UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
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NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

AUG 2 6 2014

Brian Mills, National Environmental Policy Act Document Manager
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE-20
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Mills:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Department of Energy's final environmental impact statement (FEIS) dated August 2014 (CEQ # 20140227) for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project (CHPE). This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 7609, PL 91-604 12 (a), 84 Stat. 1709) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposed project would be an approximately 336-mile long, 1,000-megawatt, high-voltage merchant electric power transmission system that includes a dual transmission line that would extend to Astoria, Queens, New York. The CHPE is a high voltage direct current transmission system, consisting of two cables, which will run electricity from Canada south to the New York City area. The cables will be placed under the sediments of Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, the Harlem River and the East River with some upland placement along the route. The project will include a converter station to be located in Astoria, New York, and several cooling stations to be located with the cables in upland areas.

The FEIS sufficiently addressed our comments on the draft environmental impact statement which included concerns with general conformity, wetlands, sediment/habitat, and cumulative impacts. However, EPA staff will be working with the New York District, Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that the final wetlands mitigation plan is adequate for the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely,

Judy-Ann Mitchell, Chief
Sustainability Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch