Cable Monitoring Telecommunication Huts

Case Number (10-T-0139)

Certificate Amendment and Environmental Management and Construction Plan Supplement

Segments 1, 6, 11, 12

Washington, Saratoga, Greene and Rockland Counties, New York

EDR Project Number: 21075.2

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BMP	Best Management Practice
CA	Consulting Archaeologist
CC	Certificate Condition
CHPE	Champlain Hudson Power Express
CI	Co-located Infrastructure
CMT	Cable Monitoring Telecommunications
EM&CP	Environmental Management and Construction Plan
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
LOW	Limits of Work
MPT	Maintenance and Protection of Traffic
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
MW	Megawatts
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act
NRHP	National Registry of Historic Places
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PSC	Public Service Commission
PSL	Public Service Law
SCRMP	Supplemental Cultural Resource Management Plan
SPDES	State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VSR	Visually Sensitive Resources

1. SITE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project involves the construction of approximately 339 miles of high voltage direct current (HVDC) underground and underwater transmission cable from Montreal, Quebec, to a Converter Station in Queens, New York. Overall, the project will bring 1,250 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy into New York by spring 2026 to replace the use of fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions. The proposed Project will provide enough power for more than 1 million homes, along with numerous environmental and economic benefits to millions of residents in New York State communities.

On March 30, 2010, Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. filed an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (the Application) with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) pursuant to Article VII of the New York Public Service Law (PSL) to construct and operate the transmission project known as the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project (the Project) (PSC Case 10-T-0139) (Certificate Condition (CC) 1). An *Order Granting Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need* (the Certificate) was granted on April 18, 2013. In August 2020, CHPE, Inc. converted from a corporation to a limited liability company and received the PSC's approval to transfer its interest in the Certificate to CHPE, LLC and CHPE Properties, Inc. (hereafter collectively referred to as CHPE and/or Certificate Holders). The Certificate was amended on March 20, 2020, August 13, 2020, September 21, 2020, January 26, 2021, May 14, 2021, February 17, 2022, March 16, 2022, December 15, 2022, October 13, 2023, April 18, 2024, and June 20, 2024 to reflect revisions in the alignment and other Certificate Conditions (CCs). Concurrent with this submission, Certificate Holders are seeking an additional amendment of the Certificate to authorize additional Facility components not previously authorized in the April 2013 Certificate Order. On October 13, 2022, the Commission approved the first CHPE Environmental Management and Construction Plan (EM&CP) for Segments 1 and 2 of project construction; since that time, the Commission has approved all but one of the Segment EM&CPs across the project's terrestrial, marine, and metro scopes. This submission also includes an EM&CP supplement to the Segment 1 (Approved October 13, 2022), Segment 6 (Approved September 14, 2023), Segment 11 (Approved August 17, 2023), and Segment 12 (August 17, 2023) EM&CPs to facilitate placement of these new Facility components in each of those previously approved Segment areas.

The Article VII Application and subsequent review process included the development of numerous documents which identified natural resources within the Project Corridor and best management practices (BMPs) to minimize impacts to those natural resources as a result of the construction or operation of the Project. Specifically, the Article VII Application and the resulting Certificate included the following environmental guidance documents:

- Joint Proposal (Case 10-T-0139 Item 295)

- Certificate Conditions contained within the issued Certificate
- EM&CP Guidelines (Appendix E to the Joint Proposal)
- Best Management Practices (BMP Document) (Attachment F to the Certificate).

Other relevant authorizations/approvals/guidance include the following:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Applicant Proposed Impact Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Appendix G) to the Environmental Impact Statement prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]).

This Certificate Amendment and Environmental Management and Compliance Plan (EM&CP) Supplement has been developed in order to facilitate construction, operation and maintenance of four Cable Monitoring and Telecommunications (CMT) Huts, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Certificate issued by the PSC on April 18, 2013, as amended, and the documents listed above. The CMT huts will be located in Segment 1 (Package 1A), Segment 6 (Package 4A), Segment 11 (Package 7A), and Segment 12 (Package 7B) of the CHPE route. Certificate Conditions (CCs) 6 and 7 allow the creation of segmented EM&CPs to be developed in accordance with CCs 145 through 164 (as applicable) and the Environmental Management and Construction Plan Guidelines document (EM&CP Guidelines) included as Appendix E to the Certificate. The construction of CMT huts will comply with the certificate conditions as outlined in Appendix A (Certificate Conditions and Applicability to CMT Huts) and summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Applicable EM&CP Certificate Conditions

Section	Certificate Conditions	Section Title	Location of Conditions within EM&CP Supplement
A	1-15e	General Conditions of the Order	Included in Sections 1 and 2; Appendices A and B; and separate filings, as cited in Appendix or discussed elsewhere in this document.
B	16-20	Laws and Regulations	General requirements and best practices for entire construction of the CMT Huts
C	21-26	HVDC-AC Annex Station Design, Interconnection and Construction	Does not apply to CMT Hut construction

D	27-29d	Special Conditions Regarding Co-Located Infrastructure and Related Matters	Addressed in Section 12
E	30-40	Public Health and Safety	Addressed in Sections 2, 3, 11, 12
F	41-52	Notices and Public Complaints	Addressed in Section 2; Appendix A & Appendix B
G	53-57	Environmental Supervision	Addressed in Section 2
H	58-74	Overland Installation	Addressed in Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13
I	75-80	Agricultural Lands	N/A - Details in Section 6.1
J	81-84	Herbicide Use	N/A – Herbicides will not be used in construction
K	85-87	Building Code and Inspections – Annex Station and Related Buildings	Addressed in Section 14
L	88-89	Overland Restoration	Addressed in Section 13
M	90-91	Overland Habitat Areas	Addressed in Section 8
N	92-101	Underwater Cable Installation	Does not apply to CMT Hut construction
O	102-106	Water Supply Intakes	Does not apply to CMT Hut construction
P	107-112	Cultural resources	Addressed in Section 10
Q	113-118	Waterbodies and Regulated Wetlands	Addressed in Section 8
R	119-137	Transmission System Reliability	Conditions require filings/reports/studies not related to EM&CP Supplement; relevant filings and correspondence discussed in Section 2
S	144	Mapping, Land Acquisition, and As-Built Drawings for the Annex Station	Does not apply to CMT Hut construction
T	145-164	EM&CP	All Sections addressed throughout this document
U	165-165(d)(xi)	Environmental Trust	Does not apply to CMT Hut construction

1.1 EM&CP SUPPLEMENT PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this Certificate Amendment and EM&CP Supplement is to support amendment of the CHPE Certificate. It is also intended to be used in combination with the complete EM&CPs for each of the appropriate CMT Hut Segments. This supplement and the complete Segment EM&CP will be available on site as required by Certificate Condition.

This EM&CP Supplement for Segment 1 (Package 1A), Segment 6 (Package 4A), Segment 11 (Package 7A), and Segment 12 (Package 7B) addresses the installation and operation of four CMT Huts in each of these geographic segments. One CMT Hut is proposed in each of the segments (packages) listed above. CMT Hut installation was not included in the previously approved EM&CPs. As detailed below, most aspects of the previously approved EM&CPs are equally applicable to construction of the CMT Huts without modification. This submission provides necessary environmental impact analysis to support amendment of the Certificate to add the CMT Huts to the approved Facility, and supplements each Segment EM&CP with additional construction information relevant specifically to the CMT Hut scope.

1.2 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The CMT Huts hold equipment used to monitor the HVDC cables and support communication between the CHPE Facility's two HVDC converter stations—one located in Queens, New York (Segment 22) and the other in Hertel, Quebec. These functions will be accomplished with a fiber optic cable that is installed with the HVDC cable bundles on both land and in the water. The fiber optic line will run from the closest point of the nearest (previously approved) ductbank to the equipment in the hut and back to the ductbank. The HVDC cable itself will not depart from the previously approved alignment and will not enter the huts.

CMT Huts are prefabricated structures approximately 12 ft long, 8 ft wide, and 10 ft tall. The structures will rest on concrete foundations. A fence will be installed around each hut to prevent unauthorized access. A stone driveway will allow maintenance personnel to drive up to and park at each hut. The CMT Huts will be visited occasionally for maintenance but are otherwise not occupied. Lighting will consist of a single motion activated light mounted on the outside of the CMT hut.

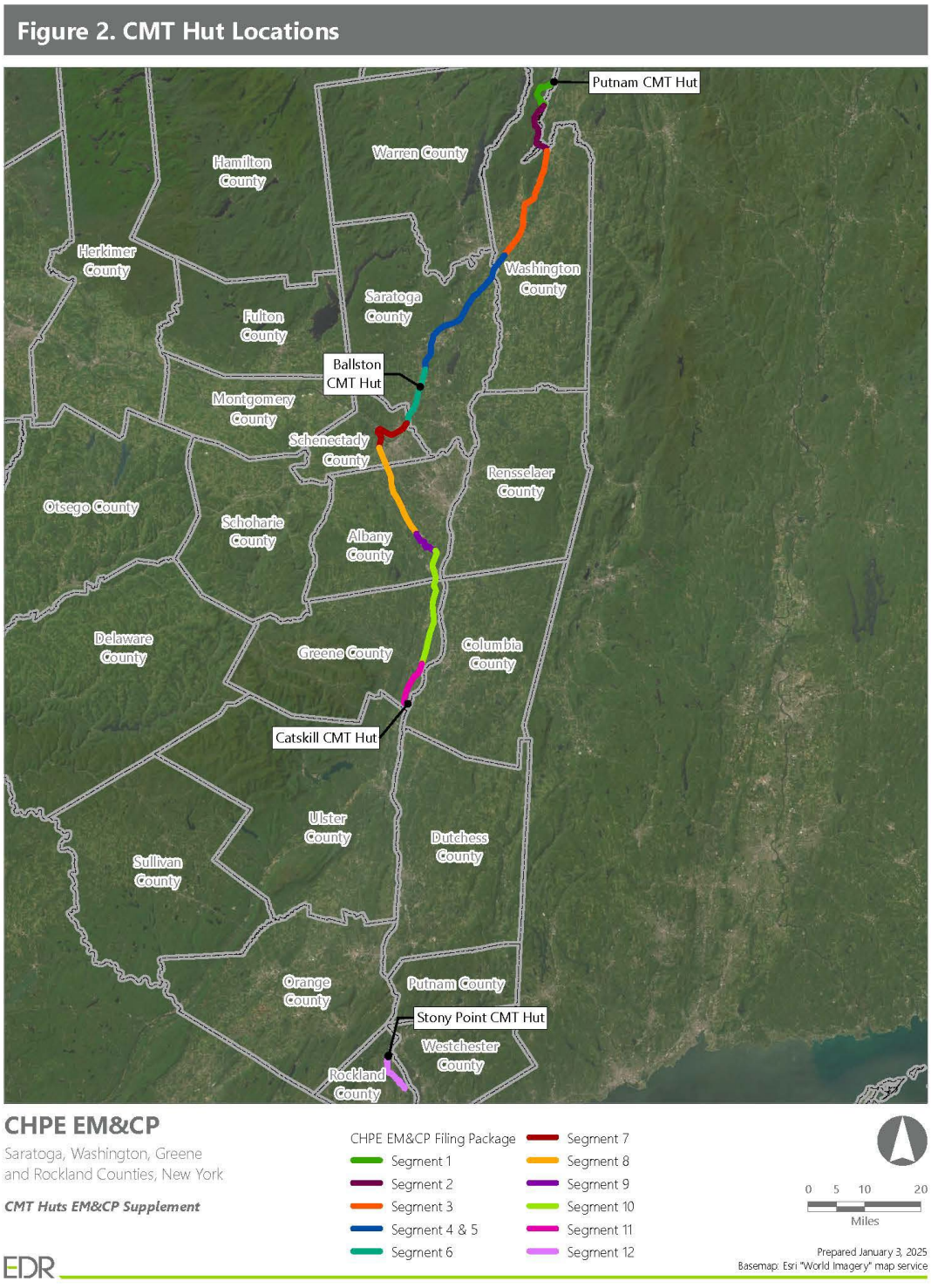
Figure 1. Photo of Cable Monitoring Telecommunications Hut

The proposed CMT Huts are located within the previously approved limits of work (LOW) adjacent to the closest ductbank for each of the Segments in which huts are proposed. The sites of the four proposed CMT Huts are summarized below in Table 2 and shown in Figure 1.

Table 2. CMT Hut Locations within the CHPE Project packages/segments

CMT Hut #	Package	Segment	Municipality	Approximate Coordinates
1	1A	1	Town of Putnam, Washington County	43.734911N; 73.374785W
2	4A	6	Town of Ballston, Saratoga County	42.956537N; 73.856692W
3	7A	11	Town of Catskill, Greene County	42.144459N; 73.907846W
4	7B	12	Town of Stony Point, Rockland County	41.242405N; 73.981732W

Figure 2. CMT Hut Locations



1.3 DEVIATION ZONE EXCURSIONS

Segment 1 and Segment 11 Hut sites are within the Authorized Deviation Zone. Segment 6 and 12 Hut sites are outside the original Authorized Deviation Zone for permanent location of the CHPE Facility, but are within the previously approved limits of work for construction in each Segment's EM&CP. The CHPE cable locations will not change—this Amendment simply seeks PSC approval for the addition of the four CMT Huts at these identified locations.

1.4 TEMPORARY LAYDOWN YARDS

Previously approved laydown yards will be used to support CMT hut construction.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PERSONNEL AND PROJECT PROCEDURES

The requirements detailed in the Environmental Personnel and Project Procedures Sections of the previously approved EM&CP Segments 1, 6, 11, and 12 will be followed during CMT Hut construction in each of the respective segments.

3. CONSTRUCTION METHODS

The Certificate Holders will construct the Project in a manner that conforms to Good Utility Practice, as defined by the approved EM&CP Segments 1, 6, 11, and 12 and the referenced standards. Before construction begins, the boundaries of the Construction Zone (limits of work) will be delineated in the field. The approximate construction sequence for each CMT hut will be as follows:

1. Delineate limits of work
2. Install stabilized construction entrance and temporary erosion and sediment control measures
3. Perform initial clearing to remove vegetation (where not already completed).
4. Remove existing soil at the site of the proposed 24 ft by 32 ft gravel pad surrounding the CMT Hut down to 1.5 feet below the proposed final site grade.
5. Perform excavation, conduit installation, and backfilling for underground fiber optic and power connections.
6. Backfill the 24 ft by 32 ft gravel pad surrounding the hut following the National Grid Substation design (Appendix C sheet C-600A, Detail 5).
7. Pour concrete for the foundations of the hut, fence posts, and bollards, as shown in the plans.
8. Deliver prefabricated hut and install on the foundation piers.
9. Perform fence installation.
10. Perform final site stabilization.
11. Install Limited Use Pervious Access Road driveway (Appendix C sheet C-600B)
12. Pull and/or splice fiber optic cable.
13. Establish service connection from local electric utility (240V) to power the electronics within the hut.
14. Install and commission the electronics within the hut.

3.1 NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

As part of this certificate amendment and supplemental EM&CP, the Certificate Holders will provide additional notices to local municipalities and communities that are located within the vicinity of each of the CMT Huts. Notices will be distributed by notifying those interested persons that this EM&CP Supplement has been submitted and is available for comment and, at the appropriate time, providing additional notices prior to construction. Newspaper and mailed notices of this Certificate Amendment and EM&CP Supplement filing have been performed concurrent with the filing of this Certificate Amendment and EM&CP Supplement, as shown in Appendix B, using both the rules for Certificate Amendments as well as the rules for EM&CP notices included in the Article VII Certificate.

3.2 CABLE INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

There is no HVDC cable installation associated with the CMT Hut scope.

3.3 HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING (HDD)

There are no HDDs associated with the CMT Hut scope.

3.4 TRENCHING

The fiber optic cable will be trenched in from the previously approved HVDC ductbank to the CMT hut and back to the HVDC ductbank as detailed in Appendix C.

3.5 DREDGING

There is no dredging associated with the CMT Hut scope.

