



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

July 17, 2014

Ms. Robyn Niver
Endangered Species Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New York Field Office
3817 Luker Road
Cortlandt, NY 13045

SUBJECT: Champlain Hudson Power Express Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation

Dear Ms. Niver:

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, DOE is requesting concurrence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the conclusions that the proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) Project is not likely to adversely affect Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*). In addition, the proposed CHPE Project would not jeopardize Northern long-eared bat (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*), and if that species was listed, the proposed CHPE Project would not likely adversely affect it.

The DOE has prepared the enclosed Biological Assessment (BA) in support of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of potential environmental impacts related to the proposed CHPE Project. The BA has been prepared in accordance with the legal requirements set forth under regulations implementing Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402; 16 U.S.C. 1536(c)).

The description of the proposed CHPE Project in Section 2 includes measures and best management practices that would help avoid impacts on these species, including time of year restrictions and avoidance of habitat. Section 5 of the BA provides a comprehensive analysis of impacts. In this section, DOE concludes **that any effects on the Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat, and Karner blue butterfly would be insignificant or discountable.**

Please feel free to contact me directly at any time at Brian.Mills@hq.DOE.gov, or by phone at (202) 586-8267.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Mills".

Mr. Brian Mills
National Electricity Delivery Division, OE-20
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy

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