a cable within the Hudson River estuary.  
9 And around the same time, Scenic Hudson became involved  
10 with the Public Service Commission Article 7 siting  
11 proceeding.

12 However, after two years plus of living and  
13 breathing this project up in Albany, we achieved  
14 significant improvements to the route, and after  
15 commissioning an expert report by ESS Group, which  
16 detailed the potential environmental impact of the  
17 project, and, of course, through our own review, we  
18 concluded that the impacts to the estuary would be  
19 minimal and were outweighed by the benefits of the  
20 project as long as certain conditions were met.

21 We were pleased to see the project route  
22 changed to avoid sensitive areas in the Hudson River,

1 including Haverstraw Bay. The route as it is in the EIS  
2 avoids directly transiting 12 out of the 17 significant  
3 coastal fish and wildlife habitats in the estuary. And  
4 in areas where it will be transiting the Hudson River,  
5 there are exclusion zones of particularly sensitive  
6 areas where cable installation will be avoided.

7           In addition, the cables would be buried to  
8 the maximum depth achievable, expected to be at least  
9 six feet below the sediment water interface, except in  
10 limited areas where there's bedrock or debris where it  
11 may have to be covered, and they'll also be installed  
12 vertically on top of one another, which both minimizes  
13 the heat from the cables and as well pretty much ends up  
14 in the magnetic field cancelling out. Underwater cable  
15 installation activities would be limited to certain  
16 times of the year to avoid life cycle impacts on  
17 migratory species as well as the American chad, winter  
18 flounder, striped bass, and other fish populations.

19           There will be continuous monitoring of water  
20 quality. There will be pre- and post-installation  
21 benthic and sediment monitoring, bathymetry, temperature  
22 and magnetic field studies, and pre- and post-

1 installation surgeon tracking studies, all of which will  
2 work to ensure that construction is not impacting that  
3 water quality and aquatic species.

4           And while Scenic Hudson did become involved  
5 in the project primarily due to concerns about the  
6 potential impacts of the Hudson River, we carefully  
7 evaluated the impacts of undergrounding the line on land  
8 before advocating for this option to avoid especially  
9 sensitive habit, including in Haverstraw Bay. The vast  
10 majority of the eight-mile terrestrial route in Rockland  
11 County is within the railroad right-of-way and with some  
12 along Route 9W. There would certainly be some temporary  
13 disturbances, but no permanent significant impact.

14           (Murmuring by audience members.)

15           MS. CARLOCK: In the limited distance  
16 traversed under Stony Point Battlefield State Park, Hook  
17 Mountain State Park, and Rockland Lake State Park,  
18 horizontal directional drilling techniques will be used  
19 to allow installation of the transmission line without  
20 disturbing the surface of the parks.

21           As mentioned earlier, there will be no  
22 electrical field and small magnetic fields that will

1 dissipate with distance from the line.

2 (Murmuring by audience members.)

3 MS. CARLOCK: While we approached this  
4 project in 2010 with deep concerns about its  
5 environmental impacts, we believe that the environmental  
6 impacts from this project will generally be temporary in  
7 nature and overall represent a small impact to the  
8 Hudson River. Thank you.

9 SPEAKER: -- stop talking. She's going to  
10 have to stop talking. Your time is over.

11 MS. CARLOCK: Thank you very much.

12 MR. MILLS: We don't need any help from the  
13 audience, please.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. SMITH: We ask that everyone respects  
16 folks when they're speaking whether or not they are  
17 speaking with -- in terms of -- support your opinion or  
18 not. And there are other folks that did get a little  
19 bit more time. So we appreciate your patience and  
20 respect of all the speakers.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MILLS: Laurie Cozza?

1 MS. COZZA: Hi. I, too, am a resident of  
2 Stony Point, and I also request that we receive an  
3 extension. I'm deeply concerned with the fact that an  
4 environmental impact statement has not been done on the  
5 land portion going through Stony Point and Haverstraw.

6 We have a Superfund site in Stony Point known  
7 as Kay Fries. We also have a Brownfield site at our  
8 past dump. These issues have not been addressed. We  
9 have wetlands. All of this is in a very small area, and  
10 I really think that it has to be looked at before this  
11 project is allowed to proceed. We have no idea what the  
12 consequences could be.

13 I also would have to say the Casscles, and  
14 Susan, and Frank have expressed what a lot of us are  
15 feeling, and I won't take any more time. I appreciate  
16 you being here. Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

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18 MR. MILLS: Kathleen Redmond?

19 MS. REDMOND: Hi. I'm Katherine Redmond from  
20 Tompkins Cove. And I really put on my list that I maybe  
21 would have a comment because I really am not all that  
22 familiar with it.

1           But something strikes me about what's going  
2 on here. It seems to me like we have an adversarial  
3 kind of thing going on between the union people and the  
4 people in the town. I could be wrong. And when I say  
5 that, I don't mean to imply that we're -- everybody I  
6 know is in favor of unions working. We all are. All  
7 I'm saying is I think we could combine our efforts, the  
8 union efforts for this project. And if we could just  
9 take that line and move it back into the river and off  
10 the land, if we don't put it through Stony Point. We  
11 don't put it through Haverstraw. And if the union  
12 combines with us to support that move, we can work  
13 together and try to save the fish. And I think that  
14 might be really great because if --

15           And, you know, one of the other things that  
16 struck me. We're worried about the fish, and yet the  
17 line that's supposed to be moved onto the land in Stony  
18 Point, the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant is right  
19 across the river from there. If that hasn't damaged in  
20 some degree -- hasn't had an impact on the fish  
21 population, I think for sure we could work around this  
22 electrical line and try to help the fish out. Thank



1 you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. MILLS: Eugene Creasy?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. MILLS: Steven --

6 MS. MCDONALD: Ludwigson.

7 MR. MILLS: -- Ludwigson?

8 MR. LUDWIGSON: Good evening. My name is  
9 Steve Ludwigson. I'm the Business Manager for the  
10 Boilermakers Local 5. I represent the boilermakers in  
11 all of New York State, with the exception of the 16  
12 counties located around Buffalo, New York. Our members  
13 are highly skilled professionals with expertise that  
14 comes only with extensive training and years of  
15 practice.

16 I'm here tonight to state on the record that  
17 Boilermakers Local 5 opposes the Champlain Hudson Power  
18 Express Line and the proposed Federal action of granting  
19 of a presidential permit to construct, operate, and  
20 maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line  
21 across the U.S.-Canada border in northeastern New York  
22 State.

1           The Champlain Hudson Power Express Line --  
2   excuse me -- which proposes to bring a thousand  
3   megawatts of power directly from Canada to New York  
4   City, would do nothing to strengthen the State's  
5   electricity grid. Practically speaking, the  
6   transmission line is a large extension cord that would  
7   bypass all of our State's existing energy sources and  
8   transmission infrastructure, such as Upstate New York  
9   plants that have an excess of available power instead of  
10   enhancing the overall capacity and stability of New  
11   York's power grid. New York will not be able to benefit  
12   from the low cost power these upstate plans could be  
13   producing and will instead become completely reliant on  
14   a foreign source of electricity. Our good friends in  
15   Canada will get new jobs, and New Yorkers will get the  
16   bill.

17           While we support an electricity highway that  
18   improves the State's energy infrastructure and generates  
19   union jobs for New Yorkers, we reject CHPE's proposal as  
20   a jobs killer. For maximum benefits to New York,  
21   especially in job retention and creation, new  
22   electricity infrastructure should support current and

1 new in-State power generation.

2           New York needs to improve the transmission  
3 grid in the upstate and western regions so that in-State  
4 power can be transported more efficiently, more  
5 economically, and in greater quantity throughout the  
6 State. Investing in our transmission infrastructure  
7 will lead to new jobs being created and new  
8 opportunities for energy development throughout the  
9 State.

10           We can't ignore the obvious. New York  
11 already has a very substantial generating capacity that  
12 can be expanded upon to meet our State's needs. New  
13 York can and should keep up with growing demand by  
14 ensuring the continued operation of our in-State energy  
15 sources and constructing new plants both upstate and  
16 downstate as necessary. There are several shovel-ready  
17 sites that are already permitted or pending permits in  
18 the Hudson Valley that could meet this demand and keep  
19 New Yorkers working and the revenue generated in State.

20           In order to have a strong 21st century  
21 economy, New York needs to build and produce products.  
22 We can no longer afford to be viewed only as consumers

1 bearing the brunt of others' profits. Energy and  
2 manufacturing provide sustained, long-term, good paying  
3 jobs, a large portion of which are skilled union  
4 positions. These jobs enable individuals to stay in New  
5 York State, raise a family, and grow the middle class.  
6 They establish the economic infrastructure for many  
7 additional services and power other sectors of the  
8 State's economy.

9           New York's economy needs to be energized, and  
10 the opportunities are out there waiting to be seized  
11 upon. Such is the case with the opportunity of New  
12 York's growing demand for electricity and solving  
13 transmission congestion problems by investing in our in-  
14 State electrical infrastructure rather than compounding  
15 these issues with a costly outsource to Canada. For the  
16 jobs and literally a brighter future, we must act now  
17 and oppose the CHPE as an outright detriment to New York  
18 State.

19           And just for the record, I know we have two  
20 trades here tonight that are in support. This is an  
21 open letter to the New York congressional delegation  
22 rejecting the Champlain Hudson-Canadian Line signed by

1 Richard Roberts, the Business Agent At Large for  
2 Steamfitters Local 638 and his President, Patrick Dolan,  
3 Michael Cavanaugh, the Vice President of New York City  
4 District Council of Carpenters, and Anthony Spirito, the  
5 Executive Vice President of Mechanical Contractors  
6 Association, James Levin, Vice President of the Utility  
7 Workers of America's Local 12, Don Dailey, Chairman of  
8 the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
9 Utility Labor Council, State of New York, and myself.  
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. MILLS: Brian McPartland?

13 MR. MCPARTLAND: Good evening, everybody. My  
14 name is Brian McPartland. I'm the Business  
15 Representative for Local Union 503. And I stand in  
16 opposition to this project.

17 I'm probably not as well versed as everybody  
18 here; however, I do want to -- I know Rebecca and  
19 Wellington. This is going to do nothing for this  
20 country. We had two power plants here. I had 250  
21 members working daily. We leveled the power plant  
22 because, remember, deregulation was going to make energy

1 cheaper. Has it?

2 SPEAKERS: No.

3 MR. MCPARTLAND: Right, I didn't think so.  
4 So what I'm doing here I'm just coming to show that my  
5 brothers and sisters are working. The Laborers just  
6 signed a deal with my company that I represent to watts  
7 down wires. We don't need to send it to Canada.

8 On the environmental thing, I don't know how  
9 many of you are fishermen, but I'm a fisherman. I fish  
10 that river every spring, and I'm very concerned about  
11 that, that we're going to -- you know, we catch fish  
12 here. It's our river. We don't need this coming in  
13 here.

14 We never had an issue, never had an issue  
15 when we had the power plants, right? What happened? We  
16 leveled the power plants. Taxes went through the roof.  
17 We have Bowline 3. I could go on. All you got to do  
18 is support that, and that will keep it in New York  
19 State. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MILLS: Mary Ellen Furlong?

22 MS. FURLONG: You'll have to be patient with

1 me. My name is Mary Ellen Furlong. I've lived in Stony  
2 Point now for 26 years. And we the citizens of Stony  
3 Point don't want this cable invading and destroying our  
4 community because that's the way we see it.

5 We don't want to set a precedent that will  
6 allow and all other cable carriers to invade our homes.

7 There's no benefit to our community, and the ones who  
8 benefit are Champlain Power and Blackstone Investors,  
9 the money men, not us.

10 If the cable was no good for the fish, as Mr.  
11 Basile mentioned earlier, then it's no good for the  
12 residents on the land, okay?

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. FURLONG: If the Tappan Zee Bridge  
15 construction is being allowed to occur in the river,  
16 then you can run your cable through the river, or as the  
17 \$127 million that was promised to River Keeper, their  
18 bribe to let that cable come on our land, and not go  
19 through the river.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. FURLONG: This cable will desecrate the  
22 graves of our war dead, the war dead from the American

1 Revolution, the War of 1812, the people who grew and  
2 established this town and fought the British so you can  
3 have a country.

4 Cables fail. There's no question about that.

5 You want it to run along tracks that carry toxic  
6 materials, and accidents have already occurred. We  
7 cannot allow a bigger disaster to occur, especially  
8 where this cable, and the proposed desalinization plant,  
9 and the proposed gas line will meet in Haverstraw.  
10 We'll blow Rockland County off the map. No one has  
11 addressed the potential threat of terrorism and the  
12 cable. If it's in the river, what is the likelihood of  
13 it being attacked? What is the likelihood if it's on  
14 land and being attacked? I don't see any National Guard  
15 troops going to be stationed along that route. Who's  
16 going to pay for it?

17 You need to walk, Mr. Mills, Ms. McDonald,  
18 you need to walk the route. Mr. Casscles, he'll take  
19 you, I'm pretty sure.

20 SPEAKER: Absolutely.

21 MS. FURLONG: And you'll see where this cable  
22 is running. Now, I know I'm a little over, but this is



1 -- I only got another sentence or two. If you allow  
2 this cable to go through, then it's my recommendation  
3 that the people of Stony Point impose a community  
4 service charge on Champlain Power of a million dollars a  
5 foot per day.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. FURLONG: And that after -- and that the  
8 other towns do so as well and on any other cable  
9 carriers who are allowed to enter our boundaries, then  
10 increase the fees on Champlain and the other carriers.  
11 Make it \$3 million a foot. Make it \$7 million a foot.  
12 You want to make us a dumping ground. Well, it's going  
13 to cost you.

14 The people of Stony Point don't want it, and  
15 we have a right to say that, be heard, and determine our  
16 future. We're tired of everybody coming in, and dumping  
17 on us, and allowing deregulation, and destroying our tax  
18 base and our town. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. MILLS: Brenda Beckerle?

21 MS. BECKERLE: Hello. Breda Beckerle, 49  
22 Beech Road, and I'd like to echo my opposition to this

1 project, and also to support the request for 180 extra  
2 additional days.

3           Some of my friends here have put in heroic  
4 work in trying to work through this phenomenal amount of  
5 expert knowledge to come up with, if you will, well-  
6 articulated objections. But it's a task that cannot be  
7 done by local people in a very short span of time.

8           To echo some of the comments that have been  
9 made here this evening, I'm a riverfront dweller, so I  
10 have a personal interest here. But I also would like to  
11 say that Stony Point is a river town. It is the  
12 identity of Stony Point. It is the crown jewel of Stony  
13 Point.

14           And Stony Point woke up some morning in the  
15 last couple of years and learned out of the blue, in my  
16 estimation, that this project had been re-routed out of  
17 the Hudson River literally through every single foot of  
18 river exposure this town has. Why? Westchester didn't  
19 want it. Scenic Hudson didn't want it. So it was a  
20 long list of didn't wants. We have asked endlessly who  
21 made the decision that if you all didn't want it, we'd  
22 get it. How did that happen? And to this day, I don't

1 think we've had a satisfactory answer. All we know is  
2 that every foot this town has of its most precious  
3 resource is being basically confiscated in the interest  
4 of private profit, and that is what this is. It's  
5 private profit, foreign profit. And it's the first of  
6 many.

7           We have, I believe, very good reason to fear  
8 that our crown jewel is going to be the dumping ground  
9 and the infrastructure corridor for what everybody else  
10 doesn't want to have. And with all due respect to  
11 Scenic Hudson and with all due respect to the fish, we  
12 don't, I think, have any credible explanation that that  
13 deviation is necessary from everything we've seen or  
14 heard.

15           Why in this 330-plus miles does Stony Point  
16 have to give up every inch it has of riverfront for  
17 these projects, and in that short span of time, run  
18 through a battlefield, a Revolutionary cemetery,  
19 projected projects on the riverfront? What else do we  
20 have here? We have wetlands. We've brown spots. We've  
21 got the -- it's literally one after another abutting  
22 each other. There's nothing free. There's no free

1 land. Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. MILLS: Timothy Waldron?

4 MR. WALDRON: Good evening. With the time  
5 given, I'm going to speak as the Acting Chairperson of  
6 the Bay Mar Community Organization, and then as a  
7 private citizen if there's enough time.

8 Good evening. The Bay Mar Community  
9 Organization is greatly concerned with the project. The  
10 CSX railway is only a good stone's throw away, so this  
11 project is very, very close to where we live and will  
12 have a great impact on us.

13 The Bay Mar Manufacturing home community to  
14 date has no received outreach from the Champlain Hudson  
15 Power Express, Incorporated, New York State, or New York  
16 City, apparently the only beneficiary to this power  
17 line. No correspondence in English or Spanish has been  
18 received yet. And it needs to be pointed out that Bay  
19 Mar has a significant Spanish-speaking population whose  
20 first language is Spanish.

21 Our community was hit hard by Hurricane Sandy  
22 just over a year ago, which has left us with a lot of

1 uncertainty. We now learn that we have more uncertainty  
2 placed upon us. This time it comes from the form a man-  
3 made storm. The high voltage power line that is set to  
4 be placed so close to us is extremely troublesome to us,  
5 and hopefully to all of Stony Point and Rockland County.  
6 Obviously it is. Sorry about that.

7           Currently the Bay Mar property may have  
8 little impact as one map shows, but this is no guarantee  
9 here. The path can change and has changed already. As  
10 it stands now, the line will disrupt the Stony Point  
11 Battlefield, a State historic site, the historic Waldron  
12 Cemetery, and a number of homes here in Stony Point  
13 where good, decent people live.

14           Let it be said now people are now no better  
15 than second on the protection list. The sturgeons of  
16 Haverstraw Bay come first, which is the line comes out  
17 of the Hudson into the battlefield and right-of-way  
18 along the CSX line, and also will run through Stony  
19 Point's wetland. None of this sounds good for Stony  
20 Point families, the battlefield, the Waldron Cemetery,  
21 or wildlife, or our environments, along the real  
22 possibility of a line that already crisscrosses the

1 tracks and could end up on the east side of the tracks  
2 that disrupts Bay Mar at an even greater risk to its  
3 residents.

4           The Bay Mar Community Organization must  
5 solemnly, loudly, and clearly call for an end to this  
6 project. There is no way to stop it -- if there is no  
7 way to stop it, then put it in the river. Bay Mar says  
8 people over sturgeons.

9           (Applause.)

10           MR. WALDRON: For my fellow union brethren  
11 out there, I've been in two unions. They don't always  
12 tell you the truth. Just keep that in mind. I've been  
13 lied to directly by unions. We were asked to vote for  
14 Andrew Cuomo. You know what he did? He took money  
15 right out of my paycheck and spent millions and millions  
16 of dollars to say, hey, we're getting corporations  
17 breaks on everything.

18           I have a book here. On page S-2 -- I'm sorry  
19 -- on page S-32 in this book, it is the Champlain  
20 Express book. There is no negligible increase in your  
21 jobs. It is quite limited. Anybody who wants to see  
22 it, I'll meet you right now. Here's the book. I wish

1 you would express that to your fellow members who left.  
2 The jobs aren't there. I hope we all get jobs. We've  
3 heard of other ways to get it. I'll stop. I'm going  
4 over my limit. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. MILLS: Kevin Kennedy?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. MILLS: Robert Knight?

9 MR. KNIGHT: I'm Robert Knight, and I'm here  
10 representing two organizations, the Stony Point Chapter  
11 of the Sons of the Revolution and the Rockland County  
12 Municipal Historians Association. Neither group is  
13 either opposed or in favor of the power line. What both  
14 groups are opposed to is a piece of destruction that it  
15 virtually guarantees in Stony Point.

16 The main one is the Waldron Cemetery, which  
17 our chapter president will hopefully talk on a little  
18 later, where hundreds of Revolutionary War, War of 1812,  
19 and Civil War soldiers are buried, and which will be  
20 completely destroyed by the power line. The cemetery  
21 was already partially destroyed in the 1880s when the  
22 West Shore Railroad line was built through it, and now

1 the power line is going to take what's left of the  
2 cemetery adjacent to the railroad tracks. And it also  
3 goes right through the heart of the Stony Point  
4 Battlefield, which is Stony Point's national treasure.  
5 It's a site on the National Register of Historic Sites.

6           Personally I don't care if they put it down  
7 in the middle of the river. That's fine as I'm far as  
8 I'm concerned. But heaven's sake, don't destroy Stony  
9 Point's most historic cemetery and most historic  
10 battlefield site.

11           (Applause.)

12           MR. MILLS: Barry Brooks?

13           MR. BROOKS: I'm Barry Brooks, President of  
14 the Sons of the -- Stony Point Chapter of the Sons of  
15 the American Revolution. Most everything that I was  
16 going to say has been said two or three times. But I do  
17 want to point out a couple of things. This picture here  
18 shows where --

19           SPEAKER: The railroad.

20           MR. BROOKS: Yeah, but it shows where the  
21 cemetery is, but it also shows the deviation zone. If  
22 you were to go through that cemetery on the -- on the



1 eastern end, there aren't any headstones left. But  
2 believe me, I -- we have accurately determined that  
3 there are at least 200 bodies in the area of -- which  
4 would be disturbed by this transmission line.

5           A year ago when we met at Row Cottage and  
6 discussed with the Assembly and senators who attended  
7 that meeting, I let out a passionate plea for them to go  
8 down and visit. And I know they did, but it didn't do  
9 any good. Here a year later -- thank you -- here a year  
10 later, it's still slated in the same spot.

11           It's about time -- they've got the Tappan Zee  
12 -- new Tappan Zee Bridge going right across the river.  
13 What is the difference between that and this  
14 transmission line, you know? Put it -- put it in the  
15 river. They're doing the bridge. That's a three-mile  
16 area down there. And this way it would save Stony  
17 Point. All right, thank you.

18           (Applause.)

19           MR. MILLS: Lynn Teager?

20           (No response.)

21           MR. MILLS: No Lynn Teager?

22           SPEAKER: She just left.

1 MR. MILLS: Rich Thomas?

2 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, everybody. And I  
3 just want to especially say thanks to the Sons and  
4 Daughters of the American Revolution. Your families  
5 have really sacrificed the ultimate sacrifice to make  
6 this country. So I just want to say thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. THOMAS: Now, earlier today I submitted a  
9 statement on behalf of my chairman, Jerry Kremer. But I  
10 have a few more documents I just want to quote from and  
11 submit to you for consideration. One includes a letter  
12 that we issued to Congresswoman Nita Lowey in July of  
13 2012. And the -- I'm going to just skip ahead to the  
14 one, two, three, fourth paragraph where it says,  
15 "Champlain Hudson makes little economic sense for New  
16 York. Any positive economic impacts from CHPE will be  
17 short term." Key word "short term." "The jobs which  
18 will be created during the construction process will be  
19 temporary, as will the revenue generated from those  
20 positions. Further, despite the project developer's  
21 claims, Champlain Hudson will inhibit other developers  
22 from investing in much needed improvements to New York's

1 aging transmission and generation systems at a time when  
2 such improvements urgently needed. Jobs to build,  
3 enhance, and support New York's generation and  
4 transmission system will be shipped to Canada, along  
5 with New Yorkers' hard-earned dollars." That's a fact.

6           And this letter is signed by, again, my  
7 chairman, Jerry Kremer, Deb Malone, the Executive  
8 Director of Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce,  
9 Dr. Marsha Gordon, President and CEO of the Business  
10 Council of Westchester, Al Samuels, who is the President  
11 of the Rockland Business Association, Mattie Aracich,  
12 Business Manager of Insulators Local 12, Bill Mooney,  
13 the President of Westchester County Association, Tom  
14 Kline, who is Steve Ludwigson's predecessor, Lenny  
15 Carroll, President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce,  
16 Melvin Burress, African American Men of Westchester, and  
17 Dr. Matthew Cordero, who is the former President and CEO  
18 of the Midwest Independent System Operator, one of the  
19 largest grid operators in the country. And also  
20 attached to it is an op-ed piece that that Al Samuels  
21 authored regarding to reject the Champlain Hudson Power  
22 Express. And I also have some testimony that was made

1 in opposition to the line, some by Con Edison, some by  
2 Phil Wilcox, the Business Agent for IBEW Local 97, who  
3 you will probably hear from upstate, and also including  
4 the New York Power Authority. Each of these entities  
5 has expressed concern about the costs being understated.

6 But there's this one last thing I want to  
7 read before I run out of time, and that is -- hang on.  
8 Here we go. "Even if the Champlain line is developed,  
9 we cannot be assured that Canadian hydroelectric  
10 generators that assume suppliers of the power to New  
11 York via CHPE, will, in fact, continue to operate on a  
12 merchant basis. What happens if these out of State  
13 generators suddenly shift their priorities? The rolling  
14 blackouts and \$1,000 megawatt per hour cost experienced  
15 by California rate payers in 2000 and 2001 illustrates  
16 the danger of being over reliant on imported power."

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. MILLS: Steven Beckel?

19 MS. SMITH: Beckerle?

20 MR. MILLS: He'll tell us.

21 MR. BECKERLE: Steven Beckerle, 49 Beech  
22 Road, Stony Point, New York. I'm going to have two hats

1 tonight. I thank you guys for coming down to Stony  
2 Point. Appreciate it. I also would ask for an  
3 extension. I think we should be given the same study  
4 methods as the fish. She says three years, Scenic  
5 Hudson. I think the town people should get three years.  
6 What do you think?

7 SPEAKERS: Yes.

8 MR. BECKERLE: And I apologize for everybody  
9 interrupting you because I think if we hear you talk,  
10 we'll see the fallacy in the argument. So we should've  
11 let you talk. It's a democracy. Everybody should talk.

12 Okay. Thank you. I'm a resident at 49 Beech  
13 Road. I live in Stony Point. I live right next to the  
14 tracks. My property borders the CSX right-of-way. My  
15 house was built in 1835. It survived the Civil War. It  
16 survived the CSX line coming down in 1880. It was there  
17 before the CSX line. And more recently, we survived  
18 Sandy. I will not survive this CHPE. This CHPE will  
19 take my house.

20 This project is not good for me personally.  
21 It's not good for the residents of Stony Point. And as  
22 my wife said, it's not good for anybody in Stony Point.

1 Whether you're directly impacted or not, it is not good  
2 for Stony Point. And to take it to your position where  
3 you have to look at the greater good, maybe you  
4 sacrifice Stony Point for the greater good, but I also  
5 contend that it is not for the greater good. It's  
6 definitely not good for Stony Point. There's no  
7 argument there. But it is not good for New York State.  
8 It is not good for the United States.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. BECKERLE: Okay. That's my resident  
11 talk. Now, I'm going to be a businessman, and I'm not  
12 going to make up my business because my business started  
13 in 1940. My grandfather started Beckerle Lumber. We  
14 employ 90 people. We have four branches in Rockland  
15 County. In 2012 we paid, small business, 90 people,  
16 \$1.7 million in real estate and sales tax. This figure  
17 does not include payroll tax, income taxes, FICA tax,  
18 Social Security tax, Medicare, Medicaid, workman's comp,  
19 State, city, and the dreaded MTA tax that firms under  
20 100 people have to pay. Over 100 people, you don't have  
21 to pay, but we pay the MTA tax. I'm not griping. It's  
22 a good life. This \$1.7 million does not include any of

1 the taxes our 90 people pay that live and reside in  
2 Rockland County, all local people, all reside in  
3 Rockland County, believe it or not, a lot of families.

4 This line -- why do I bring this up? Well,  
5 it's a public forum. "Buy it Beckerle," right?

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. BECKERLE: No. No. This line also goes  
8 through the town of Haverstraw. I have property, a  
9 five-acre property that borders the CSX line in  
10 Haverstraw. That property is threatened by this one  
11 pipeline, this little thing. Why? Why is it  
12 threatened? I'm going to continue. I would like to  
13 continue.

14 Why is it threatened? The Chaplain -- it's  
15 really threatened because it's bigger than this one.  
16 This is not about one line. This is about a company of  
17 -- a \$4 trillion company, Blackstone, that has an idea.  
18 TDI expressed the idea, good idea. It sounds like a  
19 great idea. But this trillion dollar company that makes  
20 \$2.2 billion in revenue last year, we're no match.  
21 We're no match. A \$1.7 million company is no match for  
22 a trillion dollar company. That is not comprehensible.

1 So I believe that we're getting steamrolled, and we're  
2 getting steamrolled by the bigs.

3 I believe this project, if allowed to  
4 proceed, will just be the start of the local community  
5 being overrun. Recent U.S. Treasury estimates show \$400  
6 to \$500 billion is available in uncommitted capital in  
7 the U.S. investment community. I think we're going to  
8 be the blight. We're going to be the highway. We're  
9 going to be the information highway. Stony Point is  
10 going to be sacrificed if we let this start. We have to  
11 stop it now before it gets off the ground, put it in the  
12 river. I ask for an extension. And thank you for  
13 letting me talk.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. MILLS: Jacquelyn Drechsler?

16 MS. DRECHSLER: I'm going to be wearing two  
17 hats, too. So I'm a private citizen and resident of  
18 Valley Cottage. And I'm here tonight -- actually I'm  
19 very glad for the opportunity to speak at this hearing  
20 on behalf of the Sierra Club Statewide Atlantic Chapter  
21 as well as the Sierra Club Lower Hudson, which  
22 encompasses Rockland, Westchester, and Putnam Counties,



1 which are opposed to this project.

2           Just to let you know, the statement I'm  
3 reading was prepared by Sierra Club professionals, the  
4 Atlantic Chapter. Actually this letter was originally  
5 written to the Public Service Commission.

6           The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club  
7 thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments on  
8 the proposed 333-mile Champlain Hudson Power Express  
9 Transmission Line from the Canadian border to Queens,  
10 New York. We are a volunteer-led environmental  
11 organization of 38,000 members Statewide dedicated to  
12 protecting New York's air, land, water, and remaining  
13 wild places. In general, the chapter believes New York  
14 State needs to support expanded in-State renewable  
15 energy development coupled with energy conservation and  
16 energy efficient programs in order to combat the worst  
17 effects of climate change. New York should not  
18 undermine these goals or exports its environmental  
19 problems through transmission lines that support the  
20 development of destructive Canadian hydropower on virgin  
21 rivers.

22           We have many concerns with the transmission

1 line, including lack of reliability, dubious economic  
2 benefits, negative environmental impacts associated with  
3 the cable route, and issues with cost to rate payers,  
4 which all happen to be in direct contradiction to the  
5 objectives of the recently-proposed New York Energy  
6 Highway Initiative.

7           Solar energy capacity in New York City has  
8 increased 800 percent over the past six years, and the  
9 city has passed its solar energy target of 8.1 MWs under  
10 the federally-funded Solar America City Program three  
11 years early. It is in our economic interest to expand  
12 the solar market in this city of a million rooftops and  
13 the efficiency potential as a result of the city's suite  
14 of green building builds are wise solutions to our  
15 energy needs and the best climate impact mitigation  
16 option.

17           The developers of the Hudson Champlain  
18 Express have claimed that the project will provide jobs  
19 to New Yorkers and supply New York City with additional  
20 energy. But the truth is that we already have the  
21 potential to meet all of our energy needs with in-State  
22 renewable resources and to create jobs that support a

1 sustainable energy infrastructure. Simply put, this  
2 project threatens the viability of in-State renewable  
3 energy and energy efficiency programs. It also fails to  
4 comply with the renewable portfolio standard of New York  
5 as 98 percent of the electricity transmitted through  
6 this electric cable is produced by the destruction of  
7 pristine rivers in Canada. Large-scale hydroelectric  
8 dam systems are not greenhouse gas free.

9           This project threatens the traditions and  
10 livelihood of the Cree and Inuit people through the  
11 damming of virgin rivers in Canada and flooding of  
12 wildlife corridors. As Roger Orr, Cree resident of  
13 James Bay Quebec has said, "No amount of money can make  
14 up for the loss of a river. With the loss of a river  
15 follows the loss of fish and wild game, the loss of a  
16 culture, the loss of connection to the land, the loss of  
17 independence, the loss of pride, the loss of an  
18 effective social structure, the loss of self-  
19 responsibility, the loss of the meaning and purpose in  
20 life and society, the loss of freedom," and the list  
21 goes on and on.

