



October 31, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000
Fax: 202-586-4403

Dear Secretary Chu:

Trout Unlimited and its New York State Council are writing to you regarding the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) transmission line, a 333 mile, underground HVDC transmission line that, if approved, will carry electricity from Canada to New York City. CHPE filed an updated application for a Presidential permit with the Department of Energy on February 28, 2012, and that request is presently moving through the permitting process. We have reviewed the project, and Trout Unlimited's New York State Council participated in the development of the Joint Proposal, discussed below. The project's proponents appear to have done a good job in seeking to avoid, minimize and mitigate the potential impacts that the project will have on aquatic habitats and wildlife. Therefore, we ask both you and the Department to move forward with the approval process for CHPE's application for a Presidential permit.

The CHPE project intends to provide clean electric power to the New York City market, thereby reducing SO_x, NO_x, and greenhouse gas emissions. Through the use of a collaborative approach throughout the New York State permitting process, CHPE has been able to identify, evaluate, and respond to the questions, concerns and issues that have been raised by various advocacy groups, including those issues of greatest importance to Trout Unlimited and its New York State Council.

On February 24, 2012, as part of this collaborative process, the CHPE filed a Joint Proposal of Settlement with the New York State Department of Public Service that reflects the output of this collaborative process – creation of a broad consensus among the participating state agencies, city government, and conservation organizations that the project is in the public interest. Trout Unlimited and its New York State Council commend the use of this inclusive and transparent approach in the review of the CHPE project and its objectives while, at the same time, ensuring the protection of our most important aquatic resources.

Therefore, Trout Unlimited and its New York State Council ask the Department of Energy to approve the updated CHPE application for a Presidential permit. In addition, we look forward to working with you to replicate this collaborative approach in regard to other projects as they move through the permitting process..

Sincerely,

Ron Urban



Ron Urban
Chairman, New York Council
Trout Unlimited

Elizabeth Maclin
Vice President for Eastern Conservation
Trout Unlimited