



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 17, 2015

R. Chris Davy
Acting Director
Office of Europe, Western Hemisphere and Africa
Bureau of Energy Resources
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW, Suite 4843
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Concurrence in Presidential Permit, New England Clean Power Link, OE Docket
No. PP-400

Dear Mr. Davy:

Pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, the Department of Energy (DOE) is authorized to issue Presidential permits for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of electric transmission facilities at the international border of the United States upon finding the permit to be in the public interest and after receiving favorable recommendations from the Departments of State and Defense.

In determining whether issuance of a Presidential permit is in the public interest, DOE considers the environmental impacts of the proposed project pursuant to DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (10 CFR Part 1021), the project's impact on electric reliability, and any other factors that DOE may also consider relevant to the public interest.

We have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) available on the project website at <http://necplinkeis.com/> in which the DOE proposed Federal action is the granting of a Presidential permit to Champlain VT, LLC, doing business as TDI-New England (TDI-NE), for the construction, operation, maintenance and connection of a 1,000-megawatt (MW) high voltage direct current (HVDC) electric transmission line that would cross the U.S.-Canada border in Alburgh, VT.

The proposed project would originate in the Canadian province of Quebec and terminate in Ludlow, Vermont. From the Canadian border, the line would be located underground in Alburgh, Vermont for approximately 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers (km)) and would enter Lake Champlain via a horizontal directional drill (HDD). The cables would then be installed in Lake Champlain, within the jurisdictional waters of Vermont for 97.6 miles (157.1 km). The cables would emerge from Lake Champlain in the town of Benson, Vermont and would be buried along town roads



and state highway rights-of-way for approximately 55.7 miles (89.6 km) until terminating at a proposed converter station in Ludlow, Vermont. The total HVDC portion of the project is approximately 153.8 miles (247.5 km). The project would also involve the construction of a single circuit 345 kilovolt (kV) underground high voltage alternating current (AC) transmission system which would run approximately 0.3 miles (0.5 km) from the converter station in Ludlow to the Coolidge Substation located in the towns of Ludlow and Cavendish, Vermont. The total length of the proposed project from the U.S. border crossing in Alburgh to the Coolidge substation is approximately 154.1 miles (248 km).

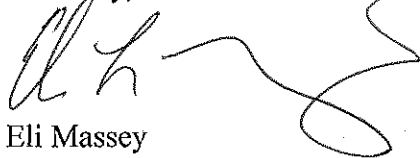
The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts in the United States of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative. Under the No Action alternative, the Presidential permit would not be granted, and the proposed transmission line would not cross the U.S.-Canada border.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – New England District, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 1 (New England) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are Federal cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

Your recommendations on the proposed Presidential Permit should be addressed to Christopher Lawrence at the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE-20, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0350. Because of delays in handling conventional mail, it would be preferred that the response be transmitted by e-mail to Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov or by facsimile to 202-586-8008. In addition, please feel free to contact Christopher Lawrence directly at 202-586-5260.

A similar letter is being sent to the Department of Defense for consideration. If they should make an unfavorable recommendation we will advise you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eli Massey', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Eli Massey
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
National Electricity Delivery Division
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability