US Department of Energy



NOV 0 4 2013

Electricity Delivery and ith glens falls, ny 12803 TELECOPIER: **Energy Reliability**

518-798-3172

US Department of Energy

518-798-2279

October 24, 2013

Department of Energy Office of Electricity Delivery, OE-20 1000 Independence Ave. SW Washington, DC 20585

Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Re: Champlain Hudson Power Transmission Line

Dear Sir/Madam:

Qualifications to Speak Over more than 30 years my Company designed and supplied over 4000 high voltage electrical substations and transmission projects. Projects near the proposed transmission line include IBM at Essex Jct (115kv), Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting, Green Mountain Power, Central Vermont, Rouses Point, NYSEG, Niagara Mohawk, Central Hudson and Con Ed, and many more customers in this region, plus all over the United States. I am no longer in this business and therefore do not have a conflict of interest.

Cost of Power All power is produced at low voltage and used at low voltage. Most of the cost comes from stepping up the voltage for transmission and then stepping the voltage down at the destination. Power is less expensive to transmit when at higher voltages. However, the electrical substations to change the voltage, plus the transmission towers, and land require substantial investments. Transmission also results in line loss of power, and power transformers lose some of the power. If the objective is to provide low cost power, the solution comes from producing and using power in the same locale rather than building transmission lines.

Monopoly When the electrical industry was first developed in the United States to provide power for farms, homes and business, only large companies could afford the investment. Government protected that investment by granting monopolies. Since that time, our population has increased and citizens have access to many ways of generating power. However, ancient laws prevent neighbors from selling power across the public street to each other without paying a "wheeling charge." The wheeling charge has no justification in cost. and can only be described as a way of enforcing the monopoly. In Warren County, for example, the County installed a co-gen facility to support the County nursing home and County offices. A new office building was constructed on the other side of State Route 9. There is a conduit under Rt. 9 that could be used to provide power to the new offices, but the monopoly requires the County to connect to the public utility and pay the wheeling charge. So the co-gen has been partially shut down and is costing Warren County taxpayers while the County buys power for the new building from the public utility.

The 6 Cent Mandate During the term of President Carter there was an energy crisis. FERC mandated that the utilities would have to pay anyone who could produce power 6 cents per KWH. That seemed to the investor owned utilities like a number that entrepreneurs could not achieve and still make money. However, people started burning trash, developing abandoned hydro sites, and installing turbines from old jet engines run by natural gas to produce power. Then came solar, wind, waste heat recovery and numerous other innovative ways to produce cheap power. There was, in fact, so much of this so-called "cheap power" that the investor owned utilities had to purchase that they could not sell all the power their high cost plants could produce. In New York, the independent power market was wiped out with the stroke of a pen. The plan was called Power Choice. That plan effectively re-imposed the monopoly.

Con Ed Experience During the 6 Cent Period, a shareholder at the Con Ed Shareholders' Meeting asked the Chairman of Con Ed in an open forum when Con Ed would build another power plant. The Chairman replied that Con Ed sent out RFQs for 6 cent power, and received so many proposals that Con Ed would not have to consider building another plant for at least 50 years. Then Gov. Pataki signed Power Choice into law and destroyed the free market. There is no incentive to invest in power when there is only one potential customer.

Low Cost Solution to Our Power Needs Allow anyone who can produce power to sell to anyone who wants to buy power at the price the two parties agree upon. The telephone and gas transmission industries have already gone though this change, and reduced costs dramatically to the public. Only power is delivered by an ancient business model.

Benefits Changing from a central power plant design to a locally produced power plan will reduce power costs to consumers by 50% or more. Thousands of jobs will be created building co-generation, waste heat recovery and other power projects. Jobs will be created at home rather than being exported to Canada. Environmental issues will be avoided. Our national security will be improved by reducing the chance of black outs and cyber invaders from infiltrating the computer systems that control power. A local market will be created for gas from the Marcellus field. Innovative people like Blacklight Power in NJ who can produce power from water will finally have a market to propel their business. The potential for innovation and lower costs will be unlocked.

Given the changes that have already occurred in technology, another large, expensive transmission project cannot be justified. No Action should be taken on the Champlain Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project.

Very truly yours,

Roger L. Jenhings

President

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

Re: The U.S. Department of Energy (has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Email: Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov

Dear Mr. Mills:

I was notified that written comments could be submitted via email, and so here are my comments, as a resident of the Hudson Valley in Cornwall, NY.

The analysis considers the potential environmental impacts from the proposed Federal action of granting a Presidential permit to Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border in northeastern New York State. I believe many items need evaluation.

During construction and maintenance of the above ground towers, aesthetic impacts have been identified, I believe below ground facilities can produce visual and aesthetic impacts, as well and should be identified and evaluated.

In the event that construction or operation of the CHPE facilities results in a release of sewage, such as through inadvertently fracturing a pipeline, what could be done if it was to produce substantial environmental impacts?

How will the cable be repaired if necessary?

The DEIS must address the potential for re-suspension of PCBs and other contaminants in the Mid and Lower Hudson River, due to the burying of cable in contaminated sediment. Some areas of cable may be buried by being mechanically plowed or dredged, this would increase the risk of of re-suspension. Resuspension of PCB's would impact wildlife and aquatic species. It would also impact many people that enjoy swimming, boating and fishing.

There are many endangered species that live in the area including bald eagles that breed near the Hudson. If there is a potential of disturbance to the nesting grounds or clearing of land in order for the route to be installed I hope that special attention is given to the evaluation of these impacts.

Sincerely,

Kathi Ellick Cornwall, NY



November 18, 2013

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo Governor of New York State NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224 Gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us

<u>Champlain Hudson Power Express – Case No. - 10-T-0139</u>, application of Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc.(aka"CHPE") for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article VII of the PSL for the Construction, Operation and Maintenance of a High Voltage Direct Current Circuit from the Canadian Border to New York City.

I am a resident of Rockland County New York, and I vote NO! to the Champlain Hudson Power Express!

We question the value of the Champlain Hudson Power Express project, we feel that the project it is not in our Town, County, State or Nations best interest. It will displace jobs and undermine our existing Utility infrastructure and force dependence on a foreign supplied energy source, asking for a return of the 1970's energy crisis. We say this project is not in our Nation's best interest.

The State's 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 would be realized by corporate interests, not ratepayers. Any hope for the economic growth and job creation you envisioned for the project has also been met with great skepticism due to inconclusive evidence provided by CHPE.

Those glaring concerns notwithstanding, the North Rockland residents of Stony Point, Haverstraw and Clarkstown will be particularly adversely impacted 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 the Towns of Stony Point, Haverstraw and Clarkstown will require CHPE to pursue Eminent Domain / "Deviation Zone" proceedings against homeowners and other private and commercial entities in the town to accommodate the Deviation Zone as established by Eminent Domain for the cable. Additionally, the Draft Environmental Impact Study, simply states that if they find bad soil samples in Rockland County they will conduct further tests. When will CHPE conduct the sampling? What are the criteria? Is this a new process for an Environmental Impact Study?

Two of the three Towns are river front communities. We continue to recover from Superstorm Sandy and hope to redevelop our shoreline into a thriving waterfront district driving needed revenue to towns buckling under the weight of some of the highest property taxes in NYS. Our opportunity to realize this vision will be lost if CHPE is allowed to run through the area. Residents will lose additional value in their properties and easements or restrictions on land use near the river will adversely impact economic development. The NYS PSC decision of April 18, 2013 states that we will no longer build Power Plants, where does that leave Rockland County and the Lovett and Bowline Power Plant properties?

This is not about one transmission line. The Army Corps of Engineers letter dated 6-14-12 asks the question "how many other transmission lines could be located along the same route?"

Legal questions also remain, for instance, whether CSX Railroad can offer CHPE a facility ROW even though the land-based installation will require the use of eminent domain.

We need your help to keep CHPE out of Rockland County. We hope that you will make time to discuss this issue further with Town Officials and residents ultimately determining that this land-based scenario for CHPE in Rockland County is simply unacceptable. This project is no longer of the type and scope that you initially supported. It singles out our historic Hudson Valley Town to the exclusion of all others and places an undue burden on our community.

We look forward to hearing from you and your staff at your earliest convenience. We also invite you to tour the area that will be impacted and meet with constituents. We look forward to your timely response. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Signature:		
Print Name:		
Address:	Phone:	

Please mark the envelope and Title all responses "CHPE Draft EIS Comments"

Position	Name	Phone	Fax	E-mail	Capitol Address
Secretary to the Public Service Commission	Hon. Jaclyn A. Brilling	518-474-6530	518-486-6081	secretary@dps.ny.gov	NYS Public Service Commission Empire Plaza Agency Building 3 Albany, NY 12223.1350
Administrative Law Judge	Michelle Phillips	518-474-6517		Michelle.phillips@dps.ny.gov	As above
Administrative Law Judge	Kevin Casutto	518-474-4506		Kevin.Casutto@dps.ny.gov	As above
Governor	Gov. Cuomo	518-474-8390		gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us	
Dept of Environmental Conservation- DEC	Joe Martens	518-402-8545		Joemartens@gw.dec.state.ny.us	Commissioner Martens 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-1011
Secretary of State	Cesar Perales	518-474-4752		cr@dos.ny.gov	
Web link for DOE documents		http://energy.go statement	v/nepa/downloads	/eis-0447-amended-notice-intent-prepa	re-environmental-impact-
Senior Planning Advisor-	Brian Mills	202-586-8267	202-586-8008	<u>Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov</u>	US Dept of Energy, Office of Electricity and Energy Reliability,(OE-20) 1000 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20585
Director , Office of NEPA Policy & Compliance (GC20)	Carol M. Borgstrom	202-586-4600 or 1-800-472- 2756	202-586-7031	askNEPA@hq.doe.gov	US Dept of Energy 1000 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20585
US Senator	Charles Schumer	914-734-1532	914-734-1673	Cody_peluso@schumer.senate.gov	1 Park Place Suite 100 Peekskill, NY
US Senator	Kirsten Gillibrand	845-875-4585	845-875-9099	Susan spear@gillibrand.senate.gov	P.O. Box 893 Mahopac, NY10541
Congressional Dist 19	Nita M. Lowey (D)	Rockland 845-639-3485	845-634-4079	67 North Main St. New City, NY 10956	
New York State Senator	William Larkin (R)	Rockland 845-567-1270		1093 Little Britain Rd New Windsor, NY, 12553	larkin@senate.state.ny.u
New York State Senator	David Carlucci	Rockland 845-623-3627		95 South Middletown Rd Nanuet,NY10954	Carlucci@nysenate.gov
96 th District	James Skoufis (D)	Rockland 845-469-6929		11 Main St Chester, NY 10918	skoufisj@assembly.state. y.us
94th District	Ken Zebrowski (D)	District Ph- 845-634-9791		67 North Main St New City, NY 10956	Zebrowskik@assembly.st e.ny.us
97th District	Ellen Jaffee	845-624-4601		Blue Hill Plaza, Ste. 1116 POB 1549 Pearl River, NY 10965	jaffeee@assembly.state.n us

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

FROM FOREIGN POWER

We, the gathered, do hereby and unanimously concur in our opposition to the Champlain Hudson Power Express power line and call upon the United States Congress and Army Corps of Engineers, for both historical and economic reasons, to reject this 330-mile electricity transmission line from Quebec to Queens, New York.

On behalf of our fellow Americans and New Yorkers we oppose the exportation of jobs, economic development and the resulting long-term reliance on foreign sources for our energy supply. We further strongly oppose the seizure of American property for the benefit of foreign interests and vehemently oppose the desecration of our historic area where laid to rest are American Patriots who died for our great nation in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812.

During the American Revolution, controlling the Hudson River was seen by the British as critical to dominating the American territories. Rockland, New York was also the site of the first formal recognition of the United States of America by the British.

The Battle of Stony Point took place on July 16, 1779 as 1,350 of General George Washington's Continental Army troops under the command of General Anthony Wayne defeated a British garrison at Stony Point. The British suffered heavy losses in a battle that was considered a huge victory in terms of morale for the Continental Army. The fort at Stony Point and Hudson River crossing site was critical in the colonies victory over Britain.

On May 5, 1783, General George Washington received British Commander, Sir Guy Carleton, in Rockland to discuss the terms of the peace treaty. Then on May 7, 1783, Sir Guy Carleton received General Washington aboard the British vessel Perseverance.

Rockland County played a critical role again in the War of 1812 against the British, turning out more soldiers in proportion than any other county in New York, including producing four generals and four Medal of Honor recipients.

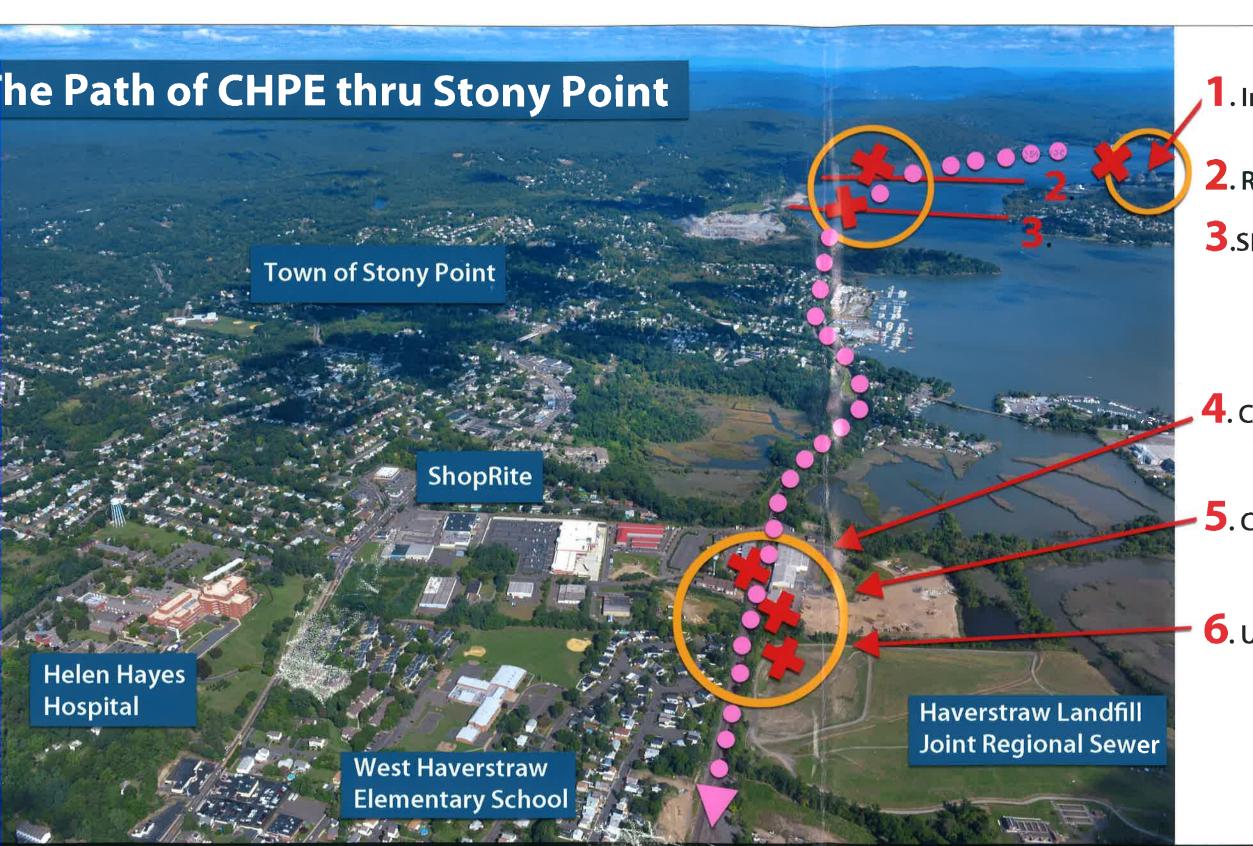
We, the people of New York, find the proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express power line provides no economic opportunity for New York power generators, particularly those located in economically-distressed upstate communities, which need to supply electricity to other parts of the state in order to maintain jobs and keep our local economies viable.

The Champlain Hudson transmission line bypasses the entire New York State transmission system with a one-way, one-customer power line prohibiting any access and opportunity to other New York generators and the tens of thousands of workers they employ.

Because the project is un-economic by design, it can only move forward with New York taxpayer and ratepayer subsidized power purchase agreements that put New Yorkers at a disadvantage in a one-way "energy highway" relationship created only to benefit foreign investors, foreign workers and their greedy Wall Street financers.

We, New Yorkers, do hereby demand our elective leaders in Washington D.C. and the United States Army Corp of Engineers take immediate action to reject this project which will infringe on the landscape of our communities, desecrate sacred and historic communities, while devastating our economies, jobs and future.

This Canadian power and the exportation of New York jobs and economic development that it stands for must be reevaluated and rejected.



- 1. Indian Point
 Nuclear Power Plants
- 2. Ramapo Fault
- 3.SPECTRA 44-inch Natural Gas High-Pressure Main

- 4. Champlain Hudson Power Express 1,000 MW Transmission Line
- 5. CSX \$26 Million Dollar Rail Extension Project
- 6. United Water Proposed
 Hudson River Desalination Plant

A DVD was submitted as part of	of this comment. This DVD is a Department of Energy.	vailable at request from the

November 18, 2013

U.S. Department of Energy – Draft DEIS – Champlain Hudson Power Express

Stony Point Center

17 Cricket Town Road

Stony Point, NY 10980

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Energy for holding this public hearing regarding the Champlain Hudson Power Express. I especially want to thank Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey for her letter dated July 1, 2013 to Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, alerting her to our important concerns regarding this project and asking her to hold a public hearing as part of the DEIS process. Congresswoman Lowey wanted to make sure we here in Rockland County had the opportunity to express our concerns and that our voices were heard by the DOE.

I would like to begin by saying that Transmission Developers, Inc. - USA is wholly owned by the **Blackstone Group**, one of the world's leading investment and advisory firms with earning assets under management in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Blackstone specializes in private equity and has emerged as one of the largest private equity firms in the world. **Blackstone Group** is the very same company who were the financial advisers to Mirant before, during and after the bankruptcy of the Bowline and Lovett Power Plants. The towns of Stony Point and Haverstraw are still struggling financially as a result of this.

Ms. Lowey rightly states in her letter, dated July 1, 2013 that originally the CHPE line was to run under the Hudson River for most of the project, including the southern section near Rockland County; but the route has been changed so that it now runs parallel to the CSX railroad tracks, which is strongly opposed by local residents, business groups, and elected officials.

Ms. Lowey further states that eminent domain <u>may</u> be used to take residential and commercial properties; let there be no doubt, eminent domain <u>must</u> be used to achieve CHPE's goals. This project is coming out of the Hudson River in two areas, one being Albany and the second one being in Rockland County, at the Stony Point Battlefield. The Stony Point Battlefield is one of the most significant historical sites in this nation. Battles won here against the British secured our freedom and granted us the right to call ourselves the <u>United States of America</u>. Many of our citizen-soldiers fought and died for our freedom and those who survived the harsh battles suffered unspeakable hardships, no food, lack of training, lack of equipment and clothing, but they persevered. Some of those who perished are buried in the Waldron Revolutionary Cemetery. Many of their descendants still live in our town to this day.

Our town has 2.2 miles of rail lines from the Battlefield to the Haverstraw Town line. Within this 2.2 mile run CHPE will be in the CSX ROW only 7/10ths of a mile; the rest of the time they will be on private, commercial, town, county, and state property. The only way to move this project forward is through Eminent domain, which is the primary reason for the New York State Public Service Commission's Article VII; it is weighted in favor of the applicant. Article VII gifts the applicant, CHPE, with wide discretionary powers with the way the information is submitted and the right to site the physical installation within 1/8 of a mile from the center rail; which is equivalent to the size of two football fields or 666 feet from the center rail in any direction of the proposed installation route with Eminent Domain clearing the way. CHPE and CSX have stated clearly in all their documents that they will maintain the right to lease the ROW, thereby making a profit off the taking of any land deemed necessary to complete their project.

The above mentioned properties generate approximately \$1 million dollars in annual taxes for Stony Point. The CHPE project, according to a "Confidential Document for Settlement Discussions Pursuant to the Commission's Settlement Guidelines dated June 23, 2011, states and I quote "The rough estimate totals are as follows:

Rockland County, 7.66 miles estimated taxes - \$796,640.00.

Please understand that this means Rockland County and <u>all</u> of the towns and school districts involved in this project will share this amount of money. Exactly how much in taxes will Stony Point get; we are unsure. The financial impact of this project could be catastrophic to this county and in particular to our town. Should this project go through many of our homes will be devalued, thereby costing the town perhaps several hundred thousand dollars of tax money yearly, as affected local homeowners within the deviation zone will file for tax reductions because their properties no longer maintain their original value. There is the distinct probability that future residential or commercial endeavors will be eliminated due to this project; thereby costing potentially millions of dollars in lost revenue to the Town of Stony Point further eroding our tax base. The CHPE project is a no win situation for our town, county, state and nation.

The CHPE project is not about just 1 transmission line, it is about a trough of transmission lines through this area which will effectively bypass NYS's entire energy infrastructure and will create a monopoly on electric, in one of the most expensive and volatile electric markets in the nation, New York City. According to a letter from the Army Corps of Engineers, dated June 14, 2012, they state that other entities have proposed similar projects and they have questioned "how many other transmission lines could be located along the same route?

CHPE states 300 jobs will be created during the construction of this project. This is misleading information, there will be very few jobs, less than 30, and these highly skilled jobs will be filled by Canadian workers, not Americans.

We Americans can re-tool our infrastructures; re-build our own power houses, most notably the Lovett site and the Bowline Power Plant. We, the American people will then be able to keep American jobs in America where they belong! These long lasting jobs will bolster our local, county, state and national economies. I say let's keep American jobs in America! We do not need foreign power; we all know what happens when America becomes dependent on foreign energy.

I would also like to address the issue of safety regarding the CSX Railroad. CSX rails run through our town parallel to the proposed CHPE project. What will happen if there is a derailment and a subsequent explosion of the power cable contacting a derailed tanker car? In one such derailment outside of Baltimore, MD on February 6, 2011, a derailment damaged Verizon's equipment, disrupting land-line telecommunications services. The problems reached all the way to the U.S. Navy Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where pre-trial hearings were delayed for a day for 5 men charged with orchestrating and aiding the Sept. 11th attacks, because files on government servers were temporarily unavailable. We have an international underground telecommunications line spanning the Hudson River, just south of the Stony Point Battlefield.

These rails carry many different materials not the least of which are ethanol, heptane, and sulfuric acid, all of which are extremely volatile substances, some potentially deadly. In the event of a derailment can the hundreds of people living along the rail lines be evacuated quickly? Do our local fire departments have the necessary equipment, knowledge, and training to deal with such a situation? Where will the man power come from should this happen during the day when most of our volunteers fire personnel are at work? Is there even an evacuation plan in place, which by the way is a federal mandate.

Ladies and gentlemen I would like to state clearly that the New York State Public Service Commission's decision of April 18, 2013 clearly states there will be <u>no</u> jobs created by this project, <u>no</u> new conventional generation facilities will be built as a direct consequence of the decision, the use of eminent domain (aka /deviation **Zone**) <u>will be used to take NYS residents homes for foreign profit</u> and there will be <u>no</u> savings to the consumer, as these savings will be captured by the applicants and their financial backers and/or users of the Facility. No environmental Impact Statement study was done for the land installation for Rockland County. How do we recoup the lost tax revenue for the devaluation of our properties, should the CHPF transmission line in fact be built?

I believe that it is <u>imperative</u> the Presidential permit <u>not</u> be granted for the above listed reasons and I encourage the Department of Energy to <u>withhold this permit</u>. Please keep in mind we do not need this extension cord from Canada. I encourage you to deny this presidential permit for the CHPE project, indefinitely.

In closing I would like to say that we must be mindful of what precedents will be set if this project proceeds and more importantly what the effects on us will be. What kind of a legacy are we leaving future generations? Please understand once the damage is done to our environment there will be no turning back. Our homes, our majestic Hudson River and our communities will be <u>forever and</u> <u>irreparably changed</u>.

Rebecca J. Casscles

69 Beach Road

Stony Point, NY 10980

"JUST SAY NO COMMITTEE"

Stony Point Public Hearing 11/18/13

Thank you to The Army Corp of Engineers and the DOE for hosting this Public Hearing.

I am Stephen Beckerle. For the purpose of this Public Hearing I will be wearing two hats.

A Resident Hat and a Business Owner Hat. Let's start with my Resident Hat.

My address is 49 Beach Road Stony Point NY. My property line borders the CSX ROW.

The house was built in 1835. The house has survived the Civil War, the building of the railroad, and more recently it has survived super storm SANDY. I fear it will NOT survive the Champlain Hudson River Express Project. This project is NOT good for the residents and the tax payers of Stony Point.

Now I will put on my Business Hat. I work for a family business that was started in 1940.

Beckerle Lumber currently employs 90 people in four locations in Rockland County NY.

Beckerle Lumber in 2012, paid more than 1.7 million in Real Estate & Sales taxes. This 1.7 million Does NOT include, Payroll, Income, FICA, SS, Medicare, Workman's Comp, State, City, and the dreaded MTA tax. This 1.7 million ALSO does NOT include any of the taxes our workforce

pays to live and work here. Why am I bringing this up?

The Champlain Hudson Power Express line will be running right alongside our 5.0 acre property in Haverstraw. I know 1.7 million isn't a lot when compared to the 2.2 billion project proposed by TDI. It's even less when compared to the, 4 trillion dollar, for-profit-project-backer, Blackrock. Blackrock the primary backer of this project had net income of 2.4 billion in 2012.

I believe this project if allowed to proceed will just be the start of our local community being Overrun by the "BIGS".

Recent U.S Treasury estimates show \$400-\$500 billion is available in uncommitted capital in the US investment community. We don't want our community to become a blight so the "for profit" transmission highway industry can prosper at our expense.

Our government officials are sworn to protect our rights. Do your job. Thank you.

Beckerk Lumbers
11/18/13
Beckerk Lumbers
14 Westside AV Harverstram

From: Stephen Beckerle [mailto:stephen.beckerle@beckerlelumber.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 8:27 AM

To: Mills, Brian

Subject: CHPE EIS opposition

Mr. Brian Mills,

I am opposed to the proposed CHPE project coming on land in Rockland County NY. I am adversely affected both as a resident and a business owner living and working in Rockland County NY.

My residence is 49 Beach Road Stony Point NY 10980.

The house was built in 1835. The house has survived the civil war, the building of the railroad, and more recently it has survived super storm SANDY. I fear it will NOT survive the Champlain Hudson River Express Project. My property line borders the CSX ROW where the proposed transmission line will run. The proposed CHPE route puts my home at risk.

My business is Beckerle Lumber Supply Co. Inc. 59 Westside Avenue Haverstraw NY 10927. In 2012, Beckerle Lumber paid over 1.7 million dollars in Real Estate and Sales Taxes. More recently, in 2013, we paid over 1.8 million dollars in Real Estate and Sales Taxes. The proposed line will be running right alongside our property in Haverstraw, threatening the viability of running our business there.



https://www.facebook.com/beckerlelumber http://www.beckerlelumber.com

Opposition to the Champlain-Hudson Powerline

This 300 mile extension cord from Canada is unnecessary. Dispersed power generation is the wave of the future.

We have an old power grid. Generating power closer to where it is used increases efficiency, reduces stress on the grid, and makes the whole system more reliable. Close and dispersed also saves utilities from having to build and maintain more infrastructure and large, centralized generators, - NY Times 7/26/13

The \$2.2 billion could instead create a significant number of green jobs by putting solar panels on roof tops. This would be employment for New Yorkers as opposed to Canadian jobs.

Two-thirds of New York City's rooftops are suitable for solar panels and could generate enough energy to meet half the city's demand for electricity at peak periods during the day. source: NY Times, June, 2011 'Mapping the Sun's Potential'. For intermittency issues bundle power delivery with wind turbines off the coast. One study found that roof top solar saved an average of 4 cents per kWh

Not enough is said or done in the name of conservation so that we all simply use less electricity.

The large **converter station** is an **attractive target for terrorists**.

Smaller more dispersed power generation has built in resiliency which is much less vulnerable to blackouts.

The dams of Quebec are artificially created and environmentally destructive.

The power industry has a chance to recreate itself just like the telecommunications industry has done.

Cornell and Stanford professors wrote a paper on how NYS can become totally energy independent through renewables (not from Canada) by 2030. http://www.stanford.edu/ group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/NewYorkWWSEnPolicy.pdf

Sandy Steubing, Albany, NY 12206

690 Certral Ave # 95 sotcub@yahoo.com

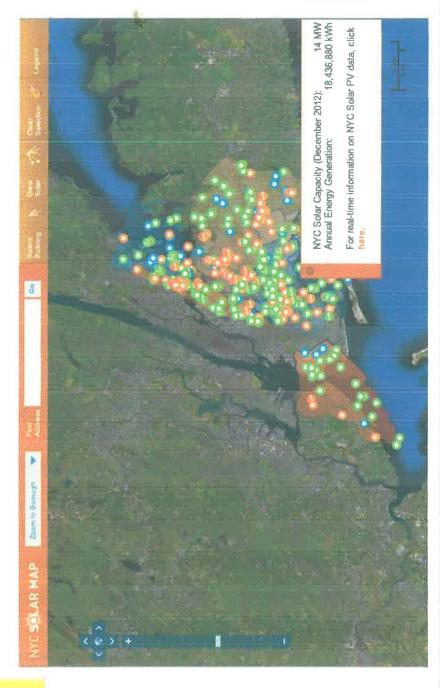
Solar PV Beats Grid Prices in New York City



A plane equipped with a laser system made nine flights to map the city and collect information. They found that 2/3 of New York's rooftops suitable for solar panels.

\$0.00

source: CUNY via NY



From: Jim Fitzgerald [mailto:fitzgerald@okonite.com]

Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 12:51 PM

To: Mills, Brian

Subject: CHPE DRAFT EIS Comments

Mr Mills, Re the Draft

- 1. The selection of XLP as the cable insulation and the stated temperature ratings should be reviewed. The ratings stated as 90C normal and 130C Emergency should be 75C Normal and 90C Emergency. XLP goes through a phase change at 103C becoming soft. If operated at the stated temperatures, the cable can go out of round presenting higher stresses to the insulation leading to failure. The suggested revised temperature ratings in turn lower the power ratings.
- 2. At the transition from the river installation to the land(terrestrial) how will the cable transition from water to land? Is the intention to use a buried manhole or an above ground switching station.
- 3. Is the land cable construction the same as the water cable design?
- 4. The land cable is planned to be direct buried. It would better serve a reliability characteristic if the land cable is installed in underground duct/conduit. This will permit simple excavation along the route and an efficient closing of the trench. The cable lengths can then be installed more at the projects convenience as opposed to leaving long lengths of trench open and waiting to close the trench at the completion of the circuit's system test. The manholes can then accommodate the necessary splicing of cable lengths. Having the cable installed in underground conduit should also provide the cable a better sense of physical protection along the RR right of way and minimize the significant vibrations generated by the freight train traffic.
- 5. What happens to the cable route in the area of the Tappan Zee Bridge construction. At the present time there are a considerable number of construction barges anchored along the northern side of the existing bridge. Many of these barges will move along as the construction progresses. Burying the cable 4 feet below the river bottom does not seem to be adequate in this major construction lay-down areas.
- 6. How many factory splices are expected during cable production? How many land splices are planned for the terrestrial installation.

Jim Fitzgerald
Retired Engineer-The OkoniteCompany



A Special Project of the

STONY POINT ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

DOE Public Hearing:

When:

Monday, November 18, 2013

Where:

Stony Point Center

Address:

17 Cricket Town Rd, Stony Point, NY 10980

Time:

6:00 PM

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The analysis considers the potential environmental impacts from the proposed Federal action of granting a Presidential permit to Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. (CHPEI) to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border in northeastern NY State.

The Draft EIS can be reviewed at the Rose Memorial Library, Stony Point

or online at

http://chpexpresseis.org/library.php.

Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted verbally during public hearings or in writing, please title all documents, envelopes & e-mail subject lines as <u>"CHPE Draft EIS Comments." – Respond to:</u>

<u>Mr. Brian Mills</u>

OR at

http://chpexpresseis.org.

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20),

U.S. Department of Energy,

1000 Independence Avenue, SW,

Washington, DC 20585;

via e-mail to Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov;

by facsimile to (202) 586-8008;

Written comments must be received by <u>December 16, 2013.</u> Comments submitted after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Any questions please call- Susan Filgueras

845-429-3229

sfilgueras@optonline.net

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

FROM FOREIGN POWER

We, the gathered, do hereby and unanimously concur in our opposition to the Champlain Hudson Power Express power line and call upon the United States Congress and Army Corps of Engineers, for both historical and economic reasons, to reject this 330-mile electricity transmission line from Quebec to Queens, New York.

In behalf of our fellow Americans and New Yorkers we oppose the exportation of jobs, economic development and the resulting long-term reliance on foreign sources for our energy supply. We further strongly oppose the seizure of American property for the benefit of foreign interests and vehemently oppose the desecration of our aistoric area where laid to rest are American Patriots who died for our great nation in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812.

During the American Revolution, controlling the Hudson River was seen by the British as critical to dominating he American territories. Rockland, New York was also the site of the first formal recognition of the United States of America by the British.

The Battle of Stony Point took place on July 16, 1779 as 1,350 of General George Washington's Continental Army roops under the command of General Anthony Wayne defeated a British garrison at Stony Point. The British suffered heavy losses in a battle that was considered a huge victory in terms of morale for the Continental Army. The fort at Stony Point and Hudson River crossing site was critical in the colonies victory over Britain.

On May 5, 1783, General George Washington received British Commander, Sir Guy Carleton, in Rockland to liscuss the terms of the peace treaty. Then on May 7, 1783, Sir Guy Carleton received General Washington aboard the British vessel Perseverance.

Rockland County played a critical role again in the War of 1812 against the British, turning out more soldiers in proportion than any other county in New York, including producing four generals and four Medal of Honor recipients.

We, the people of New York, find the proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express power line provides no economic opportunity for New York power generators, particularly those located in economically-distressed upstate communities, which need to supply electricity to other parts of the state in order to maintain jobs and seep our local economies viable.

The Champlain Hudson transmission line bypasses the entire New York State transmission system with a one-vay, one-customer power line prohibiting any access and opportunity to other New York generators and the ens of thousands of workers they employ.

Because the project is un-economic by design, it can only move forward with New York taxpayer and ratepayer subsidized power purchase agreements that put New Yorkers at a disadvantage in a one-way "energy highway" elationship created only to benefit foreign investors, foreign workers and their greedy Wall Street financers.

We, New Yorkers, do hereby demand our elective leaders in Washington D.C. and the United States Army Corp of Engineers take immediate action to reject this project which will infringe on the landscape of our communities, desecrate sacred and historic communities, while devastating our economies, jobs and future.

This Canadian power and the exportation of New York jobs and economic development that it stands for must recvaluated and rejected.

US Department of Energy

DEC - 6 2013

Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Mr. Brian Mills

Department of Energy

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)

U.S.Department of Energy

1000 Independence Ave, SW

Washington, DC 20585

Can be submitted via email to: Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov

Request to the DOE and USACE for extension of comment period, "Draft EIS Comments"

Mr. Mills,

This letter serves to reiterate the multiple requests at the Public Hearing on Nov 18, 2013, in the Town of Stony Point for a reasonable extension of 180 days for the comment period. In NYS the Developers for proposed power plants are required to provide intervener funds for the impacted communities. In this case there are no intervener funds from the developer which would allow the residents, business owners and other stake holders to hire experts to review and respond adequately to the "Draft EIS Comments" to both the DOE and USACE.

The venue for the Hearings in both Stony Point and Queens were not the most appropriate. The Hearing in Queens was not within the impacted community. The Hearing in Stony Point would have been better held in the local Middle School, more seating and better parking, residents who came and could not get through the "orange shirts" in the hallway would not have left.

Public Notice in Rockland County was not adequate. For example, when the Stony Point Center, was called they could not confirm the Hearing on Monday Nov 18, 2013, was for the Champlain Hudson Power Express, DOE Hearing. Apparently the Hearing Notice distribution within Rockland County was inconsistent; some received a simple sheet of paper with a sticker, easily lost in the general bulk mail.

There was no outreach and translated information for our Hispanic population.

Stony Point was promised by CHPE that they would not go through the Waldron Revolutionary and War of 1812 Cemetery, the maps in the DEIS show differently. There are many contradictory installations issues, that require due diligence. There is also the Army Corps of Engineers filing, where do we find that? The instructions did not specify that in fact there are two responses required, one for the DOE and one for the USACE. The documents that were supplied at the meeting did not constitute the entire filing, only a certain segment of the DOE DEIS? Are the USACE documents different than the DOE documents?

I have sent the attached request to the New York State Public Service Commission, regarding the new trajectory of the CHPE project. (See attached)

We are respectively requesting the extension based on the above reasons.

Resident:

Address:

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The Just Say NO! to the Champlain Hudson Power Express Committee

Susan Filgueras

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December 9, 2013

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

Request to the DOE and USACE for extension of comment period,

DOE: "Draft CHPE EIS Comments"

USACE: NAN-2009-01089-EYA

Dear Mr. Mills,

We would like to start this letter by letting you know that we are vehemently opposed to the Champlain-Hudson Power Express. We would also like to request a 180 day extension in order to be able to read and digest volumes 1-Impact Analyses and Volume 2-Impact Analyses of the USDOE, Champlain Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project. We are neither lawyers nor engineers we are lay people; I am sure you will agree these filings can be difficult for anyone to digest.

November 18, 2013, a public hearing regarding the Champlain-Hudson Power Express was held at the Stony Point Center, 17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, NY. This was at best a very poor, but well thought out location for Mr. Jessome and TDI; the meeting was held in an arena that offered very limited parking to the public. In addition to this Mr. Donald Jessome, CEO, of Transmission Development, Inc., had hired the center to host a dinner for approximately 220 members of Laborers' Union, 274, thus ensuring that most of the available parking would be taken up by union members, virtually leaving very few slots for parking so that many people in opposition to this project were not able to find spaces available to park. The James A Farley Middle School would have been a much better space given it has ample parking and other meetings had been held there in the past. Those meetings accommodated over 300 plus people with more than ample parking for all, also the residents of Stony Point who arrived later and saw the sea of Union members in orange tee shirts - would have not been so intimated and left.

We would also like to comment on the fact we were given a three minute opportunity to voice our opposition to this project, which is really disturbing. How can one be expected to give testimony regarding this huge project in a matter of three short minutes. We were told that if we couldn't finish our testimony in three minutes we could go to the end of the line and after everyone had spoken we could then finish our statements. We did this but it was extremely difficult because our testimony was fragmented at best. We are hopeful that our passion for our town and our objections to this project were heard loud and clear.

We have been opposed to this project since we first heard about it at the April 2012 Stony Point Town Board meeting, as there was no notification given to any property owners on this route in the Town of Stony Point, regarding the taking of our properties.

The NYS Public Service Commission decision for approval of the CPHE project, granted on April 18, 2013, generously gifted CHPE with a 1/8 mile (666 feet) deviation zone in any direction from the center rail of the CSX railroad. The Article VII application, which is rooted in the Eminent Domain Law, will allow CSX Railroad to take our properties without our consent. This is a travesty of justice to think that CSX will be able to take our property without our consent to be used by a foreign entity. How can CSX offer a ROW for the land installation throughout the State of New York when the ROW was never wide enough for to accommodate CHPE's transmission lines and meet CSX's construction guidelines? Through Eminent Domain that's how.

Our town has 2.2 miles of rail lines from the Stony Point Battlefield to the Haverstraw town line; within this 2.2 mile run CHPE will be in the CSX ROW only 7/10ths of one mile; the rest of the time they will be on private, commercial, town, county, and state property. The only way to move this project forward is through Eminent Domain, which is the primary reason for the New York State Public Service Commission's Article VII; it is weighted in favor of the applicant. Article VII gifts the applicant, CHPE, with wide discretionary powers with the way the information is submitted and the right to site the physical installation within 1/8 of a mile from the center rail or 666 feet from the center rail in any direction of the proposed installation route with Eminent Domain clearing the way.

When was the deviation zone approved and by whom? When did New York State residents decide to give their property away for a foreign transmission line? We certainly have not nor do we have any intentions to do so. This project will do nothing to help this town, county, state or this nation, except to make us once again dependent on foreign energy and we all know how well that has worked in the past.

The 2.2 miles of property in Stony Point yield an estimated \$1.2 million dollars annually in simple property taxes and this is merely using just the homes and businesses that border the railroad. The CHPE project has estimated according to a "Confidential Document for Settlement Discussions Pursuant to the Commission's Guidelines;" states approximately \$796,640.00 annually to be paid to the three Towns, County, and three School Districts equals \$113,805.70 each, if divided equally. The above mentioned properties currently generate approximately \$1.2 million dollars annually for the Town of Stony Point. CHPE's stated tax revenues are significantly less than what is currently being paid. Furthermore the Town will lose more revenue as each individual touched by this project asks for a reduction in taxes because our properties will be worth significantly less.

The CHPE project is not about just one transmission line, it is about a trough of transmission lines through this area which will effectively bypass NYS entire energy infrastructure and will

create a monopoly on electric, in one of the most expensive and volatile electric markets in the nation, New York City. By The Army Corp of Engineers own letter dated June 14, 2012 you state that other entities have proposed similar projects and you have questioned "how many other transmission lines could be located along the same route?". An interesting question one that we would like the answer to before the Presidential Permit is ever issued.

The CHPE transmission line is coming out of the Hudson River on to land at the site of the Stony Point Battlefield, one of the most important and significant historical sites in this nation. It is here that battles were begun in 1775 being fought by citizen-soldiers and would last 5 years. There would be five years of battles and significant deprivation to our forefathers ultimately resulting in defeating the most powerful army of the age and winning independence for this new country, the United States of America. Many of our local citizen-soldiers are buried in the Waldron Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 cemetery located west of the CSX Railroad ROW, and numerous members of their ancestors are still living in this town to this day. There are over 200 bodies in this cemetery, many without any headstones because of the length of time they have been interred. The cemetery is in the deviation zone for this project, our committee the "Just Say No to CHPE" informed Mr. Jessome about the cemetery and its historical importance and we informed him about the many burial plots that were disturbed in the mid 1800's when the railroad came through and the bodies were moved and disposed of, what a horrible tragedy for our nation. More bodies were disturbed when Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc. constructed high-tension lines through our town. When the cemetery was mentioned as being in the way of this project Mr. Jessome's answer to the problem was "We'll just shoot a bullet under the graves"; a distasteful and most irreverent insult to our forefathers. This is a highly sensitive matter and we in this town take this very seriously and were deeply offended by this remark.

