



September 1, 2017

Mr. Manuel Hamalian
Manger, Procurement
New York Power Authority
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

Dear Mr. Hamalian:

We are writing today to express our support for the clean energy proposal offered by Transmission Developers, Inc. ("TDI) in response to the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) Large-Scale Renewables Request For Proposals. This proposal relies on the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) Project to serve as the link between Quebec's hydropower and New York City's demand for electricity. The CHPE is a 1,000 megawatt clean energy project will bring renewable hydroelectricity to New York. Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson have long advocated the development of clean, renewable energy and this project meets the criteria of the very standard we see as critical to New York's sustainable energy future.

Initially, our organizations had serious concerns about the impacts of installing a cable within the Hudson River estuary and we became involved with the Public Service Commission's Article VII siting proceeding.

However, after more than two years of living and breathing this project up in Albany, we achieved significant improvements to the route, and after commissioning an expert report by the ESS Group, which detailed the potential environmental impact of the project, and, of course, through our own review, we concluded that the impacts to the river and estuary would be outweighed by the benefits of the project as long as certain conditions were met. One of these conditions is the establishment of \$117M environmental trust fund to provide assistance to projects that improve and enhance the aquatic environments in Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, the Bronx, Harlem and East Rivers, and New York Harbor.

We were pleased to see the project route changed to avoid sensitive areas in the Hudson River, including Haverstraw Bay. The route as certified, avoids directly transiting 12 out of the 17 significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats in the estuary. And in areas where it will be transiting the Hudson River, there are exclusion zones of particularly sensitive areas where cable installation will be avoided.

Underwater cable installation activities would be limited to certain times of the year to avoid life cycle impacts on migratory species as well as the American shad, winter flounder, striped bass, and other fish populations.

There will be continuous monitoring of water quality. There also will be pre- and post-installation benthic and sediment monitoring, bathymetry, temperature and magnetic field studies, and pre- and post-installation surgeon tracking studies, all of which will work to monitor construction impacts on water quality and aquatic species.

Accordingly, Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson signed the Joint Proposal that is part of the project's Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

Since that time our organizations have worked with Governor Cuomo to close the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plants because among other things, its detrimental effect on the Hudson River. As a result of the hard work by many, Indian Point will be fully closed by 2021 making NYPA's RFP timely. With Indian Point closure, new sources of electricity will be needed in New York City and thus, we urge NYPA to choose the HQ/CHPE clean energy proposal and accept it as a very positive step towards meeting Governor Cuomo's renewable energy goals for New York State.

Sincerely,



Hayley Carlock
Director of Environmental Advocacy
Scenic Hudson, Inc.



Richard Webster
Legal Director
Riverkeeper, Inc.

About Scenic Hudson

Scenic Hudson preserves land and farms and creates parks that connect people with the inspirational power of the Hudson River, while fighting threats to the river and natural resources that are the foundation of the valley's prosperity.

About Riverkeeper

Riverkeeper is an independent organization funded and driven by concerned individuals. Our vision: Clean, swimmable waters, a Hudson River teeming with life, and safe and abundant drinking water supplies.