22           On the U.S. side of the border, routing of

1 the electric cable within the Adirondack and Rockland  
2 State Parks violates Article 14 of the New York State  
3 Constitution, the Forever Wild provision.

4           The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter asks again  
5 that the Public Service Commission, since this was  
6 originally to the Public Service Commission, but we're  
7 asking it of you, that we request an opinion by the New  
8 York State Attorney General regarding this important  
9 concern. The precedent set by this property taking of  
10 public land will have a ripple effect through other like  
11 developments that threaten New York's wilderness legacy.

12           The impacts of increasing reliance on out of  
13 State generation must be studied and compared with in-  
14 State deployment of efficiency, conservation, and  
15 renewable forms of energy. The creation of in-State  
16 jobs and economic revitalization must be assessed as  
17 well as the economic losses due to imports. In the  
18 context of this development, the Public Service  
19 Commission and you have a primary obligation to support  
20 and promote the development of a sustainable energy  
21 economy in the City and State of New York before it  
22 looks to exploit Canadian resources and indigenous

1 peoples. There is no need for the Champlain Hudson  
2 Power Express Transmission Proposal, and it is not in  
3 the public interest. We truly need clean energy in New  
4 York made by and for New Yorkers. Thank you for these  
5 comments.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. DRECHSLER: Now, if I may just have about  
8 one more minute just for my own personal as a resident.

9 I have a great love for Rockland Lake, and Hook  
10 Mountain State Park, and all of Rockland County. This  
11 is a very historic area. And all of these other  
12 beautiful areas that everyone in Rockland County enjoy,  
13 these other areas are also going to be affected by this  
14 proposal.

15 These are areas that are very precious to us,  
16 and we do question whether a rigorous environmental  
17 review has been done. And I do believe that an  
18 extension is necessary. Our river has been traumatized  
19 for decades. And right now we have a confluence of  
20 things converging into Rockland County and to this area  
21 of Stony Point and Haverstraw, and it will just decimate  
22 the area. We have Indian Point. We have the Ramapo

1 Fault. We have the Spectra gas line. We have this  
2 transmission line. We have the CSX extension. We have  
3 the desalination plant, and we have the Tappan Zee  
4 Bridge. There is so much happening here. There is so  
5 much risk. There is so much risk in our county for the  
6 public safety. And I really do hope that you will take  
7 all of this under advisement. Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. MILLS: Lynn Teager?

10 MR. MILLS: Did she come back?

11 SPEAKER: She left.

12 MR. MILLS: She left?

13 MS. SMITH: Oh, okay.

14 MR. MILLS: Would anybody else who hasn't  
15 registered to speak like to speak?

16 MR. DIEDRICH: I don't think I'm registered.

17 MR. MILLS: Well, we'll get -- you don't want  
18 to speak?

19 MR. DIEDRICH: Yeah, I do.

20 MS. SMITH: Please go ahead.

21 MR. DIEDRICH: Michael Diedrich. I've been a  
22 Stony Point resident for over 50 years. I concur in

1 everything that Stony Point -- Stony Pointers have said  
2 here tonight, so I'll limit my comments to some things I  
3 think might be useful for your decision making.

4 I think the DoE needs to look at the bigger  
5 picture, the more long-term picture, and the more  
6 sustainable picture regarding this project, and I have  
7 four points I want to discuss. One is environmental and  
8 historic aspects or concerns for Stony Point. Two is  
9 the socioeconomic impacts on Stony Point and North  
10 Rockland. Three is energy policy, regional, and State,  
11 and national. And fourth is environmental segmentation  
12 regarding your environmental impact statement process.

13 So as to the environmental and historic, I  
14 think many speakers have already made this very clear.  
15 We're in what is really the world recognizes as one of  
16 the most scenic areas of the world in the Hudson River  
17 Valley. So this is not a location that we should  
18 despoil in any way, so if you're going to have a cable,  
19 it should be under the river, not viewable from our  
20 landscape. And we're a very historic town. I mean,  
21 this is -- we were the first Revolutionary War victory  
22 against the British.

1           Okay. As to the socioeconomic impacts, I  
2 don't see any benefit long-term for this project, and I  
3 think you need to consider what I'll mention in a moment  
4 regarding energy policy. You need to consider that the  
5 socioeconomic, especially economic benefits of this  
6 project are minimal, and there would be a much greater  
7 economic benefit with all sorts of other possibilities,  
8 many of which have been already expressed here tonight.

9           So that brings me to the third item, which is  
10 environmental policy -- sorry, energy policy. I think  
11 especially the U.S. Department of Energy, if you're only  
12 going to look at this project in the narrow temporal  
13 time wise and the narrow scope of this particular  
14 project, I think that is a very narrow view. I think  
15 you need to be looking at a regional and State energy  
16 policy and what it should be. All sorts of things have  
17 not been considered in connection with importing energy  
18 from Canada.

19           I think -- I mean, hydro power is fine  
20 except, A, I think as the Sierra Club pointed out, I  
21 think if you don't have the power, that's too bad, but I  
22 really think you should consider environmental impacts



1 in Canada, A. B is I think you need to look at with the  
2 New York State, all the various things that we should be  
3 doing for regional and Statewide energy policy, looking  
4 at the issue of hydro fracking, looking at renewable  
5 energy, wind, and looking at what is sustainable in this  
6 region.

7 I think importing energy from Canada, that's  
8 always going to be an option, but that doesn't help us  
9 right now. I think what you, DoE, should be doing is  
10 looking at what the bigger picture is regarding regional  
11 energy planning that works for this region and the  
12 State.

13 And lastly, regarding segmentation. If you  
14 only look at this narrow project, you're missing all the  
15 other developmental things that are going to be coming  
16 down after it, including the potential for other energy  
17 providers coming down the Hudson, and also not looking  
18 at things like transportation planning, regional  
19 transportation planning, and other things that we really  
20 should be looking at in connection with power. So those  
21 are my comments. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

1           MR. MILLS: Thank you. If there's nobody --  
2 is there anybody who has not registered who wants to  
3 speak?

4           MS. SMITH: The gentleman over here, Brian.  
5 The gentleman there, and the gentleman there.

6           MR. GUARINO: Good evening. My name is Alex  
7 Guarino. I'm the Assistant District Supervisor for the  
8 Town of Haverstraw. Unfortunately, the Supervisor had a  
9 previous commitment tonight and could make it. He  
10 apologizes.

11           He wanted me to just let you all know that  
12 he's been opposed to this from the beginning. He  
13 continues to be opposed to it. It makes no sense. We  
14 need to retool local infrastructure. We have Bowline 3.  
15 We have Lovett. We need to put local people back to  
16 work. And thank you very much.

17           (Applause.)

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18           MR. MILLS: Thank you.

19           MR. MCDONALD: My name is Jim McDonald. I'm  
20 a town councilman at the present time, and I'd like to  
21 just review a few things.

22           Fifteen years ago, our politicians in Albany

1 decided that we needed to deregulate our plants. And we  
2 had a fantastic structure here that took care of our  
3 residents and took care of our schools. So they  
4 deregulated, and in came the plants from the south, who  
5 do not pay tax structure like New York, okay? They came  
6 in and they took us to court. Where was the court? In  
7 Texas. The judge in Texas said, oh, you got to give  
8 them back all this money. Our school district is paying  
9 \$11 million a year to catch up on that, okay?

10           So next, our two plants go down. Jobs  
11 disappear for residents that were working in those  
12 plants. Then we come and we find out about this line.  
13 It's a good thing for this lady sitting right here,  
14 Susan, who told about this line.

15           (Applause.)

16           MR. MCDONALD: And again, we find out that  
17 our politicians in Albany are involved with this even  
18 though they're going no, no, no, including the Governor  
19 that's in my party. And who's going to benefit from  
20 this? The people that are going to make all the money  
21 and have been making all the money for the past five  
22 years on the stock market, not the local residents of

1 this State.

2 We can redo our grid. We can put all the  
3 people to work as we should have after what happened in  
4 Ohio 10 years ago. And we haven't started to rebuild  
5 this infrastructure right now. We don't need help from  
6 Canada. We can do it right here in the United States.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MILLS: Is there anybody else who hasn't  
9 registered to speak want to speak? Right here.

10 MS. KONOPKO: I registered, but I did not  
11 check off that I wanted to speak. Luanne Konopko. I'm  
12 also a town councilwoman for the Town of Stony Point. I  
13 just want to thank everybody for speaking out, for  
14 trying to protect what we have here. What little we  
15 have here, it's ours. It might be little, but it's  
16 ours.

17 I echo and applaud everything that everybody  
18 else has said. I'm not a fact and figure person. I  
19 appreciate anybody that took the time to figure out the  
20 actual numbers, the economic impact, for example. What  
21 I do want to add that nobody else did say up until this  
22 point is that we have an opportunity to rebuild, to

1 build back better. I'm one of the people on the New  
2 York Rising Committee in Stony Point. A number of  
3 people in this room are also members of the New York  
4 Rising Committee. And this is the Governor's initiative  
5 to build back better after Hurricanes Irene and Sandy.  
6 We were devastated by both. Once again, the riverfront  
7 is our livelihood. Riverfront and Revolutionary, those  
8 are the two things that identify Stony Point.

9           And I just want to add -- I just want to add  
10 a P.S. that the Champlain Hudson Power Express is slated  
11 to go right through the very area that the New York  
12 Rising Program is supposed to build back better. Thank  
13 you.

14           (Applause.)

15           MR. MILLS: Somebody else wanted to speak  
16 over here? Who hasn't registered to speak wishes to  
17 speak?

18           SPEAKER: Can we give Susan the time of other  
19 people?

20           MR. MILLS: We can handle it.

21           SPEAKER: Okay.

22           MR. MILLS: If you've already spoken and you

1 would like another three minutes.

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. MILLS: Yes, you can.

4 MS. SMITH: It's a challenge.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. MILLS: It's a challenge.

7 MS. FILGUERAS: Thank you. I will try.

8 First off, I asked the New York State Public Service  
9 Commission at the United Water Haverstraw Desalinization  
10 meeting a month ago if they had looked at the overall  
11 finances of the program. And I apologize for such a  
12 small picture, but you guys wouldn't let me bring the  
13 rest of my pictures in.

14 What you have to realize, and I did give to  
15 Mr. Mills a copy of this picture with a few more pieces,  
16 and in addition, a copy of a video that we held the  
17 meeting her with the Champlain Hudson Power Express.  
18 Let's review the finances. TDI -- it goes Champlain  
19 Hudson Power Express, a/k/a TDI, a/k/a the Blackstone  
20 Group. The Blackstone Group is the group that managed  
21 the bankruptcy for Mirant Bowline and Lovett power  
22 plants. We paid them \$7 million and \$225 a month in

1 expenses. They took their last check in March of 2007.

2 In very early January of '10, Blackstone  
3 purchased TDI. As we look, we now have -- we know where  
4 Champlain is coming down. It converges on the  
5 Haverstraw-Stony Point border with the proposed United  
6 Water desal plant. United Water's parent is GDF Suez,  
7 the very company that Blackstone helped to form. They  
8 negotiated between then Suez and the French government,  
9 GDF Suez.

10 So added to that, TDI-Champlain Hudson Power  
11 Express, same company, negotiated with GDF Suez or  
12 stated in their documents that they would buy the  
13 additional 550 megawatts of power that the Champlain  
14 Hudson Power Express was short from their plant in  
15 Queens. Now, that may have changed. It's in the  
16 documents.

17 We now have Blackstone with the United Water  
18 Diesel plant. And let me state for the record, and I'll  
19 put it in blood, in the Town of Stony Point, there is no  
20 right-of-way on the CSX line. There are .2 miles. One  
21 happens at Kay Fries where there is an overpass. It  
22 widens. And I'm not sure where the second one. It is

1 miniscule. If you travel throughout the route, which I  
2 have not done, I would bet you that's what we're going  
3 to find.

4 I object to this right-of-way language when  
5 it isn't, and we have told them consistently and solidly  
6 for two years we're not selling. I object. I am  
7 offended and insulted that they are going to bring that  
8 line through the Stony Point Battlefield. The American  
9 Revolution was fought and won there. It's one of the  
10 few battles, altercations --

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. FILGUERAS: -- that was fought that the  
13 American rebels kicked their butts.

14 SPEAKER: It was the first.

15 MS. FILGUERAS: It was -- thank you. Okay.  
16 We stood up for ourselves. And I will quote Mr.  
17 Jessome. He's in the back. When I reminded -- when I  
18 simply brought it up and they did not know at the very  
19 first meeting that they had planned to go through the  
20 Waldron Cemetery, his answer was, well, shoot a bullet  
21 through it. How deep is the bullet? Three feet. I'm  
22 speechless. I'm offended. It's wrong.



1           The Stony Point Battlefield is sacred. The  
2 Waldron Cemetery -- Mr. Brooks descends from the people  
3 who fought the Revolution. Anita Babcock, Gino Dell. I  
4 think the Casscles might have been in that battle as  
5 well. But these are people that descended from those  
6 who fought for our rights.

7           The Blackstone has financial interest. They  
8 negotiated the CSX right-of-way. The GDF Suez tie is  
9 there and in the joint proposal and in the prior  
10 documents. And one other small thing. If you're  
11 familiar with a plant called Danskammer in Newburgh,  
12 they are involved, according to their website, in all  
13 facets of the bankruptcy for Danskammer. And in January  
14 of this year, they filed an expedited plan to turn the  
15 plant off. And in October, they filed a second plan to  
16 relight the plant. They're only the manager, but do we  
17 want somebody, a single entity, with that much market  
18 power. That is the third plant on the route of the  
19 transmission line.

20           They bankrupted Mirant, Bowline, and Lovett.  
21 Lovett was torn down. The Danskammer plant, it goes  
22 down, it goes up. And that's kind of unprecedented.

1 Does the --

2           Now, Danskammer's excuse -- Danskammer's  
3 reasoning was they've put a new market zone in the New  
4 York State grid. Does that question the need for this  
5 line? If they've added a new market zone, do we need  
6 the line? I don't know the answer to that. I'm not --

7           So what I'm saying to you is Blackstone has  
8 ties, multiple ties, to this project in different  
9 companies. And I'm asking you to review those.  
10 Everything should be an arm's length apart. Are they?  
11 This project has the potential to tear the fabric of  
12 towns in half, and if you go further upstate, it's going  
13 down through the middle of streets.

14           We again say this is our property. We don't  
15 want to sell it. We're not saying not in our backyard  
16 because Spectra is bringing a 44-inch high pressure  
17 natural gas main clear across the county through the  
18 middle of Stony Point out to the front of the Lovett  
19 power plant site. It's a 44-inch pipe. They are going  
20 to frack it across the Ramapo Fault. And over top of  
21 that, CHPE will lay 1,000 megawatts of hot power. I  
22 don't know the Ramapo Fault, the nuclear plant,

1 transmission line. It kind of smells of a disaster.

2 I thank you. I will be submitting well-  
3 written comments noted by page. I will have a --  
4 anybody who wants to join me, we will have a letter  
5 writing party so that we may reference each and every  
6 one of our points back to the documents. But this is  
7 what we came away with. There are 26 jobs. The jobs  
8 are specialized and will be imported. We're not  
9 objecting to power that's in our back yard. We're not  
10 nimbies. We have power plant sites. Help us help  
11 ourselves and rebuild Bowline and Lovett so we can make  
12 our towns better. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. DRECHSLER: I'm sorry. I have to just go  
15 to back Rockland Lake and Hook Mountain, because we know  
16 that these -- this line is being moved. What the Sierra  
17 Club would like to know, and other people as well, is  
18 what is the actual route -- the actual route? There is  
19 none. Okay. We need to know the actual route. Is it  
20 going down to the river? How is it going to be  
21 affecting these other areas well?

22 We need a real clear understanding of this

1 project. And as people here tonight have been saying,  
2 this -- there are already other ways to get the power.  
3 This is just such an unbelievable waste of money to do  
4 something like this when there are ways to already  
5 utilize what's already existing in Rockland County and  
6 put it back to work. So thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MILLS: One minute, okay.