Next we must discuss the jobs issue. The NYSPSC decision (Pg. 84 Pp. 3) states "The Applicants' evidence on job creation was incomplete in a fundamental way" and further states "the record is void on the critical question of whether those jobs would be offset, or more than offset, by the jobs displaced at the conventional generational facilities that <u>WILL NOT</u> be built as a consequence." New generating stations can be built in this state and some can be re-tooled thereby creating hundreds of new jobs. Why not put <u>American workers</u> back to work allowing them to improve or to create the new infrastructure we need, thereby making us <u>energy independent.</u> This is what will increase local and state tax bases over the long haul.

The Town of Stony Point has been nearly bankrupted by the Blackstone Group, which owns Transmission Developer's, Inc. The Blackstone Group is the very same company that were the financial advisors to Mirant Corporation, when they filed for Bankruptcy. Blackstone was the financial advisor to Mirant before, during, and after the bankruptcy of the Lovett and Bow Line Power plants. The towns of Stony Point and Haverstraw will continue to struggle financially as a result of this. In addition Blackstone is the company representing United Water, GDF Suez, which is attempting to build a desalination plant which converges on the Stony Point and Haverstraw town line. This is yet another project that will most assuredly help to deepen the town's financial crisis.

CSX Railroad has also undertaken a \$26 million dollar rail rehabilitation project in this same area. We have been personally approached by CSX, three times, in an effort to lease them the identical piece of property that CHPE wants from us. We have refused and we will continue to refuse. We were told by William Braman of CSX Real Estate, Jacksonville, FL., that CSX will use Eminent Domain to obtain the property they want; is this an intimidation tactic being used to force us to something we do not want to do?

On page 2 of the Joint Proposal CHPE states — "none of the provisions of the JP are opposed by any <u>land owners</u> along the route other than at the location of the Converter Station, by any municipalities or residents along the route, or by any business entities outside of the electric power industry." FALSE! <u>How</u> can CHPE state that there is no objection to their project and that they say they have overwhelming support when so many people in Rockland County and entities have come out against this project?

The Rockland Legislature came out against this project on June 12, 2012 with Resolution 10 C 1 that was signed by every legislator (16) expect one that has ties to the local utility company. Our current County Executive, Scott Vanderhoff as well as our newly elected County Executive, Edward Day have stated numerous times that they are against this project. The current members of the Town of Stony Point Town Board, as well as the newly elected members of the board, are and have been solidly against this project from the beginning. Geoff Finn, Town Supervisor of Stony Point and Howard Phillips, Town Supervisor of Haverstraw have been against this project and continue to object to it.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey alerted Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, in a letter dated July 1, 2013 of our numerous concerns and wanted to make sure our voices were heard, please hear us now before it is too late.

New York State Senators William Larkin, David Carlucci, and New York State Assemblyman James Skoufis all have opposed this project, and have said so many times and they continue to support our efforts against this project to date.

On July 1, 2013, Patrick Guidice, Senior Business Representative of Local 1049 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers stood on the steps of Stony Point Town Hall and again affirmed his opposition and the opposition of his Union brothers to this project.

Phil Wilcox, Business Representative for IBEW Local 97 states, "Thousands of existing New York state jobs will be lost and thousands of potential new ones as well." (Albany Times-Union, February 25, 2012). The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 97 state, "The CHPE project's failure to provide access to New York's valuable generation resources is contrary to the policy laid out by Governor Cuomo in his State of the State address." (Statement in Opposition to the Joint Proposal by Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. and CHPEI Properties, Inc., March 16, 2012). The New York Power Authority states "(NYPA) it is also concerned about the accuracy of CHPE's current estimates of its projected construction costs

and the results of its cost/benefit analysis. Based upon NYPA's experience, the construction costs are significantly underestimated and the cost benefits are significantly overestimated in light of current projections of load and electric prices." (Statement Regarding the Joint Proposal by Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. and CHPEI Properties, Inc., March 16, 2012).

On October 23, 2012 The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Energy and Telecommunications, hosted by State Senators George Maziarz, William Larkin, David Carlucci and Nancy Calhoun held a public hearing at the RHO Building in the Town of Stony Point to garner testimony regarding the CHPE project, at which time numerous people spoke against this project. Bart Brooks, Compatriot and President of the Stony Point Battle Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution came out in opposition. Susan Filgueras, President of the Stony Point Historical Society opposed this project. Laurie Cozza, Anita Babcock, Tim Waldron, George Patonovic, President SPACE, Stony Point Action Committee for the Environment. Michele Cornish, Rebecca J. and Wellington T. Casscles, Stephen and Breda Beckerle, affected homeowners, are against the CHPE project, these are simply a few of the names of record.

Al Samuels, President, Rockland Business Association – against, Scott Jensen, Business Manager IBEW 503 – against. Mike Hichak, Recording Secretary, IBEW Local 320 (representing John P. Kaiser, President and Business Manager IBEW, Local 320) – against.

Tom Rumsey, Vice-President – External Affairs, NY Independent System Operator – against.

Gavin Donohue, President & CEO of Independent Power Producers of New York, Inc. – against.

Michael Twomey – on behalf on Entergy – against.

Arthur "Jerry": Kremer, Chairman of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance – against.

All these people testified at the October 23, 2013 Senate hearing and all opposed this project, how could it possibly been approved by the NYSPSC?

These are only the names of our community; we know that in Canada, there is also strong opposition. With such opposition how does this project continue to move forward, perhaps politics has quite a bit to do with it.

The maps used by CHPE have changed numerous times, sometimes the line appears on our property sometimes off of our property. Which is it? These maps showed the CPHE line ending at the Astoria-Queens sub-station and suddenly now it shows it will end at the "Big Alice" Ravenswood Generating Station. What happen to the Astoria-Queens sub-station plan? Also the Danskammer Generating Station was taken off line and suddenly put back on line — why?

We feel that there are so many unanswered questions regarding this project, that the Presidential Permit must be held up until all of the queries can be answered openly and honestly by CHPE.

These are just a few of the overriding reasons we feel we need the 180 day extension.

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Casscles

Wellington T. Casscles

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