



**Department of Energy**  
**Washington, DC 20585**

**January 12, 2015**

Tom Chapman  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
New England Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5087

Dear Mr. Chapman,

This letter is to initiate informal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the proposed New England Clean Power Link Transmission Line Project (NECPL Project).

TDI New England (TDI-NE) applied to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the United States border with Canada. TDI-NE filed its Presidential permit application on May 20, 2014.

In response to the Presidential permit application, on August 26, 2014, the DOE published the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Conduct Public Scoping Meetings, and Notice of Floodplains and Wetlands Involvement (the NOI) in the Federal Register. In the NOI DOE announced its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of issuing a Presidential permit, the federal action, to TDI-NE to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border in northern Vermont (VT).

A detailed description of the proposed transmission line is located on the EIS website at <http://necplinkeis.com>

The following is a list of threatened and endangered species under the USFWS jurisdiction, which are potentially located in the project area:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – delisted but remains under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668C)
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) – Candidate for listing

We ask that you review and approve the above list of potentially affected species, or provide a list of additional species that might be affected and any concerns relative to impacts of the Proposed Action on federally listed species.

Please feel free to contact me directly at any time at [Brian.Mills@hq.DOE.gov](mailto:Brian.Mills@hq.DOE.gov), by phone at (202) 586-8267, or by fax at (202) 586-8008. We look forward to working with your office on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Mills".

Brian Mills  
NEPA Document Manager  
Office of National Electricity Delivery, OE-20  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy  
Reliability