




Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 10, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: The General Counsel (GC-1)

FROM: Patricia A. Hoffman 
Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability

SUBJECT: 2013 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Annual Planning Summary

Attached for your information is the NEPA Annual Planning Summary for FY 2013 for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE). The Summary describes the status of ongoing and projected environmental assessments (EA) and environmental impact statements (EIS) within OE. There are no EAs ongoing or planned for 2013.

The majority of OE's NEPA activities arise from OE's traditional role of processing Presidential permit applications. OE is not aware of any other Presidential permit applications that will be submitted within the immediate future beyond those identified in the Summary.

Questions or matters related to this NEPA Planning Summary should be directed to OE's NEPA Compliance Officer, Brian Mills, at 202-586-8267.

Attachment

**OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY
AND
ENERGY RELIABILITY**

NEPA Annual Planning Summary

2013

Environmental Impact Statements

Champlain Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project (DOE/EIS-0447) - Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a 2,000-megawatt (MW) high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. The transmission line would extend approximately 318 miles south from the U.S.-Canada border and be routed under Lake Champlain and the Hudson River to a converter station to be located in Yonkers, New York. The Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and of Public Service are cooperating agencies. Public scoping meetings were held in Bridgeport, CT and New York City, Yonkers, Kingston, Albany, Glen Falls, and Plattsburg, NY in July 2010. The Draft EIS is expected to be available in spring 2013. Further information is available on the EIS website at: <http://chpexpresseis.org/>

Hawaii Interisland Renewable Energy Program: Wind Programmatic EIS/Hawai'i Clean Energy PEIS (DOE/EIS-0459) - In 2010, DOE announced its intent to prepare a *PEIS for the Hawai'i Interisland Renewable Energy Program (HIREP): Wind*. In response to public scoping comments on the Wind PEIS, as well as regulatory and policy developments since the scoping meetings, DOE broadened the range of energy efficiency and renewable energy activities and technologies to be analyzed in the PEIS and, accordingly, has renamed it the *Hawai'i Clean Energy PEIS*. DOE's proposal will involve the development of guidance to use in future funding decisions and other actions to support Hawai'i in achieving the goal established in the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) to meet 70% of the State's energy needs by 2030 through energy efficiency and renewable energy. Achieving the HCEI goal could involve a diverse range of activities. Accordingly, this PEIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts of activities in the following clean energy categories: (1) Energy Efficiency, (2) Distributed Renewables, (3) Utility-Scale Renewables, (4) Alternative Transportation Fuels and Modes, and (5) Electrical Transmission and Distribution. The State of Hawai'i and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) are cooperating agencies in preparing this PEIS. Information on the Hawai'i Clean Energy PEIS is available on the PEIS website at <http://www.hawaiicleanenergypeis.com>

Northern Pass Transmission (DOE/EIS-0463) - Northern Pass Transmission LLC (Northern Pass) applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. The proposed HVDC transmission line would be capable of transmitting up to 1,200-MW of power and would extend south from the U.S.-Canada international border approximately 140 miles to a HVDC converter terminal that would be constructed in Franklin, New Hampshire. The converter terminal would convert the direct current to alternating current (AC) and allow the HVDC line to connect to a new 40 mile AC line between the Franklin converter station and the existing Deerfield Substation in Deerfield, New Hampshire. The Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region I are cooperating agencies. Scoping period started February 11, 2011 and continues indefinitely at the request of applicant due to preferred route change. Specific information concerning the EIS is located on the project website at: <http://www.northernpasseis.us>.

Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project (DOE/EIS-0486)- Section 1222(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct) authorizes the Secretary of Energy, acting through and in consultation with the Administrator of the Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) to participate with other entities in designing, developing, constructing, operating, maintaining, or owning new electric power transmission facilities and related facilities located within any state in which Southwestern operates. On June 10, 2010, DOE issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new or upgraded transmission projects pursuant to Section 1222 (75 FR 32940). Clean Line Energy Partners LLC of Houston, Texas, the parent company of Plains and Eastern Clean Line LLC and Plains and Eastern Clean Line Oklahoma LLC (collectively referred to as Clean Line), responded to the RFP on July 6, 2010, and amended its proposal on February 20, 2012. DOE has concluded that Clean Line's proposal complied with and was responsive to the RFP. The proposed project would be located in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee, traversing a distance of approximately 700 miles between interconnection facilities in Texas County, Oklahoma, and Shelby County, Tennessee. The proposed project would require construction of a new alternating current (AC)/direct current (DC) converter station at each end of the transmission line. Further information is available on the EIS website at: <http://www.plainsandeasterneis.com/>

Potential Environmental Impact Statements

We anticipate receiving an application for a Presidential permit for crossing the US/Canada border from Minnesota Power in late summer. Minnesota Power is proposing the construction of new transmission from Winnipeg to the Mesabi Iron Range and eventually into Duluth. Minnesota Power has filed its intent to pursue the project through the transmission expansion planning process of MISO, which manages grid reliability and electricity markets across 11 northern tier states and Manitoba.