



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 16, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: The General Counsel (GC-1)

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

SUBJECT: 2014 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Annual Planning Summary

Attached for your information is the NEPA Annual Planning Summary for FY 2014 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.

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

2014

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. On October 21, 2013 DOE is released the Draft EIS for public review and comment. The public comment period was open from November 1, 2013 to January 15, 2014. 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, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region I and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (OPE) are cooperating agencies. The Scoping period closed on November 5, 2013. Approximately 7,500 public comments were received during the scoping period. DOE is currently developing NEPA alternatives in collaboration with the cooperating agencies. 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 (EPA) 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/>

New Environmental Impact Statements

Soule Hydro LLC

On March 18, 2013, Soule Hydro LLC filed an application with the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability for a Presidential Permit as required by Executive Order (EO 10485) to allow for the construction of international electrical Transmission facilities between the U.S. and a foreign country.

Soule Hydro LLC proposes to construct and operate a high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) hydroelectric transmission line that is to originate at the Soule River, on Portland Canal in Southeast Alaska, and continue to the BC Hydro Stewart Substation on the north side of Stewart, British Columbia. The hydroelectric facility would occupy federal land administered by the Ketchikan-Misty Fjords Ranger District of the U.S.

Forest Service and would be capable of generating and transmitting up to 77.4 megawatts (MW) of power.

The Alaska portion of the Project would be an 8-mile long, 138 kilovolt (kV) HVAC 3-phase submarine cable that would be laid on the floor of Portland Canal before crossing the International Boundary off the community of Hyder, Alaska, where it would extend another 2 miles to land at Stewart, B.C. Arrow Dock.

Soule Hydro LLC has applied to both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the U.S. Forest Service for required licenses and use permits. Seven years ago.

The Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability is currently in discussions with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission concerning our participation as a cooperating agency on the National Environmental Policy Act documentation for the Soule River Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 13528.

Potential Environmental Impact Statements/ Environmental Assessments

Great Northern Transmission Line

We anticipate receiving an application for a Presidential permit for crossing the US/Canada border from Minnesota Power in late February/early March 2014. Minnesota Power is proposing the construction of a new 500-kV, approximately 270-mile transmission line from Winnipeg to the Mesabi Iron Range. The proposed Great Northern line will provide delivery and access to power generated by Manitoba Hydro's existing hydroelectric stations in Manitoba, Canada. Minnesota Power filed its Certificate of Need application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and also 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, Canada.

New England Clean Power Link

The New England Clean Power Link is a proposed 150 mile, 1,000 MW high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line. The proposal includes 100 miles under Lake Champlain and 50 miles under State highway rights-of-way. The line will end at a converter station proposed to be built at a location in Ludlow, Vermont and connect into the Vermont Electric Power Company transmission grid. The developer, TDI New England, anticipates applying for a Presidential permit in early 2014.

The Lake Erie CleanPower Connector.

Lake Erie Power Corp (LEPC or the Applicant) is proposing the Lake Erie CleanPower Connector project (Project) to connect the IESO electrical grid in Ontario to the PJM electrical grid in Pennsylvania via a 1,000 to 2,000 MW High Voltage Direct Current

(HVDC) transmission system consisting of two parallel cables, each approximately six inches in diameter.

The Project will interconnect with Hydro One, a Canadian transmission utility, at a converter station that will be built in the vicinity of Nanticoke, in the Province of Ontario. From Nanticoke, the proposed transmission system will enter Lake Erie and cross the international border between Canada and the United States, entering the United States in Erie County, Pennsylvania; The underwater portion of the proposed route is approximately 60 miles, approximately 30 miles of which are in Pennsylvania waters while the overland segment is approximately seven miles.

LEPC anticipates submittal of a presidential permit application for this project in 2014. The Army Corps of Engineers, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC) are leading preparation of an Environmental Assessment. We anticipate requesting Cooperating Agency Status when we receive the application, and DOE will lead the ACHP Section 106 consultation process for the project.

The Green Line project

Green Line is transmission line project proposed by the New England Independent Transmission Company, LLC (NEITC). Green Line would be a capacity of 1200 megawatts (MW) of high voltage direct current (HVDC) tied to the New Brunswick grid and connecting to ISO-NE in Salem, MA.