

**REMARKS OF
THOMAS J. BASILE
COUNCILMAN-ELECT TOWN OF STONY POINT, NEW YORK
TO
DOE/ACE CHAMPLAIN HUDSON POWER EXPRESS HEARING
NOVEMBER 18, 2013**

Good evening.

In my time at the EPA, the Defense Department and in private business I have had occasion to work with both the DOE and the Army Corps and I've always appreciated your professionalism – and I appreciate your presence here tonight.

The issue of increasing energy supply and providing for our state and nation's energy future has been long debated in government, among private sector interests and activists.

At a time when our nation is still struggling to create jobs and modernize its aging electrical infrastructure to meet higher demand, it is unfortunate that as a state and as a nation that we have taken the nonsensical position of attempting to accomplish both of those goals while throwing up roadblocks to generating additional domestic sources of energy.

The best way to create jobs in this town, in this state and in this country is to produce energy HERE – and in so doing NOT the undercut economic development potential of this region.

That being said, it is clear from cross border discussions that have been held over a number of years, that both the State of New York and the Obama Administration are in favor of increasing the flow of hydroelectric power from Canada into the United States and into New York state.

If the Federal Government is going to back this project – know that the Town of Stony Point will fight in the courts and in the court of public opinion to prevent this cable and the others that would likely follow it, from coming on shore here in our historic town.

If CHPE is to proceed it should be routed through the Hudson River bed where it is currently slated to run for hundreds of miles bypassing every other town on its way to New York City.

There is no conclusive or convincing evidence that the cable will adversely impact the river's ecosystem adjacent to HERE in Stony Point as opposed to anywhere else.

And were there some evidence – Let me tell you - I've always been of the option that the needs of PEOPLE be considered a higher purpose and priority that those of FISH.

This is not about NIMBYism. This is not about opposing progress and this is not political in any way. It's about the lives of the people of this Town and the economic future.

The residents of historic Stony Point would be dealt a grave injustice should CHPE be allowed to come on land here.

The cable is slated to come on land just north of the Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site and Revolutionary War Cemetery and redirect back out into the river further south in Rockland.

Details about the route have been sketchy and according to documents provided no environmental impact testing has been done in the town.

I understand that the Administration purports to have a desire to increase the supply of clean energy to our state, particularly to New York City. However, the proposed project would clearly provide no public benefit to the people of Stony Point, while causing enormous, irreparable economic harm to our community.

Stony Point residents will be particularly hit hard due to what appears to be an arbitrary and fundamentally unfair route for the cable through our community.

According to the most recent route maps, the land-based route through Stony Point will require CHPE to pursue eminent domain or condemnation

proceedings against homeowners and other private and commercial entities in the town to accommodate a 50 foot Deviation Zone for the cable.

Further, the State's own Public Service Commission's findings of April, 2013 confirm that this project will not generate savings to New York's electricity consumers. They have concluded any savings from the project and its current routing plan would be realized by corporate interests, not ratepayers.

The number of jobs that would be created by this project has been hotly debated, continues to be questioned and is by no means settled considering CHPE's own reports that indicate any jobs would be highly specialized and therefore may be imported.

What is clear, is that the number of jobs created by this project IF ANY, would have the effect of killing, by my calculations, nearly 1000 local jobs particularly in the construction trades but also in engineering, retail and facility management.

The Town of Stony Point is currently advancing an economic development program and Sandy Recovery strategy that will revitalize our community, drive hundreds of millions of dollars in capital investment, and generate millions in tax revenue to help make this town sustainable and affordable for the future.

The program as- I view it -has its foundations in the creation of a thriving waterfront district on previously underutilized prime Hudson River waterfront property and the redevelopment of a major industrial site on the southern end of the town.

Let me be very clear – should CHPE be allowed to come on land, not only will dozens of residential properties be adversely impacted, and the property value of hundreds of homes decrease costing residents millions in personal wealth - both the aforementioned commercial projects and ancillary economic development derived from them may not be possible.

The route and deviation zone will scar the landscape of this town through its most vital areas leaving a trail of human and economic wreckage in its wake.

In short, the economic impact on businesses, residents and the municipality will be enormous and clearly does not outweigh any public benefit from the cable coming on land in our historic town.

Significant State and Federal legal questions also remain, for instance, whether CSX Railroad can offer CHPE a facility right of way even though the land-based installation will require the use of eminent domain and whether condemnation in this case is in keeping with state and federal case law on the subject.

Take this message back to General Bostick and Secretary Moniz – Do not underestimate the amount of opposition to this cable being brought on land in Stony Point and Rockland County.

You want your cross-border hydro power – put the cable in the river where it belongs. Do not underestimate our willingness or ability to fight this proposed route in the courts and in the court of public opinion.

It will not be difficult both here in New York and in Canada for this issue to become the poster child – and we have a lot of them lately – of the heavy hand of government advancing its goals at all costs without regard to the economic and personal damage done to its people.

Jobs will be lost. Personal wealth will be lost. Economic development will be stifled here and the damage will be irreparable. We will not permit this discrimination. We will not permit this injustice to be perpetrated on the people of this historic town.

Thank you.

From: Legislator Ed Day [<mailto:legislatorday@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2013 12:16 PM
To: Mills, Brian; jun.yan@usace.army.mil
Subject: CHAMPLAIN POWER EXPRESS PROPOSED PROJECT - DEIS COMMENT PERIOD

Dear Mr. Mills:

With respect to the above subject, you are no doubt understanding of the enormous impact that this project will have on the North Rockland community and beyond. As witness to that are the volume of comments and information you have received to date, all of which offer genuine concern to this observation.

Key to ensuring a comprehensive and proper DEIS is that these concerns are heard and heeded. Many in the community have only recently learned of many of the details and it is imperative that they are part of the process.

To that end, I respectfully request you consider extending the public comment period by 180 days. I believe that is a reasonable request that maximizes that key issue I mention - that all the people and businesses affected by this project are a complete part of this process. It also will allow for the community to fully assess, analyze, and respond to the thousands of pages of documents that are submitted as part of the DEIS process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ed

Edwin J. Day
Rockland County Legislature
Rockland County Executive-Elect
www.edday.us

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TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW

HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR.

Supervisor

ISIDRO CANCEL
JOHN J. GOULD
Councilmen

MICHAEL J. GAMBOLI
Director of Finance

VINCENT J. GAMBOLI
HECTOR L. SOTO
Councilmen

WILLIAM M. STEIN
Town Attorney

January 13, 2014

Via Facsimile: (202) 586-8008

Email: Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov & First Class Mail

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

RE: CHPE EIS


Dear Mr. Mills:

On behalf of the Town of Haverstraw and its residents, I would like to express our deep concern for the proposed application of the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project (CHPE). I am sending this letter to reiterate our great displeasure and opposition to this proposal. We cannot understand the logic of going outside of the United States for power and believe that this proposal, if implemented, will set a terrible precedent.

The CHPE Project suggests that the United States cannot produce its own energy. Should we rely on a foreign country for our energy needs and also how reliable is this source? The potential detrimental consequences to the residents and land owners of the Town of Haverstraw and neighboring Town of Stony Point, including the application of eminent domain, are cause for great concern.

The North Rockland community has their own power capabilities at Bowline in Haverstraw as well as the site at Lovett in Stony Point. Why not upgrade Bowline and rebuild Lovett? This would keep power production local as well as putting many people back to work. It is greatly disappointing that our power sources might not be in our own country.

Sincerely,


HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR.
Supervisor

Cc: Senator William Larkin
Assemblyman Kenneth Zebrowski

-----Original Message-----

From: Douglas Jobson [<mailto:JobsonD@co.rockland.ny.us>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 4:58 PM

To: Mills, Brian

Subject: CHPE Draft EIS" Comments/Public Notice NAN-2009-01089-EYA

CHPE Draft EIS" Comments / Public Notice NAN-2009-01089-EYA

To: Brian Mills, Senior Planning Advisor
Department of Energy
Office of Electricity Deliverability and Energy Reliability

E-mail: Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov

As the Rockland County Legislator representing District 1, which includes Stony Point, N.Y., I co-sponsored the attached Rockland County Resolution, dated June 19, 2012, opposing the Champlain Hudson Power Express, which soundly states Rockland County's opposition to this project. The resolution enumerates the numerous reasons why this proposed project is of particular concern to my constituents. The communities affected in North Rockland seek to have the opportunity to address their concerns at further public hearings and to obtain more information.

I thank you in advance for giving this your most careful consideration.

Very truly yours,

DOUGLAS J. JOBSON
Rockland County Legislator, District 1

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Introduced by:

Hon. Jay Hood, Jr., Sponsor
Hon. Douglas J. Jobson, Sponsor
Hon. Edwin J. Day, Sponsor
Hon. Ilan S. Schoenberger, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Aney Paul, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Frank Sparaco, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Philip Soskin, Co-Sponsor

Referral No. 1021
June 19, 2012

**RESOLUTION NO. 314 OF 2012
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CHAMPLAIN HUDSON POWER EXPRESS INC.,
TRANSMISSION LINE IN ROCKLAND COUNTY**

**HOOD, JR./CAREY, DAY, EARL, JOBSON, PAUL, SOSKIN, SPARACO, WIEDER:
M.V.**

WHEREAS, New York Public Service Commission recently held a hearing on the request to build a 1,000 megawatt Champlain Hudson Power Express transmission line, which line would come from upstate New York come out of the Hudson River in Stony Point, run underground along CSX rail right-of-way to West Haverstraw and then through Rockland Lake State Park before heading back to the Hudson, and

WHEREAS, the residents of Rockland county believe that the Public Hearing held to date on the proposal was not timely noticed to the people, nor was a complete study done of the potential impact of this line in the Hudson River and routed through Rockland County, as to the environment, and

WHEREAS, additionally this project would produce an extreme ecological impact on the unique environment of the Hudson River and will negatively affect the current flora and fauna that are dependent on the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, the laying of submarine cables presents a number of environmental problems, including stirring up industrial chemicals resting on the bottom of the River and cause disturbance to the fish habitats and endangered species in the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature calls upon the Governor of the State of New York to make certain that all affected communities have an opportunity to have public comment; and

WHEREAS, additional hearings with Rockland County should be conducted with more information on the project, and

WHEREAS, from an economic perspective, purchasing energy from outside New York State does not make sense for the state's as well as the national balance of payments; and

WHEREAS, allowing this power line to adversely affect the North Rockland Community and beyond is an insult to that community when there are presently two properties which are options to generate more electricity. The former Lovett and Bowline properties are available for developing new and more efficient plants which will create jobs and stabilize the local tax base which has been destroyed by the aging plants, and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Public Service Commission to encourage local generation of electricity on available properties instead for allowing a disruptive and damaging power line to import Canadian electricity; and

WHEREAS, it is likewise incumbent upon the Public Service Commission to conduct another hearing so that sufficient notice to the public can be given and Rockland residents have an opportunity to voice their many concerns and absent more information from the Public Service Commission and further comment period, the County opposes this project; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Public Works Committee has met, considered and by a unanimous vote, approved this resolution; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Legislature of Rockland County hereby opposes the proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express Inc., transmission line in Rockland County and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature calls upon the Governor of the State of New York to make certain that all affected communities have an opportunity to have public comment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and he is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; Joe Martens, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; William Janeway, Regional Director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 3; Garry A. Brown, Chairman of the New York State Public Service Commission; Hon. David Carlucci, Member of the New York State Senate; Hon. Kenneth P. Zebrowski, Jr., Hon. Ellen C. Jaffee, Hon. Nancy Calhoun, and Ann G. Rabbitt, Members of the New York State Assembly, and to such other persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

VOTE:

Ayes: 16
Abstain: 01 (Legislator Grant)

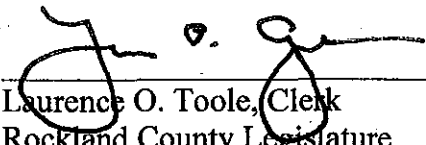
STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND)

I, the undersigned, Clerk to the Legislature of the County of Rockland DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached is an original resolution of such Legislature, duly adopted on the 19th day of June 2012 by a majority of the members elected to the Legislature while such Legislature was in regular session with a duly constituted quorum of members present and voting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that at the time said resolution was adopted said Legislature was comprised of seventeen members.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Legislature this 20th day of June 2012.

Date sent to the County Executive:
June 20, 2012



Laurence O. Toole, Clerk
Rockland County Legislature

Certified or Approved
C. Scott Vanderhoef, County Executive
County of Rockland

(Date)

RESOLUTION NO. 314 OF 2012