



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 06, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: The General Counsel (GC-1)

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

SUBJECT: 2011 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Annual Planning Summary

Attached for your information is the NEPA Annual Planning Summary for FY 2011 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 2011.

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



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

*Rec'd
1/11/11 @
4:42P*

**OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY
AND
ENERGY RELIABILITY**

NEPA Annual Planning Summary

2011

Environmental Impact Statements

Energia Sierra Juarez (DOE/EIS-0414) - Energia Sierra Juarez (ESJ) (formerly Baja Wind) applied to OE for a Presidential permit to construct a 1250 MW electric transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border. The proposed transmission line would originate inside Mexico at the proposed La Rumorosa Wind Generation Facility. The line would continue north approximately two miles to the U.S.-Mexico border, and one additional mile inside the U.S. to a new substation to be constructed on the existing Southwest Powerlink. The proposed transmission line would be used to transmit renewable energy into the California electricity market. The County of San Diego is a cooperating agency. DEIS NOA (75 FR 57018) issued in September 2010, public hearings on the DEIS were held in the towns of Jacumba and Boulevard, and in the city of San Diego. The public comment period on the DEIS ended 11/1/10. The Final EIS is expected in summer 2011.

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 is a two-bipole design, with each bipole consisting of two submarine or underground cables connected as a bipole pair for a total of four cables. The four cables 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. One bipole (two cables) would terminate at this converter station and the remaining two cables would extend approximately 66 miles under Spuyten Duyvil Creek, the Harlem River, the East River, and Long Island Sound before terminating at a converter station to be located in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Environmental Protection Agency, 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 autumn 2011.

Hawaii Interisland Renewable Energy Program: Wind Programmatic EIS (DOE/EIS-0459) - In January 2008, Governor Linda Lingle – State of Hawaii announced the establishment of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI), in partnership with the

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that aims to have at least 70 percent of the State's power come from energy conservation and renewable energy by the end of 2030. The State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism has determined that, it will consider a wind energy program that includes the generation of 400 mega watts of wind energy generated from either or both of the islands of Lanai and Molokai that can be transmitted through an undersea cable to either or both of the islands of Oahu and Maui. The proposed Federal actions addressed in this wind energy program would include the issuance of a special use permit or right of way by the Departments of Interior and Commerce that would allow the proposed submarine cable transmission line to cross the public domain of the outer continental shelf managed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement and the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. DOE and State of Hawaii are co-lead agencies. Scoping meetings are scheduled in early February, 2011.

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 and the U.S. Forest Service are cooperating agencies. The notice of intent is expected to be published in January 2011.