



October 9, 2014

VIA EMAIL

Brian Mills
Senior Planning Advisor
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: SCOPING COMMENT - MINOR ADJUSTMENT TO PROPOSED ROUTE
NEW ENGLAND CLEAN POWER LINK PROJECT (PP-400)**

Dear Mr. Mills:

On May 20, 2014, Champlain VT, LLC d/b/a TDI-New England (“TDI-NE”) filed an application (“Application”) for a Presidential permit with the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability of the Department of Energy (“DOE”). TDI-NE is proposing to construct and operate a submarine and underground high-voltage direct current (HVDC) electric transmission line that will originate at an HVDC converter station in Quebec, Canada, and ultimately terminate at a HVDC converter station in Ludlow, Vermont (the “New England Clean Power Link” or “Project”).

In response to the Application, DOE issued a “*Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Conduct Public Scoping Meetings, and Notice of Floodplains and Wetlands Involvement; New England Clean Power Link Project*” (“Notice”) on August 26, 2014. Scoping meetings were subsequently held in Burlington and Rutland, Vermont on September 16 and 17, 2014. DOE also solicited written comments on the scope of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (“DEIS”), which were due on or before October 10, 2014.

In addition to the public scoping meetings conducted by DOE, TDI-NE is engaging in ongoing stakeholder outreach regarding the New England Clean Power Link. This outreach has included, among other things, six public open houses, presentations to local governments and planning organizations, a

Lake Champlain Symposium, meetings with public interest organizations, and ongoing communications with potentially affected landowners.

Scoping Comment: Adjustment to the Proposed Route Based on Stakeholder Feedback

As set forth in TDI-NE's Application, the proposed Project would be located, in part, in approximately 3.4 miles of a roadway right-of-way in the Village of Cuttingsville, which is listed in the Vermont State Register of Historic Places as a historic district. The district consists of about 34 properties along Route 103. Two of the resources in the district, Laurel Hall and the associated Laurel Glen Mausoleum, are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

As a result of feedback received from Village residents and businesses located in Cuttingsville, as well as information provided by Cuttingsville's Select Board, TDI-NE is proposing to make a minor adjustment to the Project route in this location. Specifically, TDI-NE has determined that routing the Project through an existing railroad right-of-way (as opposed to Route 103) will result in less disruption to Village residents and businesses. As depicted in Attachment A, the Project would now enter the railroad right of way approximately 2 miles southeast of the Clarendon/Shrewsbury border and travel down the railroad right-of-way for approximately 3.6 miles, and exit near the elevated railroad tressel.

Accordingly, TDI-NE respectfully requests that this proposed modification to the Project route be reflected in the DEIS. As part of its ongoing studies, TDI-NE has modified relevant resource study scopes to ensure that DOE will have the necessary information to analyze this route modification in the DEIS. Information pertinent to the railroad right-of-way will be provided to DOE as soon as it becomes available.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

TDI NEW ENGLAND

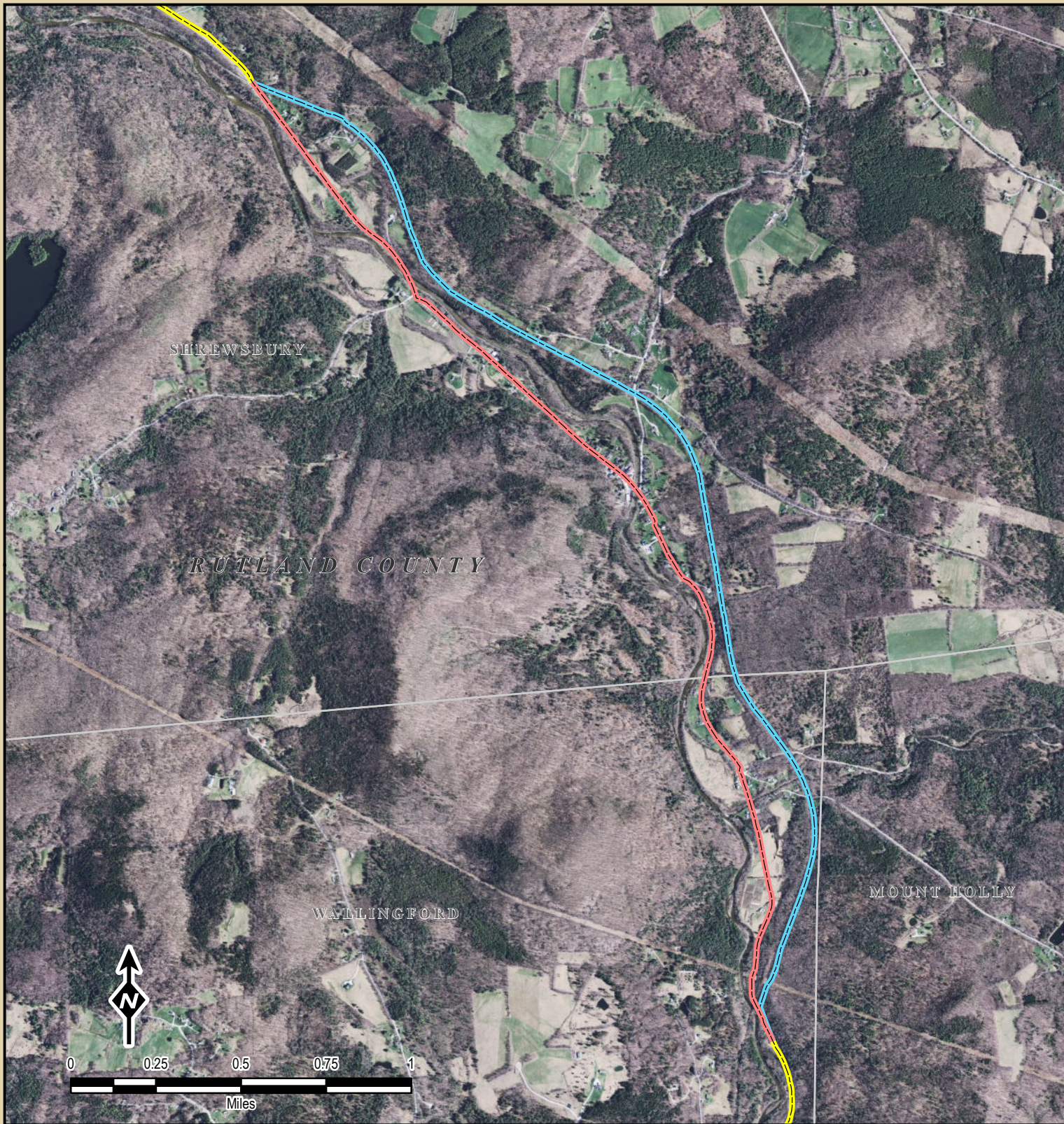


Josh Bagnato
Project Manager

New England Clean Power Link
802-885-3890
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cc: Via Email
Kelly Schaeffer, Kleinschmidt
Julie Smith, Department of Energy
Sean Murphy, HDR
Jay Ryan, Baker Botts


ATTACHMENT A



Legend


- - - Proposed Terrestrial Route
- - - Railroad Option
- - - Road Option
- Town Boundary
- Vermont County Boundary

Sources: ESRI, TRC, TDI New England


TDI New England
A Blackstone Portfolio Company

New England Clean Power Link

Attachment A
Cuttingsville Railroad Option

Created: 10/9/2014  14 Gabriel Drive
 Augusta, ME 04330

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