



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION
WESLEY O'BRIEN, GENERAL COUNSEL & INTERIM DIRECTOR

December 18, 2013

Brian Mills
Senior Planning Advisor
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Comments on Champlain Hudson Power Express DEIS

Dear Mr. Mills:

The City of New York has reviewed the DEIS for the Champlain Hudson Power Express ("CHPE") and would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

The CHPE transmission project is a development project that as proposed would bring 1,000 megawatts of renewable wind and hydropower from the Canadian Province of Quebec directly into New York City using submarine and subterranean high-voltage direct current lines.

Following a comprehensive review, the New York State Public Service Commission ("PSC") on April 18, 2013 issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for CHPE pursuant to Public Service Law Article VII, thereby authorizing construction and operation of the CHPE line in New York State. The City of New York was a party to the Article VII proceeding, and fully supported the action of the Commission.

CHPE advances a number of City and State energy policy goals

The operation of the proposed CHPE would advance major energy and environmental policies of the City of New York. The City policies and objectives advanced by the Facility also are consistent with major State policies and objectives.

The City has developed an ambitious slate of energy policies that is set forth in its PlaNYC 2030: A Greener, Greater New York ("PlaNYC"). PlaNYC is a policy blueprint intended to synthesize the economic and population growth in the City with broad, multi-faceted efforts to protect and enhance the City's environment. Programs implemented under PlaNYC are intended to reduce

energy consumption throughout the City, achieve the cleanest air quality of any major city in the United States, and reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2017 (i.e., “30 by 17”) and Citywide greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030.

With respect to renewable energy, PlaNYC set forth a plan based, in part, on “making our energy supply cleaner, more affordable, and more reliable.” PlaNYC also recognizes the value and importance of public health benefits associated with reduced emissions. The City has a compelling interest in implementing PlaNYC in order to ensure that its residents and businesses realize the economic, environmental and health benefits associated with an increased reliance on renewable energy.

To that end, PlaNYC includes a goal of increasing the City’s clean energy supply by 2,000 MW by 2015. Currently, the amount of electricity that may be imported to the City is limited by congested north-south transmission lines in New York State. One strategy adopted to achieve the clean energy goal is to increase the amount of renewable energy that can be imported into the City.

The City’s general support for CHPE is consistent with this strategy, and with the overarching City policy goals the strategy intends to promote. As noted, it is anticipated that the proposed transmission line would deliver up to 1,000 MW of renewable energy, thereby representing a unique opportunity to increase dramatically the amount of clean energy available in-City via a project that will be developed on a merchant basis and will not burden electric delivery ratepayers.

The City is not aware of any other large-scale renewable energy project that may be constructed and operated in the near term to benefit an area of the State that has been historically underserved by renewable power projects. Currently, only a handful of small-scale solar photovoltaic projects are located downstate. CHEP would thus support important City and State policies through a greatly increased reliance on electricity generated by large-scale renewable resources.

New York State energy policy also promotes increased reliance on renewable energy as one means of mitigating the public health and environmental impacts associated with electricity generated from the combustion of fossil fuels. One of the five policy objectives set forth in the most recent State Energy Plan is to “[r]educe health and environmental risks associated with the production and use of energy across all sectors” based, in part, on a recognition that fossil fuel combustion emits chemicals that are associated with a range of adverse health effects and that also contribute to acid rain and climate change. The 2009 State Energy Plan noted that increasing the amount of renewable energy sold at retail in New York State to 30% by 2015 was a primary component of the “45 x 15” goal established by former Governor David Paterson.

Waterfront Revitalization Program

The Department of State concluded the Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP) consistency review in 2011, which included consistency with the New York City WRP. Therefore, no additional WRP review is required at this time. However, the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) requests that your consideration of the following with respect to the FEIS:

- 1) The response to the WRP Policy 2.1 incorrectly states that the project is not located in a Significant Maritime and Industrial Area. In fact, the portion of the transmission cable

that travels along the Bronx Kill/NYSDOT rail yards is an SMIA. As the design details are developed for this segment of the transmission cable, particular sensitivity should be given to ensure that the actions do not inhibit the efficient operation of the SMIA as an industrial/maritime area.

- 2) The response to WRP Policy 8 states that there will be no effect on public access to or along the city's coastal waters. It should also be noted that the City is actively involved in creating a new pedestrian and bike connection between the South Bronx and Randall's Island across the Bronx Kill, which will provide a critical link in the South Bronx Greenway and allow South Bronx residents to easily access Randall's Island's parks. For more information about the project, please see [NYCEDC's website](#). As design details are developed for this terrestrial segment of the transmission cable, particular attention should be paid to maintaining public access along this portion of the waterfront, including efforts to ensure kayak and canoe navigability along the Bronx Kill and beneath the Hells Gate Bridge. The applicant should coordinate with the NYCEDC. Likewise, the portion in North Queens around the Poletti Power Plant, the Luyster Creek Converter Station, and the Rainey Interconnection should consider the planning efforts underway for the [Queens East River and North Shore Greenway](#) and street end public access to Luyster Creek at 19th Ave (see [Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan](#), Reach 7 and 11).
- 3) In areas where the transmission cable transitions from water to land or vice versa, designs should be carefully developed to protect and restore wetlands and ecological communities, which may be impacted by Horizontal Directional Drilling. Particular attention should be paid to the design of shorelines that may need to be reconstructed as a result of this work and the ecological enhancement opportunities at those locations. Based on the materials provided, this will occur at MP 330, just north of the Willis Avenue Bridge, at MP 331 along the Bronx Kill, and at MP332 at the Poletti Power Plant facility in Astoria, Queens.
- 4) It is not clear whether an analysis been conducted to determine the likely effect of sea level rise and associated coastal flood risk on the proposed project. All facilities should be designed using the latest FEMA flood hazard data and should consider the impacts of climate change, using the projections from the New York City Panel on Climate Change.
- 5) Section 6.1.1.5 (page 6-6) of the FEIS refers to the Astoria Rezoning Plan. This plan was approved in May 2010. See [DCP's website](#).

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Wesley O'Brien

General Counsel & Interim Director

From: kevinmaher@verizon.net [<mailto:kevinmaher@verizon.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 3:37 PM

To: Mills, Brian

Cc: sfilgueras@optonline.net

Subject: Champlain Hudson Power Express

Importance: High

Dear Mr. Mills:

As both the Town Engineer and resident of the Town of Stony Point, I must strenuously object to the issuance of any permits for this project as it is currently configured by Transmission Developers Inc..

Their "Project" is a callous invasion of the Town of Stony Point and shows no respect for the history of the area and the significance that it played during the Revolutionary War.

I know that it had originally been backed by Governor Cuomo as a step in replacing Indian Point as a power source for New York City, but I believe that the hue and cry over the closed door deals arranged in Albany (including the deal made with the environmental groups) have angered many in Rockland County. For Don Jessome to state that they would just "shoot a bullet" under the Waldron Cemetery (many Revolutionary and War of 1812 heroes are buried there) to install the power cables as a part of the HDD method is an affront to everything that this country stands for.

And why should we be promoting energy from Canada? What's wrong with putting our own people to work building better and more efficient power plants? Isn't that what Governor Cuomo keeps talking about (building back better and stronger)? There is also a growing doubt that the Canadian Power company will not be able to supply "Green Energy" (wind, hydroelectric, solar, etc.) in a sufficient quantity (or at all) which would mean that power generated by coal and oil-fired plants in Canada will be flowing down the line. So much for lowering "Greenhouse Gases".

The attached copy of the resolution from the Rockland County Legislature should be a clear enough signal that we do not want this line anywhere in Rockland County.

Therefore, I request that this project be given the highest degree of scrutiny to be sure that it is both economically and environmentally feasible and that it will not have any adverse impacts to the area and the citizens of Rockland County.

Our National Energy Policy should be focused on energy independence first, then on "environmentally friendly" generation secondly.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin P. Maher, P.E., M.ASCE
Town Engineer (and resident)
Town of Stony Point, Rockland County, NY

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)

LG3131

RM/cs

JH 6/12/12cs; 6/20/12

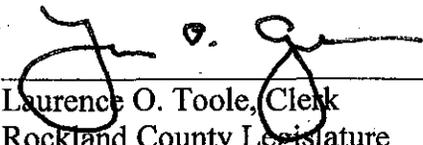
STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND)

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