9 MR. CASSCLES: I only need one minute.

10 MR. MILLS: One minute.

11 MR. CASSCLES: I want to quote two items from  
12 the EIS.

13 MR. MILLS: State your name again.

14 MR. CASSCLES: Wellington Casscles. Okay.

15 Page S-3, halfway down the page, just one sentence.

16 "Therefore, it is possible" -- more likely probable --  
17 "that the proposed CHPE Project Power will be purchased  
18 first and displace natural gas and fuel sources of  
19 electric generating supply in this region." In other  
20 words, like they said on the next page. They're going  
21 to reduce the air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions  
22 within the New York City area "by alleviating the need

1 to operate one or more existing fossil fuel power  
2 plants."

3           They say they're going to create 26 jobs.  
4 You shut down a power plant. How many jobs are you  
5 taking away? And if they're going to shut down power  
6 plants, the megawatts that they're going to produce,  
7 we're not gaining anything. We're probably going to  
8 wind up losing.

9           What we should do is build another power  
10 plant like Big Alice, which is twice the size of their  
11 CHPE line. Build another big power plant or two smaller  
12 ones that'll give us 2,000 megawatts, and tell them to  
13 take their Canadian power and keep it.

14           (Applause.)

15           MS. CASSCLES: Rebecca Casscles, 69 Beech  
16 Road. I'm sure by now you've realized we are passionate  
17 about our town. I also belong to the New York Rising  
18 Committee, along with Luanne, and Susan, and my husband.  
19 We're so involved. We spent a Saturday afternoon from  
20 10:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night going over  
21 this project. My husband's family has been in this area  
22 since the late 1600s.

1           I happen to be a carpetbagger. I'm asking  
2 for an extension. This committee, the Just Say No  
3 Committee, has read every piece of paper that has come  
4 down. But we are not lawyers, and it's going to take us  
5 to digest this, to come up with questions. Also in the  
6 beginning the CHPE Project was going to end at the  
7 Astoria Queens Substation. Suddenly it's ending in  
8 Ravenswood. Anybody here heard of Big Alice? Why is it  
9 going from a substation to a power plant? I have  
10 concerns about this.

11           I'm inviting each and every one of you to  
12 come to our home and walk the line with us. I'll serve  
13 coffee and cookies. But I think you need to come to see  
14 what it is that we are up against. We're going to lose  
15 some of our property. We will now have a rental that  
16 will be a nonconforming building on a nonconforming lot.

17       That building is what helps pay our taxes in this town.

18           And again, one house off the railroad tracks  
19 for the 2.2 miles, we generate \$1 million in town taxes.  
20       One million dollars. The CHPE will only be giving the  
21 town about \$220,000.

22           So please, I beg you, give us this extension

1 because I feel like this is a David and Goliath battle.

2 We don't have the wherewithal that TDI and Blackstone  
3 have. Please, please, give us the opportunity to digest  
4 this and let us take a look at it and submit really  
5 fundamental questions. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. WALDRON: Just a couple of things. I  
8 don't know if you're aware, but inside this information  
9 right from CHPE, this power line only lasts 40 years,  
10 maybe a little bit more. That's ridiculous. Forty  
11 years. That's the life expectancy. I can show it to  
12 you after I'm done. I'll do it.

13 I also have to second the extension process.  
14 I respectfully say you must -- respectfully say you  
15 must give us that. And, two, this is a little off the  
16 beaten track, but if a little animated gecko for the  
17 Geico commercial can claim that we are the Empire State  
18 because we have the resources, I say it's time we use  
19 these resources from New York State, not a foreign  
20 country. We shouldn't be relying on foreign power or  
21 foreign power for our country for our energy. That's  
22 ridiculous, I'm sorry. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. MILLS: Thank you.

3 MS. FURLONG: Can I talk from here because I  
4 have trouble standing. I can do it without a  
5 microphone. I yell at kids. Okay. Mary Ellen Furlong.  
6 I remember a number of years ago in California, there  
7 was a big scandal regarding a project -- a company  
8 called Enron regarding the purchase and repurchase and  
9 selling of power, and the corruption, and all the jobs  
10 in the economy that were destroyed.

11 Now, it's been brought up that Blackstone has  
12 a connection to all of these entities. How do we know  
13 that they're not going to be an Enron, and that they are  
14 going to not manipulate the power and the price of power  
15 coming down from Canada to New York? How do we know  
16 that they're not complicit in the destruction of jobs  
17 and the destruction of the economy for their profit?

18 You, Mr. Mills, and you, Ms. McDonald, and  
19 Ms. Smith, and Mr. Palmer, you have a big job because we  
20 have been steamrolled and put behind the eight ball,  
21 because we're a little town in the smallest county in  
22 New York. And they think they can do whatever they want



1 here, and they can't because it's time that people speak  
2 up and say no. You can't invade our town. You can't  
3 rip the heart out of it. You can't destroy our schools  
4 because we won't have a tax base to support them. We  
5 won't have people making money or having jobs because  
6 you've transported those jobs out of New York State.

7           You need to sit down with our Governor, and  
8 our town, and our education systems, and everybody, and  
9 develop a plan that will give our children and us a  
10 developed program that will provide jobs and a tax base  
11 that will support this town, and this county, and this  
12 State to make it a successful place. And that's a big  
13 responsibility. And I think you need to live up to it,  
14 and everybody in Albany needs to live up to what they  
15 are doing up there. It's not for their benefit, but  
16 it's for the benefit of the citizens of this State and  
17 this town.

18           That's why they're up there. That's why you  
19 are up there. Government needs to be responsible, and  
20 if you're not responsible, then we need to replace you  
21 and put somebody in there who will respond to the people  
22 because we're fed up. And we're tired of being ignored

1 and run over. And I'm sorry if it's a little  
2 disrespectful, but that's how we feel. We are tired of  
3 it.

4 And Ms. Susan and Rebecca and everybody, they  
5 try so hard to build up this town, and everybody thinks,  
6 oh, it's just Stony Point, what are they? Well, I think  
7 they might find out we're a lot tougher than what people  
8 imagine us to be. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. MILLS: If there are no other speakers.  
11 Yes?

12 MR. WALDRON: We could stay up for hours. We  
13 could. We could stay up for hours. I got more to say,  
14 but we have to end sometime. You should meet with us  
15 somehow.

16 MR. LUDWIGSON: Steve Ludwigson with the  
17 Boilermakers. I already what I wanted earlier. Just  
18 one thing I want to make clear. In New York State when  
19 they purchase power, okay, if Mr. Jessome can produce it  
20 for, say, \$15 a megawatt and everybody else is paying  
21 \$50, okay, it makes it sound like you're saving \$35 a  
22 megawatt. But in New York State, whatever the highest

1 price paid for power, everybody gets it.

2           So if you're paying \$50, he's getting \$50  
3 even though it's only costing him \$15. All we're doing  
4 is displacing money from New York and employers in New  
5 York that could be making it and sending it to Canada,  
6 okay? And it might seem like, okay, you have a choice.

7       Well, New York City, 80 percent of the power is  
8 supposed to be produced in the five boroughs of New York  
9 City. I know Indian Point supplies some of the other 20  
10 percent regardless. Eighty percent manufactured, built,  
11 supplied, New York City.

12           There's an exception. New York City used to  
13 run on DC power, and they never took it out of the  
14 rules. So if you can produce DC power, you get the  
15 first bite at the apple. Right now you've got a  
16 thousand megawatts with one line coming down. According  
17 to Susan, there's four or five more coming in behind it  
18 that are already looking for their permits waiting to  
19 see where this goes. That could be 6,000 megawatts that  
20 you'll never get to produce again in New York. Nobody  
21 will make the money on it here. It'll all go north,  
22 okay?

1           So it's not -- I know this is environmental  
2 whether it's safe for the river or not safe for the  
3 river. This is jobs. This is people's livelihoods.  
4 And we really need to look at that. Thank you.

5           (Applause.)

6           MR. MILLS: Thank you. One more.

7           MR. MCPARTLAND: Brian McPartland, Local 503,  
8 IBEW. As I said before, we represented the people that  
9 worked in the power plants. The one power plant is  
10 leveled. We had 250 people working between two power  
11 plants. Now we have 36 working at Bowline. If we  
12 constructed power plants here, do you know how many  
13 trades would be taken into that? Do you know how many  
14 -- the boilermakers would make money, the electricians  
15 would make money, the town would make money. Everybody  
16 would make money. That's -- and, yes, naturally I would  
17 hope to represent the people that are at that plant.

18           But we have to understand that by sending  
19 this to Canada and bringing it down, we're just  
20 bypassing a whole industry that's right here. And I  
21 understand the laborers, okay, they got a project labor  
22 agreement, and I understand they got to deal cut. I

1 understand that. Twenty-six jobs. You heard it. You  
2 heard the facts. The facts are 26 jobs. If you  
3 constructed power plants at Bowline and Lovett, you'd  
4 probably have more because somebody has got to do the  
5 work to get the grounds laid.

6 All right, that's it. Thanks.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MILLS: Thank you. All right.

9 (Laughter.)

10 SPEAKER: I can keep going.

11 MR. MILLS: That's okay. Shall we gavel it?

12 This hearing is now adjourned.

13 (Whereupon, at 8:20 p.m., the meeting was  
14 adjourned.)

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CHAMPLAIN HUDSON EXPRESS TRANSMISSION  
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT  
DOE EIS PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Holiday Inn Albany - Wolf Road  
205 Wolf Road  
Albany, New York 12205

Alderson Court Reporting  
1-800-FOR-DEPO

1 PARTICIPANTS

2

3 AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES/HEARING OFFICERS:

4 BRIAN MILLS

5 JODI MCDONALD

6 JULIE SMITH

7

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS:

9 ANTHONY FRESINA

10 CAROL TANSEY

11 TOM ELLIS

12 PAUL CAPEL

13 SANDY STEUBING

14 JESSICA SEMON

15 STEVEN LUDWIGSON

16 LAVAR SMITH

17 JURGEN WEKERLE

18 SUSAN LAWRENCE

19 PHIL WILCOX

20

21

22



## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (6:00 p.m.)

3 MR. MILLS: Good evening. Please go ahead and  
4 get seated. My name is Brian Mills with the Department  
5 of Energy. Before we get started with the hearing, I'd  
6 like to open up with some general housekeeping items.

7 Those folks who would like to make verbal  
8 comments should sign up at the registration desk at the  
9 -- out the front of the door. A stenographer will be  
10 recording all verbal comments, so we ask that you speak  
11 clearly into the microphone being provided for this  
12 purpose. Any written comments on the EIS that you would  
13 like to hand over tonight can be submitted at the  
14 registration table at any point this evening. With  
15 that, we can get started.

16 MS. SMITH: Good evening. I'm Julie Smith,  
17 and I'd like to thank you for taking your time out of  
18 your busy day to attend this hearing. I work for the  
19 U.S. Department of Energy in the Office of Electricity  
20 Delivery and Energy Reliability. I along with Jodi  
21 McDonald from the U.S. Corps of Engineers will be the  
22 hearing officers today.

1           The reason we are here is Champlain Hudson  
2 Power Express is proposing to construct an international  
3 transmission line. They've asked the Department of  
4 Energy for a presidential permit. A presidential permit  
5 is needed before any transmission line can be built  
6 across the U.S. international border. DoE determined  
7 that an environmental impact statement would be the  
8 appropriate level of analysis for this presidential  
9 permit.

10           This is a public hearing on the Champlain  
11 Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project draft  
12 Environmental Impact Statement. That's a mouthful, so  
13 I'm going to refer to that from now on as the draft EIS.  
14 Once we begin the hearing, we will hear from you in the  
15 order that you signed up. If you wish to speak but have  
16 not signed up, you can sign up at the registration table  
17 outside the doors.

18           For those of you who may not be familiar with  
19 the process that we go through in preparing an EIS and  
20 where we are for this particular project in the process,  
21 I'll cover some of the steps here briefly. Although I'm  
22 sure you've all read the draft EIS available on our EIS

1 website, you can also find more detailed information for  
2 the process and this project, again, on that website.

3           The first step in the EIS process is we start  
4 public participation by issuing a Notice of Intent to  
5 Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, an EIS. For  
6 this project, DoE issued our Notice of Intent on June  
7 18, 2010, and an amended notice on April 30th, 2012.  
8 The Notice of Intent begins a process that we call  
9 scoping, which is an opportunity for the public to tell  
10 us their issues and concerns related to the project. We  
11 use this input to help us prepare the draft EIS. If you  
12 commented during the scoping period, we used your  
13 scoping comments to determine which alternatives and  
14 which issues we needed to address in the EIS.

15           The next step in the process is to prepare the  
16 actual draft EIS. The draft EIS analyzes the  
17 foreseeable environmental impacts that might result from  
18 granting the presidential permit. The draft EIS also  
19 identifies steps that might be needed to mitigate  
20 impacts. For this project, we issued the draft EIS on  
21 October 21st, 2013. After we issue a draft, we ask the  
22 public to comment on it during the public comment

1 period. The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA,  
2 opens the comment period by publishing a Notice of  
3 Availability in the *Federal Register*. The EPA notice  
4 for this draft EIS was in the *Federal Register* on  
5 November 1st, 2013.

6           Since this is where we are in the process, the  
7 public comment period, I'm going to cover this just a  
8 little bit more in detail. The comment period gives you  
9 an opportunity to tell us any changes that you would  
10 like to see in the draft EIS, what you think is wrong  
11 about the document, and how you think we should fix it.

12       We are also looking for issues you think we missed or  
13 didn't cover as well as we should have.

14           If you have questions as part of your comments  
15 today, we will not be able to answer your questions, but  
16 we will do so in the final EIS. It's also very helpful  
17 for when you make your comments to cite specific  
18 sections or page numbers from the document itself. None  
19 of this is required, but it will help us to understand  
20 your comments.

21           During the hearing, the hearing's officers may  
22 ask questions to allow you to clarify points that you're

1 making. Whether you choose to speak or not, you are  
2 invited to submit written comments. Instructions to do  
3 so are provided on the boards at the back of the room,  
4 how to make comments, or are available on the  
5 registration table. All comments, whether written or  
6 oral, are treated the same and have equal weight.

7           For this draft EIS, we will continue to accept  
8 comments until December 16th, 2013. To the extent that  
9 we can, we will also consider your comments submitted  
10 after that date. After the close of this comment  
11 period, we will write the final Environmental Impact  
12 Statement, which considers your comments. The final EIS  
13 will contain a comment response document that addresses  
14 comments received on the draft EIS. When completed, the  
15 Environmental Protection Agency will again issue a  
16 Notice of Availability of the final EIS in the *Federal*  
17 *Register*, and again, we will post the document on the  
18 EIS website and send it out to the mailing list. No  
19 sooner than 30 days after the EPA lets all of you know -  
20 - all you *Federal Register* readers know the final EIS is  
21 out there, DoE may issue a Record of Decision on the  
22 presidential permit application. I hope that this very

1 general outline is helpful to you in understanding where  
2 we're at.

3 I'd also like to mention a couple of other  
4 things about the draft EIS and this project. The  
5 Department of Energy has the authority to permit the  
6 border crossing. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
7 issues Clean Water Act permits. The State of New York  
8 has the authority to cite transmission lines in New  
9 York. Several other Federal and State agencies are  
10 working with DoE and the Corps in preparing the draft  
11 EIS, including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the  
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard, the  
13 New York State Department of Public Service, New York  
14 State Department of Environmental Conservation. These  
15 are all cooperating agencies in the preparation of the  
16 draft EIS.

17 Now, I know that was a lot, so what you need  
18 to remember for this hearing are the three following  
19 points. First, comments received on the draft EIS will  
20 be included in the final EIS, and we will respond in the  
21 document to the comments that we receive. Two, comments  
22 expressed at one of our hearings or provided to us by

1 email or letter will all be considered equally. And  
2 lastly, the comment period for the draft EIS closes on  
3 December 16th, 2013.

4 I'll now turn this over to our hearing's  
5 officer, Jodi McDonald, from the U.S. Army Corps of  
6 Engineers.

7 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Julie. Good  
8 afternoon -- good evening. I am Jodi McDonald. I'm  
9 Chief of the Regulatory Branch for the New York District  
10 Army Corps of Engineers. I will be the presiding  
11 officer on behalf of the Corps of Engineers for today's  
12 public hearing.

13 The Corps of Engineers is here today to obtain  
14 information and evidence and ensure coverage of core  
15 concerns, to assist in the regulatory review of a permit  
16 application by Champlain Hudson Power Express,  
17 Incorporated for the installation and construction of a  
18 336-mile power cable from the Canadian border through  
19 waters of the United States, including wetlands, Lake  
20 Champlain, the Hudson River, Harlem River, and East  
21 River. The U.S. Department of Energy as lead Federal  
22 agency will make a decision whether to issue a

1 presidential permit to allow the crossing of the U.S.  
2 border to facilitate the operation of this power cable.

3           The Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent  
4 for nor an opponent of the proposed work. Our role is  
5 to determine whether the proposed activity -- in this  
6 case, the installation of a power line in waters of the  
7 United States -- is in the overall public interest.  
8 This hearing will play an important part in that  
9 determination.

10           Please understand that we do not expect to  
11 answer questions from the dais in this hearing related  
12 to the proposal as we are here to obtain information and  
13 your comments. Questions on the regulatory process in  
14 general can be directed to my staff member in the  
15 audience today, and that's June Yen sitting in the back.

16           The New York District has issued a public  
17 notice for this project with the comment period closing  
18 on December 16th, 2013. That public notice is currently  
19 posted on the New York District website. The website  
20 address is [www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil), as in "military." We  
21 do have some copies available on the registration table  
22 as well. If you are not currently on our public notice



1 email distribution list and would like to receive a copy  
2 of future announcements for email public notices, please  
3 provide your email address at the registration table.

4 I will now open the hearing.

5 (Pounding of gavel.)

6 MS. SMITH: For our first speaker, can we hear  
7 from Anthony Fresina? And I apologize if I don't  
8 pronounce names correctly.

9 MR. FRESINA: That's okay. You did pretty  
10 good.

11 MS. SMITH: Okay, good.

12 MR. FRESINA: Well, good evening. I just want  
13 to introduce myself. My name is Anthony Fresina. I'm  
14 Business Manager of Laborers Local 190. I represent  
15 laborers that -- from Fort Edward, Washington County, to  
16 Green County, to the Catskills. I stand here -- I  
17 should say we stand here today in favor of this project.

18 We believe it's going to be a good project. It'll  
19 bring good paying jobs, skilled labor, skilled jobs to  
20 the area, good for the economy. And we're hoping that  
21 with this job, that it'll boost the economy.

22 And we represent laborers, as I said, that are

1 skilled and OSHA trained. We have a training facility  
2 in Albany -- in Glenmont, I should say, and we're in  
3 favor for the project, and I hope it goes. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. SMITH: Carol Tansey?

6 MS. TANSEY: My name is Carol Tansey, and I  
7 live in Albany, New York. I'm a private citizen. I'm  
8 an environmental activist, and I would rather see New  
9 York City generate solar power to get their own  
10 electricity. It's local. It makes more sense to me  
11 than to let this pipeline come down from Canada. We can  
12 handle this ourselves here in the United States. Thank  
13 you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. SMITH: Tom Ellis?

16 MR. ELLIS: Can I speak from here?

17 MS. SMITH: Certainly.

18 MR. ELLIS: Because I've got some papers I  
19 want to read from. All right. Good evening, everybody.  
20 My name is Tom Ellis. I live in Albany. I appreciate  
21 this opportunity today to discuss the Federal  
22 government's DEIS. I recommend that the presidential

1 permit be denied. I spoke at the July 14th, 2010  
2 scoping hearing on this project, and I stick with what I  
3 said that night.

4 I represent both the Citizen's Environmental  
5 Coalition and the Solidarity Committee of the Capital  
6 District as I did in 2010. Both organizations have a  
7 long history of opposing the importation of additional  
8 Canadian river destroying hydroelectricity into New  
9 York.

10 Just a little bit of information about both  
11 groups. Last month the Solidarity Committee featured UE  
12 Political Action Director, Chris Townsend, at our 30th  
13 anniversary celebration. Chris is working to try to  
14 save the 200 jobs at Fort Edward that General Electric  
15 is proposing to eliminate. Early this month, the  
16 Citizens Environmental Coalition organized the New York  
17 State Fracking Health Summit at which a dozen public  
18 health professionals met to carefully analyze the health  
19 issues local governments in Upstate New York may face if  
20 natural gas hydro fracking is allowed in the State. I  
21 have information about that if anybody wants it.

22 So both the Citizens Environmental Coalition

1 and the Solidarity Committee worked with the support of  
2 Cree Indians in Quebec to force cancellations of two  
3 contracts the New York Power Authority had with Hydro-  
4 Quebec. Cancellation of these contracts 20 years ago  
5 led Hydro-Quebec to cancel its proposed Great Well River  
6 Project that had it gone forward would've literally  
7 destroyed the Great Well River and five other rivers  
8 that flow into James and Hudson Bays about a thousand  
9 miles north of here.

10           Since the 1970s, Hydro-Quebec has destroyed  
11 large rivers in Quebec, including the La Grande,  
12 Eastmain, and Rupert. At present, Hydro-Quebec is  
13 destroying the Romaine River that flows into the Gulf of  
14 St. Lawrence near Havre-Saint-Pierre, about 800 or 900  
15 miles northeast of here. The draft EIS did not examine  
16 the environmental and health impacts of the entire  
17 Champlain Project despite many requests, including mine,  
18 to do so. The DEIS authors stated their reasons on page  
19 1-17 and 1-18 for not examining the Canadian impacts of  
20 this project. However, not performing such an analysis  
21 renders the DEIS incomplete and defective.

22           It also prevents Champlain Hudson Power and

1 the Department of Energy from proving that the Champlain  
2 Hudson Power Project would provide the New York City  
3 metro region with renewable energy, and it also prevents  
4 them from proving that the project, if it goes forward,  
5 would lead to a reduction in carbon dioxide and other  
6 climate change emissions that contribute to rising  
7 temperatures on this planet. Both the applicant and the  
8 DoE assert that the Canadian hydro power that would flow  
9 through the Champlain Hudson Power Line is renewable  
10 energy or is renewable electricity.

11 Many people, including the Climate Action  
12 Network of Canada assert that damming, diking,  
13 diverting, and destroying rivers is not truly renewable  
14 electricity. Hydro-Quebec generates much of its overall  
15 electricity from manmade reservoirs. Hydro-Quebec's  
16 hydro electrical development has altered river flow  
17 patterns that used to peak in the spring. Today, peak  
18 electricity generation is often in winter when power  
19 demand is high. Winter water flows have increased many-  
20 fold, devastating fish spawning and greatly increasing  
21 soil erosion rates. Such destruction hardly qualifies  
22 as renewable energy.

1           The Department of Energy and Champlain Hudson  
2 assert, but do not prove, that the Champlain Hudson  
3 Project would reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Non-run  
4 of the river hydro projects contribute to climate  
5 change. Rotting vegetation in flooded river valleys  
6 releases carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere.

7       Flooded rivers can no longer absorb carbon dioxide from  
8 the atmosphere. Intact ecosystems lessen climate change  
9 through oxygen production and carbon storage.

10           If the Champlain Hudson Project is constructed  
11 and Canadian electricity displaces fossil fuel  
12 electricity in the New York City area, would the  
13 reduction in global warming emissions in downstate New  
14 York be greater than the increase in global warming  
15 emissions in Canada? Who knows? Without an  
16 environmental review of the source of the Champlain  
17 Hudson Power, neither the Department of Energy nor  
18 Champlain Hudson Power can prove that the Champlain  
19 Hudson Project is a low carbon electricity project  
20 despite their assertions that it is. And let us not  
21 forget that Hydro-Quebec floods huge areas. The Rupert  
22 River Project flooded more than 100 square miles.

1           We live on a planet that is rapidly warming.  
2   We need to preserve what nature has given us. Three  
3   years ago, the New York State Climate Action Council  
4   issued its Climate Action Plan Interim report. On page  
5   OV-8 of the report is a graphic indicating air  
6   temperatures in New York may increase from five and a  
7   half to seven -- from five and a half to seven degrees  
8   Fahrenheit by the 2080s compared to the 1980s.

9           In Chapter 11 of that report concerning  
10   adapting to climate change are some specific  
11   recommendations the State should take. On page 11-81 is  
12   a recommendation directly in conflict with the Champlain  
13   Hudson Power Project. It reads, "All water-related  
14   permit programs and policies should minimize alterations  
15   and disruptions to the natural hydrological cycle to the  
16   extent possible. Regulatory agencies should implement  
17   this recommendation at multiple scales, including site-  
18   level planning and construction, as well as more  
19   regional watershed scales." New York should be  
20   consistent with its policies. New York should reject  
21   imported electricity from out of State entities who  
22   disrupt or even destroy the natural hydrologic cycle.

1           Climate change is a global problem and it  
2 requires vast international cooperation to effectively  
3 deal with it. And now there is a second Champlain Hudson  
4 or Champlain Project -- there's no time limit is there?

5           MS. SMITH: There is not a time limit.

6           MR. ELLIS: All right, thank you -- for New  
7 England that, if approved, would bring 1,000 megawatts  
8 of Quebec hydroelectricity into Vermont and probably to  
9 coastal New England. This proposal may stimulate  
10 additional river destruction in Quebec, which may lead  
11 to additional Champlain Hudson proposals.

12           The other major critique the Citizens  
13 Environmental Coalition and the Solidarity have is that  
14 even ignoring the health and environmental impacts in  
15 Canada, the Champlain Hudson Project is a poor way for  
16 New York State and New York City to meet our energy  
17 needs. The questions I ask are: should it be allowed,  
18 is it the best use of our finite resources, who benefits  
19 the most and the least from it, would its approval and  
20 construction retard the development of better  
21 alternatives, and why is there such a skimpy analysis of  
22 alternatives to the Champlain Hudson Project contained



1 in the DEIS. I saw no discussion of solar power in the  
2 DEIS, nor does the word "solar" appear in the index.  
3 The word "NYSERDA" does not appear in the index either  
4 or any information about the vast energy efficiency and  
5 solar projects that are job creating projects that  
6 NYSERDA is working on right now. It's simply absent  
7 from the DEIS.

8           In my spring 2010 scoping comments, I stated  
9 that investing in weatherization and conservation  
10 projects and improving energy efficiencies here in New  
11 York could provide many thousands of New York State  
12 residents with high quality jobs. I mentioned that  
13 young people, and especially young men, have been hard  
14 hit by the recession that began in 2008. And I  
15 mentioned that decades ago the American Council for an  
16 Energy Efficient Economy reported New York had vastly  
17 reduced its overall use of electricity and summer and  
18 winter peak demands by installing heavy -- excuse me --  
19 highly-efficient motors, lighting, and other appliances.  
20 The draft Environmental Impact Statement devotes parts  
21 of only one page -- that's 2-44 -- to its discussion of  
22 conservation and demand side measures without mentioning

1 at all the considerable employment potentials that these  
2 have.

3           The DEIS contains less than one page -- 6-11 -  
4 - on wind energy -- half a page. The failure of the  
5 DEIS to seriously or even half-heartedly examine the  
6 considerable energy and employment advantages of  
7 conservation, energy efficiency, wind and solar power,  
8 renders the DEIS highly deficient. The DEIS on page 2-  
9 44 contains a weak rationale for its decision in this  
10 matter. It says, "Consequences the New York's  
11 independent system operator has demonstrated that energy  
12 efficiency and conservation measures alone would not  
13 address southeastern New York's increasing demand for  
14 electricity, and that a mix of energy efficiency, demand  
15 reduction, and new generation would be required to meet  
16 future energy demand. Therefore, DoE determined that  
17 conservation and demand side measures alternative alone  
18 is not a reasonable alternative, and is, therefore, not  
19 addressed further in the EIS." Completely ignored is  
20 the possibility that with intense conservation and  
21 energy efficiency, electricity demand might no longer  
22 increase or that conservation wind, energy efficiency,

1 and solar together would provide for any increase in  
2 demand.

3           On page 2-44, the DEIS lists the five policy  
4 objectives identified in 2009 New York State Energy  
5 Plan. One of these is to support development of in-  
6 state energy supplies. The Champlain Hudson Power  
7 Project does not meet that objective.

8           In my 2010 scoping comments, I urged this  
9 project be rejected because if it's approved, many tens  
10 of millions of wealth will flow out of New York State  
11 each year to pay for the Canadian electricity. It would  
12 be much better to implement ways of keeping the wealth  
13 of New York circulating in New York rather than watch it  
14 disappear. The DEIS does not address this issue.

15           Several times the DEIS asserts that the  
16 Champlain Hudson Project would save New York  
17 residents --

18           MS. MCDONALD: Mr. Ellis, excuse me.  
19 Gentlemen in the back, if you're going to have a  
20 conversation, I'm going to ask you to step outside.

21           SPEAKER: I mean, this gentleman could speak  
22 all night. We don't want to be here all night.

1 MS. MCDONALD: And we haven't -- we have not  
2 set a time limit on speakers because we have only a few  
3 speakers tonight. So we're here until everyone is  
4 finished speaking. But it's very inconsiderate for you  
5 to stand in the back and have a conversation when this  
6 gentleman is trying to make his comments. So if you're  
7 going to --

8 SPEAKER: The gentleman has made his comments.  
9 He's been talking for an hour.

10 MS. MCDONALD: He has every right to do that.  
11 Please either have a conversation outside --

12 SPEAKER: I'll have a conversation right here.

13 MS. MCDONALD: Thank --

14 MR. ELLIS: My comments will take about 15  
15 minutes, I think.

16 SPEAKER: It's been 15 so far.

17 MS. MCDONALD: Go ahead, Mr. Ellis.

18 MR. ELLIS: Thank you. The DEIS does not  
19 analyze this issue. Several times the DEIS asserts that  
20 the Champlain Hudson Project would save New York  
21 residents \$400 or \$500 million a year on electricity  
22 purchases without any data to back it up. But nowhere

1 is there any data on how much New York would actually  
2 pay -- how much New Yorkers would actually pay for the  
3 electricity or how much of that money would go to  
4 Canada. This omission needs to be corrected. Okay.

5           And finally, the Champlain Hudson Project  
6 would provide only a few hundred jobs during  
7 construction and only a few dozen jobs thereafter.  
8 However, there is one alternative that would stimulate  
9 the creation of tens of thousands of good-paying, good  
10 benefits jobs in New York City, and probably upstate,  
11 too, where such employment is desperately needed and  
12 desired by low income workers and the chronically  
13 unemployed. On June 16th, 2011, a *New York Times*  
14 article reported that two-thirds of New York City's  
15 rooftops are suitable for solar panels and could jointly  
16 generate enough energy to meet half the city's demand  
17 for electricity at peak periods according to a new  
18 highly-detailed interactive map. The map showed the  
19 solar potential for the city's one million plus  
20 buildings. The map is at the website of the City  
21 University of New York. It was developed by the City  
22 University in cooperation with the city government and

1 the Federal Department of Energy. The rooftop solar  
2 could generate up to 5,847 megawatts of electricity,  
3 almost six times as much electricity as this project  
4 under discussion tonight could provide. The Department  
5 of Energy Solar Awareness Cities Programs financed the  
6 map.

7           The article also reported that in San  
8 Francisco after a similar map was developed, the number  
9 of solar installations on private rooftops rose from 551  
10 in 2007 to 2,300 in 2011 with the help of tax credits  
11 and rebates. If only 20 percent of the New York City  
12 solar rooftop potential is developed, it would generate  
13 more electricity than the Champlain Hudson Power can  
14 provide. If 60 percent of the available space were  
15 utilized, more electricity would be provided than by  
16 both the Champlain Hudson Project and by Indian Point.

17           In the years ahead, as solar technology  
18 continues to improve, it may be possible to convert the  
19 sunlight and heat passing through millions of vertical  
20 windows in New York City directly into electricity.  
21 Solar obviously has a huge potential in New York City  
22 and a huge employment potential. If government, private

1 industry, and building owners made a commitment to equip  
2 25,000 buildings per year with rooftop solar, many tens  
3 of thousands of permanent jobs for electricians,  
4 plumbers, roofers, laborers, carpenters, sheet metal  
5 workers, and other building trades workers would be  
6 generated or would be created by the construction,  
7 maintenance, repair, and upgrading of the solar  
8 equipment -- you know, many, many, many, many more times  
9 as many jobs as this project could provide.

10           It is unfortunate that the DEIS considered  
11 only a no action alternative to the Champlain Hudson  
12 Proposal and ignored the solar alternative that it, DoE,  
13 helped to facilitate or helped to formulate. Among the  
14 many advantages of rooftop solar over the Champlain  
15 Project are it eliminates the need for additional power  
16 lines. It provides for a huge, but unknown, number of  
17 good quality middle-class jobs for New York City  
18 residents. It reduces incentives for Hydro-Quebec to  
19 destroy additional rivers. It keeps the energy dollars  
20 of New York State recirculating in New York State. It  
21 is sustainable, safe energy. It is a tremendous  
22 business opportunity and a tremendous employment

1 opportunity. It spreads the wealth around more evenly  
2 and widely among working families than the wealthy  
3 investors behind this project. It further protects the  
4 earth's environment and climate. It can put vast  
5 numbers of people of color to work.

6           Something like 20 percent of the black men in  
7 New York City are officially unemployed, double the rate  
8 from 2006. And, of course, the official unemployment  
9 rate is way lower than the actual unemployment rate.  
10 Only one-fourth of New York City's black men under the  
11 age 25 have a good job. There are literally hundreds of  
12 thousands of people of color in New York City who have  
13 never had a good job in their life. Solarizing the  
14 city's rooftops is a superb way to bring these men and  
15 women into the mainstream of our Nation.

16           This project here offers nothing of the kind.  
17 Putting tens of thousands of people of color -- excuse  
18 me -- putting tens of thousands of people to work on  
19 solar would reduce poverty rates and government  
20 expenditures to alleviate them. New York City would  
21 become more energy independent. As solar continues to  
22 evolve and people experience success with it, additional



1 solar incentives or initiatives would be launched in the  
2 city. Solarizing the city's rooftops would greatly  
3 stimulate the solar industry development. New York  
4 State could conceivably become the solar industry  
5 equipment manufacturing center of North America.  
6 Somebody is going to do it. It might as well be New  
7 York. And solar electricity would displace fossil fuel  
8 to electricity, leading to clean air and slowing climate  
9 change.

10 In conclusion, I urge that the presidential  
11 permit be denied, the final Environmental Impact  
12 Statement seriously examine the vast employment impacts  
13 that conversation, energy efficiency, and solar power  
14 offer, and that the in-Canada impacts of this project be  
15 examined. Thank you very much, and I have a copy of the  
16 most recent newsletter of the two groups that I  
17 represent and that I'd like to have included in the  
18 record. And thank you for giving me enough time.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. SMITH: Our next speaker, Ramon Figueroa?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. SMITH: Perhaps he stepped out. Paul

1 Capel?

2 MR. CAPEL: Should I come up here?

3 MS. MCDONALD: Your choice.

4 MS. SMITH: Yeah.

5 MR. CAPEL: Okay. Good evening. My name is  
6 Paul Capel. I represent the Hudson River Pilots. We're  
7 the people that bring the big ships up and down the  
8 Hudson River between New York and Albany. We're not  
9 opposed to the project in its theory, in its concept.  
10 We are very much opposed to the routing in which the  
11 State of New York and other agencies have chosen.

12 They have chosen to run this project right  
13 down through the middle of the navigational channel in  
14 very many places. This is going to create quite a  
15 problem for navigation -- to safe navigation, in our  
16 opinion. If we have an emergency with a ship, we have  
17 to drop an anchor to prevent the ship from going aground  
18 or something, perhaps creating an oil spill. Our anchor  
19 could hook this cable and cause a huge problem. In  
20 certain areas, they have determined that they don't have  
21 to put it originally. I believe they were going to put  
22 it 20 feet underground. Now, they have found that

1 that's going to cost too much money, so they've changed  
2 it to, in some places, five and six feet.

3           In other places where it goes over hard  
4 ground, over rocks, they've proposed putting mats on it,  
5 heavy cement mats. We drop an anchor 15,000 pounds. We  
6 have a 40,000-ton ship behind that doing 10 knots in the  
7 river. They don't make mats big enough to stop  
8 something like that. We'll just rip the mat -- the  
9 cable up and everything there.

10           We're also very much concerned about dredging.

11    The Army Corps of Engineers is in charge of dredging  
12 the Hudson River. Currently due to financial  
13 difficulties with the Nation, they have not dredged the  
14 river as regularly as they have in the past. Any  
15 dredging company that comes in here and says, well, we  
16 have a cable six feet under the navigational channel,  
17 they're going to go, you're crazy. We're not going to  
18 dredge the Hudson River. We don't want any part of that  
19 project. The Hudson River is now dredged by commercial  
20 dredgers that are on hire to the Army Corps of  
21 Engineers. The Army Corps of Engineers has a number of  
22 dredges. I worked for them for a number of years. I

1 know what they do. They do not come up the Hudson  
2 River. They bid that job out.

3           Someone who has liability coverage, the  
4 insurer is not even going to allow them to go anywhere  
5 near that project. So basically what's going to happen  
6 is all these places where they put this, where the  
7 navigable channel is, they're not going to be able to  
8 dredge there. They say they can, but no dredging  
9 company would do that. They just don't feel it's going  
10 to be safe.

11           A classic example of that is New Haven,  
12 Connecticut. They put in a line in New Haven,  
13 Constitution very similar to this one. There hasn't  
14 been a dredging project in New Haven, Connecticut since  
15 they put it in about five or six years ago. There's a  
16 need for maintenance dredging, but they can't do it. So  
17 basically you're locking the Hudson River into the draft  
18 that it is right now, and you're not going to be able to  
19 dredge very much at all, if at all.

20           Another problem is that if you put the cable  
21 across the front of a particular port or a potential  
22 area in which they want to build a port, you're locking

1 that port in. Now, you're putting it across. Now, the  
2 contractor is saying that they are going to pick it up  
3 and they'll disrupt service and everything like that.  
4 Once that project is going, and we seriously doubt if  
5 they're going to pick the line up and they're going to  
6 cut it or whatever they're going to do. They're going  
7 to move it so that you can dredge to open stuff up.  
8 It's going to prevent any dredging from happening in the  
9 river that may deepen the river at some point and many  
10 other things.

11           The State of New York built another project.  
12 It went from Connecticut to Long Island several years  
13 ago at a cost of many billion dollars to the rate payers  
14 on Long Island to LILCO -- excuse me -- to LIPA now.  
15 Once they got done, the contractor cut many corners  
16 there. They didn't put it according to spec. As they  
17 ran into hard material and other stuff, they put it up  
18 higher than they were supposed to do. At the end of the  
19 project, the State of New York went to throw on the  
20 switch. The State of Connecticut said, well, you  
21 haven't done this according to specifications;  
22 therefore, we'll allow you to test it, and during

1 emergency times, we'll allow you to put it on. That  
2 line right now remains unused. Billions of dollars  
3 spent for a big project that they can't even use.

4           So as I said, we are not opposed to the  
5 project, the concept of the project, or having it come  
6 down. But we are very much opposed to the routing of  
7 the cable coming down through the river. We attended  
8 numerous meetings with the State and various other  
9 agencies throughout the years that this has been going  
10 on. We've expressed our opposition. We tried to get  
11 them to change it. They would not. So we have grave  
12 issues with -- doubts as to whether or not we can  
13 continue safe navigation on the Hudson River if, in  
14 fact, this project goes in in its current configuration.

15 Thank you very much.

16           (Applause.)

17           MS. SMITH: Sandy Steubing?

18           MS. STEUBING: Hi. I'm Sandy Steubing, and  
19 I'm a private citizen here. And I just want to double  
20 down on everything that Mr. Ellis said.

21           So basically I'm in opposition to this power  
22 line. I don't believe that the 300-mile extension cord

1 from Canada is necessary. I think that dispersed power  
2 generation is the wave of the future. To begin with, we  
3 have an old power grid and generating power closer to  
4 where it is used that is in New York itself increases  
5 efficiency. It reduces stress on the grid and makes the  
6 whole system more reliable. So close and dispersed  
7 power generations would save utilities from having to  
8 build and maintain the infrastructure of the grid. This  
9 \$2.2 billion project, and it would probably be more,  
10 would -- could create instead that amount of money and a  
11 large number of green jobs, as Tom said, by putting  
12 solar panels on rooftops. It would be employment for  
13 New Yorkers as opposed to Canadian jobs.

14 I also researched and found the same -- the  
15 same study that Tom did, and you can't see it. But this  
16 map that I just gave the women here shows the large  
17 number of rooftops that -- that is two-thirds of the  
18 rooftops in New York City are appropriate and suitable  
19 for solar panels. So this is a study that's been done,  
20 and we should take advantage of that. And I know  
21 intermittency can be a problem with solar panels, so if  
22 we bundled it with wind turbines offshore in New York,

1 then we could have a consistent delivery of power.

2 I also want to mention conservation. We don't  
3 talk or think about conservation enough. If we all  
4 devoted ourselves to conserving and using less power,  
5 then we wouldn't have a lot of these problems. I  
6 understand that the cable coming down would be direct  
7 current, and that there would be a large converting  
8 station right outside of New York City, which would be a  
9 target for terrorists.

10 Small or more dispersed power generation has  
11 built-in resiliency and would be less vulnerable to  
12 blackouts. Like Tom said, the dams of Quebec are  
13 artificially created and environmentally destructive. I  
14 think the power industry can recreate itself, much like  
15 the telecommunications has done. And finally, I'd like  
16 to cite a Cornell and Stanford paper about how New York  
17 State can be totally energy dependent by 2030, and  
18 they've done a very large study on this that I encourage  
19 people to look at.

20 So thank you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. SMITH: Jessica Semon?



1 MS. SEMON: Hello. My name is Jessica Semon.  
2 I'm an Albany County resident. I am activist for  
3 social and environmental justice. I'm here to just say  
4 that I'm against this project, and I suggest that the  
5 permit be denied.

6 One reason is because we need to -- we need to  
7 embrace solar energy. I was recently at a talk by Dr.  
8 Richard Perez, who is a research scientist at U-Albany's  
9 Department of Atmospheric Science. Go ahead and Google  
10 Dr. Richard Perez and solar, and you'll find lots of  
11 information. I found it to be very informative.

12 Basically -- well, not basically, but one  
13 thing that impressed me was that there was a chart that  
14 showed the amount of energy that solar could produce  
15 compared to all of the other energy that could be  
16 produced with water, wind, fossil fuels, coal,  
17 everything. And solar is the size of a dinner plate,  
18 and water is about the size of a pea. We are eventually  
19 going to have to embrace solar. Solar is going to  
20 create many jobs, which is very needed in this State.

21 I also know that hydraulic is damaging to  
22 rivers, and the environment, and the wildlife. And I

1 would like to know what the impact -- the environmental  
2 impact of this is going to be when they lay these power  
3 lines under Lake Champlain and how the wildlife will be  
4 impacted.

5 I also would like to see our energy be created  
6 locally. If it's going to be more reliable, if it's  
7 going to be less maintenance needed, we'll have better  
8 resilience against blackouts. And I would just like to  
9 see the local economic benefits to be -- to be as best -  
10 - I think that if we keep energy local and if we embrace  
11 solar energy, the economic benefits of this are going to  
12 be much better than embracing this project. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. SMITH: Steven Ludwigson?

15 MR. LUDWIGSON: Good evening. My name is  
16 Steve Ludwigson. I'm the Business Manager for the  
17 Boilermakers Local 5. I represent the boilermakers in  
18 all of New York State, with the exception of the 16  
19 counties located around Buffalo, New York. Our members  
20 are highly skilled professionals with expertise that  
21 comes only with extensive training and years of  
22 practice.

1           I'm here tonight to state on the record that  
2 Boilermakers Local 5 opposes the Champlain Hudson Power  
3 Express Line and the proposed Federal action of granting  
4 a presidential permit to construct, operate, and  
5 maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line  
6 across the U.S.-Canada border in northeastern New York  
7 State.

8           The Champlain Hudson Power Express Line, which  
9 proposes to bring a thousand megawatts of power directly  
10 from Canada to New York City, would do nothing to  
11 strengthen the State's electricity grid. Practically  
12 speaking, the transmission line is a large extension  
13 cord that would bypass all of the State's existing  
14 energy sources and transmission infrastructure, such as  
15 Upstate New York plants that have an excess of available  
16 power instead of enhancing the overall capacity and  
17 stability of New York's power grid. New York will not  
18 be able to benefit from the low cost power that those  
19 upstate plans would be producing. It will instead  
20 become completely reliant on a foreign source of  
21 electricity. Our good friends in Canada will get new  
22 jobs, and New Yorkers will get the bill.

1           While we support an electricity highway that  
2 improves the State's energy infrastructure and generates  
3 union jobs for New Yorkers, we reject the CHPE proposal  
4 as a jobs killer. For maximum benefits to New York,  
5 especially in job retention and creation, new  
6 electricity infrastructure should support current and  
7 new in-State power generation.

8           New York needs to improve the transmission  
9 grid in the upstate and western regions so that in-State  
10 power could be transported more efficiently, more  
11 economically, and in greater quantity throughout the  
12 State. Investing in our transmission infrastructure  
13 will lead to new jobs being created and new  
14 opportunities for energy development throughout the  
15 State.

16           We also can't ignore the obvious. New York  
17 already has a very substantial generating capacity that  
18 could be expanded upon to meet our State's needs. New  
19 York can and should keep up with growing demand by  
20 ensuring the continued operation of our in-State energy  
21 sources and constructing new plants both upstate and  
22 downstate as necessary. There are several shovel-ready

1 sites that are already permitted or pending permits in  
2 the Hudson Valley that could meet this demand and keep  
3 New Yorkers working and the revenue generated in State.

4           In order to have a strong 21st century  
5 economy, New York needs to build and produce products.  
6 We can no longer afford to be viewed as only consumers  
7 bearing the brunt of others' profits. Energy and  
8 manufacturing provide sustained, long-term, good paying  
9 jobs, a large portion of which are skilled union  
10 positions. These jobs enable individuals to stay in New  
11 York, raise a family, and grow the middle class. They  
12 establish the economic infrastructure for many  
13 additional jobs -- additional service jobs and power  
14 other sectors of the State's economy.

15           The New York economy needs to be energized,  
16 and the opportunities are out there waiting to be seized  
17 upon. Such is the case with the opportunity of New  
18 York's growing demand for electricity and solve  
19 transmission congestion problems by investing in our  
20 State's electrical infrastructure rather than  
21 compounding these issues with a costly outsource to  
22 Canada. For jobs and literally a brighter future, we

1 must act now and propose -- oppose the CHPE as an  
2 outright detriment to New York.

3           I've got a letter here from -- an open letter  
4 to the New York congressional delegation to protect New  
5 York jobs, in-State power generation, and tax dollars,  
6 and reject the Champlain Hudson Power Line. It says,  
7 "Dear member of Congress, on behalf of tens of thousands  
8 of hard-working middle class union families across New  
9 York State, we urge our members of Congress to stand up  
10 for New York jobs and oppose the Champlain Hudson Power  
11 Express Project and any subsidies for this 330-mile  
12 transmission line from Quebec to Queens. The developers  
13 of this project made a decision to propose a power line  
14 that denies access to power plants located within New  
15 York State, effectively blocking them from supplying New  
16 York City and the surrounding region in in-State  
17 produced electricity. As such, the project provides no  
18 economic opportunity for New York power generators,  
19 particularly those located in economically distressed  
20 upstate communities, which would relish the chance to  
21 supply electricity in other parts of the State." This  
22 letter was signed by the business managers or head

1 people for Steamfitters Local 638, New York City  
2 District Council of Carpenters, Mechanical Contracts  
3 Association, Utility Workers Union of America Local 1  
4 and 2, myself, and the International Brotherhood of  
5 Electrical Workers.

6           And online today it had "Canada-Owned Company  
7 Seeks U.S. Dollars for Electric Line." "A hydro power  
8 utility company owned by the Canadian government is  
9 seeking State taxpayer money to run a transmission line  
10 down the Hudson River from Quebec to New York. It  
11 recently requested access to State money to help fund a  
12 \$2 billion project." The State's pot of money to  
13 support renewable energy projects currently comes from a  
14 utility bill surcharge on New York residents and cannot  
15 be distributed to companies from out of state, let alone  
16 out of country. You're paying for this, and they're  
17 looking to take your money north.

18           Gavin Donohue, the President of the  
19 Independent Power Producers of New York, said, "It's  
20 increasingly hard and difficult to compete as it is, and  
21 why should we compete with a foreign government? What a  
22 bad message this would send to business in New York that

1 we're going to support a foreign government."

2 We oppose this. I was at the meeting last  
3 night down in Stony Point. There were a myriad of  
4 issues that people brought up, so I'd like to request  
5 what they did last night, that they extend the period  
6 for comments 180 days. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. SMITH: Lavar Smith?

9 MR. SMITH: Good evening, everybody. Now,  
10 this is my opinion. I don't know all the statistics to  
11 this project here. I'm a 37-year-old boilermaker, union  
12 boilermaker. The power that you all see here, I built  
13 with my own hands. A lot of my brothers built these  
14 plants. We built them and we maintain them.

15 Us outsourcing our power from another country  
16 makes no sense to me. It's like everything else we  
17 manufacture, these big corporate American companies go  
18 to other countries and manufacture these things for  
19 cheaper labor, and bring them back to this country. We  
20 don't do anything but making the other countries richer,  
21 and making us a weaker economy. And we have -- there's  
22 enough technology to satisfy the EPA and everything on



1 these power plants that we build. So it's to satisfy  
2 everybody around the board.

3 We oppose it. I oppose it. And I think the  
4 boilermakers oppose it.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. SMITH: Jurgen Wekerle?

7 COURT REPORTER: Could you spell your name,  
8 please, for the record?

9 MR. WEKERLE: J-U-R-G-E-N W-E-K-E-R-L-E.

10 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

11 MR. WEKERLE: Good evening. My name is Jurgen  
12 Wekerle. I'm a member of the Energy Committee of the  
13 Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club. The position of  
14 our committee is that the Champlain Hudson Power Express  
15 Project is not in the national interest in its present  
16 configuration. It also would not add to the needs for  
17 electric generation and distribution in New York State,  
18 and would also not be in the interest of job creation,  
19 as mentioned by the prior speaker.

20 The State has renewable energy credits that  
21 are designed to promote solar and wind and renewable  
22 energy jobs in New York State. The fact that hydro

1 power from Hydro-Quebec will be introduced into New York  
2 would, in effect, absorb all those credits and, in  
3 effect, make it impossible for those jobs to  
4 materialize. The jobs promised are miniscule and  
5 temporary on top of that.

6           The basic requirement of FERC and NAFTA and  
7 the members of the grid of which Canada and New York are  
8 a part is reciprocity. Each has to respect, honor, and  
9 trade with each other just as they would with domestic  
10 utilities and power plants. There is no reciprocity in  
11 this case. There is no mutual access to the transition  
12 -- to the transmission lines. There is no ability to  
13 trade back and forth. New York power producers cannot  
14 use the cable to transmit electricity within New York  
15 State. They definitely cannot use the cable to sell  
16 electricity into Canada. The design of the cable is  
17 kind of like exclusionary zoning. It's a one way DC  
18 cable that starts in Canada, crosses the border, and has  
19 an exit converter station in Queens in New York City at  
20 this point. And a lot of these arrangements have  
21 changed radically from the initial presentation of the  
22 plan.

1           It's a de facto exclusion. It's not legal,  
2 but it's just that you can't get access to it. There  
3 are no entry points. There are no access points in New  
4 York State. The fact that there is a one way cable  
5 promotes unfair competition for Canadian subsidized  
6 electricity into the New York City metro market. It  
7 subsidizes that electricity to the detriment of  
8 electricity produced in New York, especially when the  
9 New York independence systems operator auction system is  
10 accounted for. Their electricity tranches are auctioned  
11 off from lowest bid to highest bid, but the highest bid  
12 pays all other bids that -- at that level. Subsidized  
13 electricity, including Indian Point, by the way, can bid  
14 low and they're going to be rewarded three, four, five  
15 times of what their bid is just based on the mechanism  
16 of that auction system.

17           All transmission systems should be integrated  
18 into the existing grid. This cable does not do that.  
19 There are constraints. There are congestion corridors  
20 in New York, especially where we are here from Utica to  
21 Albany to Poughkeepsie. The cable makes no effort to  
22 remedy that congestion. It leapfrogs over that

1 congestion. It doesn't include itself in the grid. It  
2 bypasses the problem.

3           There are design changes that could remedy  
4 that and could remedy the access for trade back and  
5 forth, and that is to construct a converter station  
6 right here in the Albany area. This is kind of like the  
7 Times Square of transmission corridors from Buffalo,  
8 from Messina, to Utica, to Albany, and down the Hudson  
9 into the metro market. That is not part of the plan.  
10 That was suggested at the initial hearings and was  
11 rejected.

12           The claim of the cable is that it'll improve  
13 reliability for consumers and rate payers in New York  
14 State. Reliability in this case is really a function of  
15 the producer, and the cable does not own or produce the  
16 electricity. Hydro-Quebec does. And that is an  
17 unreliable source, especially since if Quebec re-routes  
18 that electricity or the seasonality factor, if they need  
19 it for their own use, if there's a drought and it's not  
20 available, there is no ability for New York-produced  
21 electricity to make up the deficit if that changes or if  
22 the contracts change. Who knows?

1           Part of the flaw is in the NEPA EIS to begin  
2 with, which only evaluates the project from the Canadian  
3 border to the exit point in New York. It doesn't  
4 include the entire project, just at mid-point south, so  
5 the problem of the supply of electricity, which is  
6 really paramount. You know, we focus here on the  
7 engineering of the -- of the cable itself, the physical  
8 cable. The big issue, though, is what the cable is used  
9 for, and that's to transmit electricity. We should be  
10 focusing on the electricity. It's kind of like having a  
11 great computer system. We're evaluating that, except  
12 we're only going to evaluate half the computer system,  
13 and we're going to totally ignore the software that  
14 controls the whole thing. That's what we're facing with  
15 here.

16           The converter station in Albany, for instance,  
17 and other converter stations in between the line would  
18 actually ensure the reliability, and would also remedy  
19 all of the problems with the cable as it currently is.

20           NEPA requires need evaluations. That was not  
21 done in the EIS. There are four power plants in the  
22 lower Hudson that are closed. They were producing full

1 power. We were using that power. They are not needed.

2 They are not pumping out electricity. The Lovett Power  
3 Plant has been bulldozed. There are two power plants  
4 upstate, Cayuga and Dunkirk. They were petitioned --  
5 the Public Service Commission was petitioned to mothball  
6 those two plants by the owners because they were losing  
7 money. They're selling no more than 25 percent of their  
8 capacity, and the two utilities, NYSEG and National  
9 Grid, both submitted documents that they could replace  
10 that power through upgrading the transmission lines  
11 themselves.

12 Indian Point is pumping out at full speed, but  
13 they're selling three-quarters of their electricity, not  
14 to New York, not to New York City, not to Westchester,  
15 but to Connecticut. We have this existing capacity that  
16 is not used. We really don't need more capacity. Above  
17 and beyond that, we have two power plants that are  
18 approved, one outside of Middletown in the town of  
19 Wawayanda and the other in Cricket Valley in Dover in  
20 Dutchess County. They're approved, but they have no  
21 funding to build them because there's no customers to  
22 buy the electricity and pay for it.

1           We have Athens Power Plan right down the road  
2 here on the Hudson. It's a new gas fire plant. It's  
3 only eight years old. They are in financial trouble  
4 because they are not able to sell their electricity.  
5 They also are not able to get through the blockages in  
6 the congestion zone I previously mentioned. They have  
7 put in an application for a cable from Athens down to  
8 Buchanan to hook into the Con Ed lines on the other side  
9 of this congestion area. That is not taken into  
10 consideration in this EIS. The two new power plants are  
11 not mentioned in the EIS. The four power plants that  
12 are out of commission are not mentioned in the EIS.

13           Not mentioned also is the role of the Marcy  
14 South power line owned by the New York Power Authority.  
15 That brings all kinds of renewable energy -- Niagara  
16 Falls, Messina Energy -- into the metropolitan area  
17 right now. And the big thing is the energy highway  
18 blueprint that we talk about that the Public Service  
19 Commission staff indicates when they reviewed the  
20 application of the cable, that that would only be a  
21 promise, not a reality. They indicated that the cable  
22 would not improve the grid. It would leapfrog over it,

1 but at least it would supply it with their money, and  
2 that's changed also, supply electricity into the metro  
3 area that is not currently available. And  
4 theoretically, the extra supply would lower the cost to  
5 consumers, and that isn't going to happen either.

6           The big news that never made headlines, or  
7 reported on, or press releases was in -- on September 18  
8 in the legal section was announced the first step of the  
9 energy highway implementation. Applications had been  
10 made to the Public Service Commission by the big five  
11 utilities that control the transmission lines from  
12 National Grid, Central Hudson, NYSEG, Con Ed, Orange and  
13 Rockland, plus the Power Authority, to do a combined  
14 joint upgrade of this whole transmission corridor. The  
15 efficiencies on an industry-wide, utility-wide scale  
16 would diminish the need for new generation and diminish  
17 the need for existing generation, including the obsolete  
18 plants. And there's a cost benefit to that.

19           What that would do is unblock this congestion  
20 that's here and would obviate the need for the power  
21 plant at Athens and definitely obviate the need for the  
22 cable from Montreal down into the city. The blockages



1 would disappear. The energy would be available that  
2 isn't available in a free flow capacity now, and the  
3 price would be diminished twofold: the price based on  
4 the efficiencies of the new technology that would take  
5 place, including the new substations, would lower the  
6 price, and the ability of getting the lower price hydro  
7 power from Messina, Niagara Falls, in quantity into the  
8 lower New York region would also diminish the prices.  
9 The cable would not do any of that, nor would new  
10 construction.

11           An example that we have of efficiencies on a  
12 utility-wide scale is what happened with the Lovett  
13 Power Plant in Rockland County. Lovett was under a  
14 consent decree because of non-compliance with air  
15 emissions. And they instead, because they're losing  
16 money, they would never be able to recoup any capital  
17 investment to improve the emissions. They petitioned to  
18 go out of business. They had to show replacement power.

19    The replacement power, just by chance unrelated, was  
20 the upgrade that Con Ed did to the Orange and Rockland  
21 utilities, which they had just purchased, including a  
22 new substation the -- with state-of-the-art digital

1 computer electricity flow management systems.

2           That efficiency made up for the production  
3 loss of Lovett. Lovett was replaced not with new  
4 generation, but with efficiency. And that's what we're  
5 looking forward to with all of the major transmission  
6 upgrades. The grid modernization that's been talked  
7 about for the last 20 years as a priority is starting to  
8 take place. And Lovett has since been bulldozed.

9           The issue last night that was mentioned in  
10 Rockland was the change in the design of the cable  
11 itself. Initially, the electricity was to have been  
12 generated by the free-flowing stream in Labrador, the  
13 lower Churchill Falls Project. That was changed to  
14 Hydro-Quebec, which has an uneven flow and currently  
15 does not have existing capacity to satisfy the full need  
16 of -- if they sold all their electricity to the city or  
17 the Lower Hudson.

18           Another major change was the overland route  
19 through Rockland County. It's confusing why that route  
20 was chosen other than to satisfy the need of some of the  
21 interveners, who were protective of the fish habitat in  
22 Haverstraw Bay. It seems that both could be satisfied

1 by relocating that project. However, the overland route  
2 is going to create all kinds of cumulative impacts in  
3 Rockland County, which were never revealed, never  
4 studied, never evaluated in the EIS. Not only should  
5 the EIS deadline for comments, or the draft EIS, be  
6 extended six months, there should be a supplemental EIS  
7 to include the change of the plans, the routes. There's  
8 a three-mile change in Queens that hasn't really been  
9 covered in the EIS. There's been no input. There's  
10 been no scoping on any of that.

11           There should be a supplemental to include  
12 that, including the entire power needs generation  
13 consumption patterns in New York, the fact that  
14 electricity has been in decline in terms of consumption.

15 We know that electricity is coming into New York from  
16 importation. We know that the energy service companies  
17 are supplying over a million households in New York, and  
18 that doesn't reveal itself on the -- on the books of  
19 where that's coming from or what impact, but we do know  
20 that power produced by New York State power plants has  
21 gone down, and we're not totally sure why.

22           And we know that there are efficiencies in

1 place. We know net metering and remote net metering  
2 have an impact. We know that the renewables are the  
3 future with job creation in the State. We know that the  
4 absorption of the renewable energy credits is a  
5 detriment to our own job supply here. We know that the  
6 impact of the energy highway actually being implemented  
7 is probably the biggest single event regarding energy  
8 generation, and distribution, and efficiency that will  
9 be on an industry-wide, utility-wide scale that we can't  
10 comprehend. We talk about efficiency. Normally it's  
11 replacing light bulbs. We're not talking about that.  
12 We're talking about transmission systems that replace  
13 whole power plants.

14 Lovett is our example. Cayuga and Dunkirk  
15 Power Plants are next in line. The utilities have done  
16 their engineering studies, the electricity production  
17 flow. And the \$30 million to replace and realign the  
18 power lines that are required would no longer require  
19 \$600 million each for two plants. Those are the  
20 realities that we have to deal with. We are in a whole  
21 new energy world. We have to adapt to that.

22 This cable -- the technology of the cable is

1 excellent, by the way. This is the one thing. It's the  
2 wrong project, but the right technology. And that  
3 technology should be employed if we are really future  
4 looking in not just New York State, but the Federal  
5 government has released information that they want a  
6 whole grid upgrade in the whole east of the Mississippi.

7 And the DC cable underground system, this would be a  
8 good example for a backbone system from Buffalo, to  
9 Albany, from Messina to Utica, for both down into the  
10 metropolitan area, which would also service Connecticut  
11 and New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. We're all part  
12 of that same economic and use configuration. A DC  
13 current perhaps owned and operated by the New York Power  
14 Authority, our single largest utility, in conjunction  
15 and partnership with the utilities, the five that I  
16 mentioned before, who have jurisdiction within their  
17 service territories.

18 But I think that is the thing. This cable has  
19 too many deficits as it's -- as it is currently  
20 presented. And again, the biggie is there is no access.

21 There is no ability to use it. There's no grid  
22 improvement. But the grid improvement is taking place

1 anyway. When that happens, the cable will not be  
2 needed. Thank you very much.

3           Also I submitted comments at the scoping  
4 sessions. It's been over three years; I can't believe  
5 it. And almost all of the comments submitted were  
6 ignored in the EIS. So what I'd like to do is resubmit  
7 those same comments. I'd like to give you a map. This  
8 is the map from the developer, from TDI. And it shows  
9 the initial plan and the initial source of the energy.  
10 And it shows how easy it would be to put that converter  
11 station right here in the Albany area on ground that  
12 would service the whole State, and the ability of  
13 hooking up an east-west connection, which was also  
14 discussed. And the developers are very good at bringing  
15 that to their financial supporters as a possibility.

16           But the object of the cable is not to improve  
17 our grid, is not to increase the flow of commerce within  
18 New York State. It's to provide a one-way protected  
19 route of Hydro-Quebec electricity into the largest  
20 consumption market in North America. That is the goal,  
21 not to help the grid and the distribution.

22           Also I'm including a public notice. There has

1 been no press release. I'm surprised the Governor has  
2 not taken full credit for his energy highway blue print  
3 plan. But in here it shows all various projects that  
4 the big five utilities are doing jointly with NIPA.  
5 There are three or four other transmission -- merchant  
6 transmission companies with their own projects above and  
7 beyond what's in here. But this gives a real good idea  
8 of how comprehensive this grid upgrade is going to be,  
9 and unblock all of the congestion that's been bedeviling  
10 us, raising prices, and preventing the free flow of sale  
11 and consumption of electricity.

12           The NYSEG, for instance, New York State  
13 Electric and Gas, needs electricity supply in their  
14 Kingston service area. They're dependent on National  
15 Grid and Central Hudson for the transmission lines.  
16 They have put a proposal in for a 58-mile buried cable  
17 down the throughway, just like Athens has put their  
18 submarine cable proposal in because they cannot access  
19 the current grid themselves, and they cannot access the  
20 Champlain Hudson Power Express cable either, which would  
21 solve both of their problems if the connectivity were  
22 put in place.

1           So let me give that to you with the initial  
2    comments from August 2nd of 2010. The criticisms of  
3    then are as valid today as they were when they were  
4    originally written. Thank you very much.

5           (Applause.)

6           MS. SMITH: Susan Lawrence?

7           MS. LAWRENCE: I want to thank Jurgen Wekerle  
8    who has great expertise in this area for speaking in  
9    such detail and so eloquently about what the issues are  
10   and what needs to be done. I'm Susan Lawrence. I'm the  
11   Conservation Chair of the Atlantic Chapter, which is New  
12   York State, of the Sierra Club, and work closely with  
13   Jurgen and other people so concerned about this.

14           First of all, Jurgen said it, and I think  
15   others may have asked for it. We'd like to have a 180-  
16   day extension of the time to make comments on this EIS.

17    It's very complex and very lengthy. And I think people  
18   need to have time to have -- themselves to look it over  
19   and to have experts look it over for their  
20   recommendations about what needs to be done.

21           I'd just emphasize again the line -- this  
22   proposed line is not in the U.S. national interest. It



1 displaces New York State jobs that provide -- that  
2 produce, transmit, and provide electricity. It would  
3 only create 26 long-term jobs in New York State. We  
4 need to have jobs for greatly increased renewable energy  
5 produced within New York State and transmitted within  
6 New York State. We need to be sustainable for our  
7 national security in terms of energy, and we don't need  
8 this one-way line coming down from Canada that we can't  
9 hook into.

10 Our emphasis for the future has to be on  
11 conservation and efficiency, and including efficiency  
12 with our electricity production and transmission, and  
13 that's all -- New York State is working on this now.  
14 There are a lot of plans in the work, a lot of work that  
15 has been done, a lot for the future. And this proposal  
16 is, to me, out of line with what New York State needs to  
17 do. We need a long-term sustainable economy, and we  
18 shouldn't rely on flooding vast lands of native people  
19 in Canada to produce our electricity. Thank you very  
20 much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. SMITH: I wanted to invite Mr. Ramon

1 Figueroa again, if he would like to speak.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. SMITH: Okay. Is there anyone else here  
4 that either has walked in or while you're sitting has  
5 considered speaking? Please step forward and you'll  
6 have the opportunity to speak now. And please give us  
7 your name.

8 MR. WILCOX: Sure. I'm Phil Wilcox. I'm with  
9 the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers Local  
10 97. Most of what I have to say is redundant. We are  
11 part of a group of 15,000 IBW utility workers, and we  
12 feel a significant threat from the Champlain Hudson  
13 project. And we feel that the project --

14 COURT REPORTER: Could you use the microphone?

15 MR. WILCOX: Sure. The project was initiated  
16 prior to the Governor's energy highway initiative, and  
17 we think that that process renders this obsolete. So we  
18 are totally opposed to CHP. Thanks.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. SMITH: Are there any other interested  
21 speakers?

22 (No response.)

1                   MS. SMITH: All right. With that, we thank  
2 you for your time, and this hearing is adjourned.

3                   (Whereupon, at 7:13 p.m., the meeting was  
4 adjourned.)

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CHAMPLAIN HUDSON EXPRESS TRANSMISSION  
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

DOE EIS PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

West Side Ballroom  
253 New York Road  
Plattsburgh, New York 12903

Alderson Court Reporting  
1-800-FOR-DEPO

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PARTICIPANTS

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES/HEARING OFFICERS:

BRIAN MILLS

JULIE SMITH

JODI MCDONALD

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS:

WILLIAM WELLMAN

JEFFREY KELLOGG

JOHN DONOGHUE

BEN MAINVILLE

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (6:05 p.m.)

3 MR. MILLS: Good evening. Please go ahead  
4 and get seated. We've got a lot of room down front. My  
5 name is Brian Mills with the Department of Energy.  
6 Before we get started with the hearing, I'd like to open  
7 up with some general housekeeping items.

8 Those folks who would like to make verbal  
9 comments should sign up at the registration table at the  
10 back of the room. A stenographer will be recording all  
11 verbal comments, so we ask that you speak clearly into  
12 the microphones being provided for this purpose.

13 Any written comments on the EIS that you  
14 would like to hand over tonight can be submitted at the  
15 registration table at any point this evening. With  
16 that, we can get started with the hearing.

17 MS. SMITH: Hi. Good evening. I'm Julie  
18 Smith, and I'd like to thank you for taking your time  
19 out of your busy schedules to attend this hearing. I  
20 work for the Department of Energy in the Office of  
21 Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. I, along  
22 with Jodi McDonald from the U.S. Army Corps of

1 Engineers, will be the hearing's officers today.

2           The reason that we are here is the Champlain  
3 Hudson Power Express is proposing to construct an  
4 international transmission line. They've asked the  
5 Department of Energy for a presidential permit. A  
6 presidential permit is needed before any transmission  
7 line can be built across the U.S. international border.

8 DoE determined that an environmental impact statement  
9 would be the appropriate level of analysis for this  
10 presidential permit.

11           This is a public hearing on the Champlain  
12 Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project draft  
13 Environmental Impact Statement. Now, that's a mouthful,  
14 so I'm going to shorten that and say draft EIS. Once we  
15 begin the hearing, we will hear from you in the order  
16 that you've signed up. If you wish to speak but haven't  
17 signed up, you can sign up at the registration table in  
18 the back of the room.

19           For those of you who may not be familiar with  
20 the process we go through in preparing an environmental  
21 impact statement or EIS and where we are for this  
22 particular project in that process, I'll cover some

1 steps for you. Although I'm sure you've all read the  
2 draft EIS available on our EIS website, you can also  
3 find more detailed information for the process and this  
4 project on that website.

5           The first step in the process, we start  
6 public participation by issuing a Notice of Intent to  
7 Prepare an EIS. For this project, DoE issued our Notice  
8 of Intent on June 18th, 2010, and an amended notice on  
9 April 30th, 2012. The Notice of Intent begins a process  
10 we call scoping, which is an opportunity for the public  
11 to tell us their issues and concerns related to the  
12 project. We use this input to help us prepare the draft  
13 EIS. If you commented during the scoping period, we  
14 used your scoping comments to determine which  
15 alternatives and issues we needed to address.

16           The next step in the process is then to  
17 prepare a draft EIS. The draft EIS analyzes the  
18 foreseeable environmental impacts that might result from  
19 DoE granting the permit. The draft EIS also identifies  
20 steps that might be needed to mitigate impacts. For  
21 this project, we issued the draft EIS on October 21st,  
22 2013. After we issue a draft, we ask the public to



1 comment on it during a public comment period. The  
2 Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, opens the  
3 comment period by publishing a Notice of Availability in  
4 the *Federal Register*. The EPA Notice of Availability  
5 for this draft EIS was in the *Federal Register* on  
6 November 1st, 2013.

7           Since this is where we are at in the process,  
8 I'm going to cover the public comment period a little  
9 bit more thoroughly. The comment period gives you an  
10 opportunity to tell us any changes that you would like  
11 to see in the draft EIS, what you think is wrong about  
12 the document and how you think we should fix it. We are  
13 also looking for issues that you think we missed or  
14 didn't cover as well as we should.

15           If you ask questions as part of your  
16 comments, we will not be able to answer your questions  
17 today, but we will do so in the final Environmental  
18 Impact Statement. It's also very helpful for your  
19 comments to cite specific sections or page numbers from  
20 the document itself. None of this is required, but it  
21 will help us to understand your comments.

22           During the hearing, the hearing's officers

1 may ask you questions to allow you to clarify points  
2 you're making. Whether you choose to speak or not, you  
3 are invited to submit written comments. Instructions to  
4 do so are provided on the board at the back of the room  
5 or are available on the registration table. All  
6 comments, whether written or oral, are treated the same  
7 and have equal weight.

8           For this draft EIS, we will continue to  
9 accept comments until December 16th, 2013. To the  
10 extent that we can, we will also consider your comments  
11 submitted after that date. After the close of the  
12 comment period, we will write the final Environmental  
13 Impact Statement, which considers your comments. The  
14 final EIS will contain a comment response document that  
15 addresses comments that we receive on the draft EIS.  
16 When completed, the EPA will issue a Notice of  
17 Availability of the final EIS in the *Federal Register*,  
18 and again, we will post the document on the EIS website  
19 and send it out to the mailing list. No sooner than 30  
20 days after the EPA lets all of you *Federal Register*  
21 readers know the final EIS is out there, DoE may issue a  
22 Record of Decision on the presidential permit

1 application. I hope that this overview -- this very  
2 general overview of the process is helpful.

3 I'd also like to mention a couple of other  
4 things about the draft EIS and this project. The  
5 Department of Energy has the authority to permit the  
6 border crossing. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
7 issues Clean Water Act permits. The State of New York  
8 has authority to cite transmission lines in New York  
9 State. Several other Federal and State agencies are  
10 working with DoE and the Corps in preparing the draft  
11 EIS, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
12 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard,  
13 the New York State Department of Public Service, and New  
14 York State Department of Environmental Conservation.  
15 These are all cooperating agencies in the preparation of  
16 the draft EIS.

17 While that's a lot to remember, so what you  
18 need to remember for this hearing are the following  
19 three points. First, comments received on the draft EIS  
20 will be included in the final EIS, and we will respond  
21 in the document to the comments received. Two, comments  
22 expressed at one of our hearings or provided to us by

1 email or letter will all be considered equally. And  
2 three, the comment period for the draft EIS closes on  
3 December 16th, 2013.

4 I'll now turn this over to our hearing's  
5 officer, Jodi McDonald, from the U.S. Army Corps of  
6 Engineers.

7 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Julie. I am Jodi  
8 McDonald, Chief of the Regulatory Branch for the New  
9 York District of the United States Army Corps of  
10 Engineers. I will be the presiding officer on behalf of  
11 the Corps of Engineers at today's public hearing.

12 The Corps of Engineers is here today to  
13 collect evidence and information, ensure coverage of  
14 core concerns, to assist in the regulatory review of a  
15 permit application by Champlain Hudson Power Express,  
16 Incorporated for the installation and construction of a  
17 336-mile power cable from the Canadian border through  
18 waters of the United States, including Lake -- including  
19 wetlands, as well as Lake Champlain, the Hudson River,  
20 Harlem River, and East River. The U.S. Department of  
21 Energy as lead Federal agency will make a decision  
22 whether to issue a presidential permit to allow for the

1 border crossing -- the U.S. border crossing to  
2 facilitate operation of this power cable.

3           The Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent  
4 for nor an opponent of the proposed work. Our role is  
5 to determine whether the proposed activity -- in this  
6 case the installation of a power line in waters of the  
7 United States -- is in the overall public interest.  
8 This hearing will play an important part in that  
9 determination.

10           Please understand that we do not expect to  
11 answer questions from the dais in this hearing related  
12 to the proposal as we are here to obtain information and  
13 your comments. Questions on the regulatory process in  
14 general can be directed to my staff in the back of the  
15 room today.

16           The New York District has issued a public  
17 notice for this project with the comment period closing  
18 on December 16th, 2013. That public notice is currently  
19 posted on my -- on the New York District website. The  
20 website address is [www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil), as in  
21 "military." We do have some copies available on the  
22 registration table as well. If you are not currently on

1 our public notice email distribution list and would like  
2 to receive an announcement for public notices from my  
3 office, please provide your email address to one of our  
4 staff members at the registration table today.

5 And with that, I will open the public  
6 hearing.

7 (Pounding of gavel.)

8 MS. SMITH: Our first speaker this evening is  
9 William Wellman.

10 MR. WELLMAN: Good evening. I'm Bill  
11 Wellman. I live in Plattsburgh, and I am the New York  
12 State Council of Trout Unlimited's representative to the  
13 Champlain Hudson Mitigation Committee, Governance  
14 Committee. And in that role, I have been part of the  
15 proceeding before the Public Service Commission in New  
16 York State, I think, since the inception of this  
17 project, at least in its proceedings there.

18 The EIS drafted by the Department of Energy  
19 mirrors in large part the findings that took place  
20 before the Public Service Commission. In that  
21 proceeding, the parties to the proceeding evolved a very  
22 comprehensive, detailed, and systematic look at all of

1 the environmental concerns that this project would bring  
2 to New York State. We looked at everything from  
3 sturgeon to snails as far as the impact on the  
4 environment, and Lake Champlain, the passage around  
5 Albany, and the Hudson River. As I say, that was a very  
6 comprehensive and detailed review.

7           That review was conducted by a number of  
8 parties, including the New York State Department of  
9 Environmental Conservation, the Department of State,  
10 other New York State agencies, the proponents of the  
11 project, and conservation organizations, such as Trout  
12 Unlimited, Hudson River Keeper, and Scenic Hudson.

13           At the conclusion of our review, we drafted a  
14 paper, which became known as the JP, and that was  
15 submitted to the Public Service Commission and detailed,  
16 in great extent, the best management practices, the  
17 timing, the environmental protections, all of the things  
18 that would go into protecting the environment while this  
19 project was being built; not only while it was being  
20 built, but in its subsequent operation.

21           That joint proposal also included and  
22 includes the provision of a mitigation fund of \$117

1 million, which will be paid during the 35-year lifespan  
2 of this project. That mitigation fund will be used to  
3 correct any things that were overlooked in this  
4 proceeding, and will be used for the general well-  
5 keeping of the environment and Lake Champlain, the  
6 Hudson, and all the waters surrounding New York City  
7 where the project will have an impact.

8           As I said earlier, the findings in the EIS  
9 mirror this project that we went through with the Public  
10 Service Commission and resulting in the joint proposal.

11       Therefore, I must say that environmental protections  
12 contained therein and in the EIS appear to Trout  
13 Unlimited not only to be sufficient, but to be  
14 comprehensive, and will protect New York State's  
15 environment.

16           So in conclusion, I would state that I think  
17 the project, and my organization does, is good for New  
18 York State. It's good for the employees and people of  
19 New York State that get electricity from the project,  
20 and it will protect the environment. Thank you.

21           (Applause.)

22           MS. SMITH: Jeffrey Kellogg?



1 MR. KELLOGG: Good evening, folks. My name  
2 is Jeff Kellogg. I represent the Operating Engineers,  
3 which are heavy equipment operators. This project  
4 covers probably two-thirds of our territory. It will  
5 put a lot of our men and women to work. And we want to  
6 go on record stating that we fully endorse this project.  
7 That's it.

8 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

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10 MS. SMITH: John Donaghue?

11 MR. DONOGHUE: Good evening. John Donoghue,  
12 Business Manager, Labor's Local 186. Our territory goes  
13 from the Canadian border all the way down to the Hudson  
14 River in Warren County. The 300 members, some of which  
15 my brothers and sisters are here tonight in the  
16 audience, we fully support this. We're looking forward  
17 to the jobs created by it, tax savings, environmentally  
18 friendly like we heard before. And the rest of the  
19 members that couldn't be her tonight wish to endorse  
20 this also. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Ben Mainville?

1           MR. MAINVILLE: Hi. I'm Ben Mainville, and  
2 I'm representing the Local Union 186, and if it creates  
3 jobs for us, I don't see why -- and it doesn't destroy  
4 the environment. I'm all for this project. As long as  
5 we keep the environment the way it is and it doesn't  
6 disturb it, there's not a problem. And I hope it  
7 creates more jobs that we need in this area and for a  
8 long period of time. Thank you very much.

9           (Applause.)

10          MS. SMITH: That actually concludes the list  
11 of folks that have registered to speak here at the  
12 public hearing tonight. But I would like to open it up  
13 to the folks on the floor. If you have not signed up to  
14 speak, but you feel compelled to do so at this time,  
15 please come forward and make your comment.

16          (No response.)

17          MS. SMITH: All right. Well, with that, this  
18 hearing is adjourned.

19          (Whereupon, at 6:21 p.m., the meeting was  
20 adjourned.)

21

22