3.6 CONVERTER STATION AND SUBSTATION REQUIREMENTS

This section is not applicable to the CMT Hut scope.

3.7 RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND EASEMENTS

Each CMT hut is located on private property. CHPE has obtained or is in the process of obtaining easements to allow the installation of the CMT Huts on these properties. Proof of land control will be provided prior to construction, in conjunction with Certificate Holders' request for a Notice to Proceed to construction on the CMT Huts.

3.8 RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING

CHPE will conduct periodic vegetation maintenance around the CMT Huts as part of the operation and maintenance of the electrical facility. Removal of vegetation during construction is specified in Appendix C; ongoing vegetation maintenance will be further outlined in the Operations and Maintenance Plan to be submitted prior to commercial operation as required by CC 132.

3.9 BUILDING AND STRUCTURE REMOVAL

No building or structures need to be removed as part of the CMT Hut scope.

3.10 ACCESS ROADS

Each CMT Hut will require a short, permanent driveway. Driveways are detailed in the civil drawings (Appendix C). Driveways will follow the TRC Limited Use Pervious Access Road detail, previously approved by NYSDEC for use on renewable energy projects. The approximately 24 ft by 32 ft gravel pad around the CMT huts will follow the National Grid Substation Specifications (Appendix C sheet C-600A Detail 5), previously approved by NYSDEC to provide access around equipment on energy projects. Both the driveway and gravel pad are considered permeable by NYSDEC for stormwater purposes. Refer to Section 5 of the EM&CP Supplement and Appendix D (SWPPP Amendments) for additional discussion of the access roads.

3.11 SOIL AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Any soil removal will adhere to the previously approved Segment EM&CP Soil and Materials Management Plans.

3.12 CULVERT REPLACEMENT AND TEMPORARY INSTALLATION

A new permanent culvert will be required at the Outlet Road entrance to the CMT Hut site in Ballston Segment 6 (Package 4A). The culvert will be designed and installed to withstand a 100-year flood event. The details of this culvert replacement are depicted on the civil drawing (Appendix C). No additional culverts will be required in Segments 1, 11, or 12 for the CMT Hut construction.

3.13 BLASTING AND ROCK REMOVAL

No blasting or rock removal is required for the CMT Hut construction.

3.14 INADVERTENT DAMAGE TO EXISTING UTILITIES

If, during construction of the CMT Huts, damage occurs to existing utilities, CHPE will adhere to the procedures in the previously approved Segment EM&CPs, which includes compliance with the requirements of the Certificate concerning collocated infrastructure (CI).

4. POLLUTION PREVENTION

Work to install the CMT Huts will follow the previously approved Segment EM&CP Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plans for the relevant Segment. No new pollution sources were introduced as part of CMT Hut installations. Furthermore, work on the CMT Huts will adhere to the Good Housekeeping practices, waste management and disposal, notification and reporting requirements contained within each previously approved Segment EM&CP.

During operation of the CHPE Facility, any wastes generated by ongoing maintenance or repairs at the CMT Huts will be managed in accordance with the Facility's Operations and Maintenance Plan, to be submitted prior to commercial operation in accordance with CC 132.

5. STORMWATER POLLUTION, SOIL EROSION, AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) was prepared for each previously approved Segment EM&CP for cable installation work in accordance with the criteria presented in the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Construction Activities (GP-0-20-001), the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual (January 2015), and the New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control (July 2016). For each of the Segments in which a CMT hut will be installed, a SWPPP Amendment Memorandum was prepared to cover the CMT Hut installation (included at Appendix D). A copy of the SWPPP Amendment Memorandum will be added to the SWPPP and SPDES general permit for each Segment and available on-site at all times during construction.

5.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND SITE SOILS

A summary of the soils in Segments 1, 6, 11, and 12 are described in the previously approved Segment EM&CP SWPPPs.

5.2 CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING

The sequence of construction is summarized in Section 3.0 above.

5.3 STRUCTURAL CONTROLS

5.3.1 Erosion and Sediment Control

Approved erosion and sediment control measures will be utilized and procedures for use will be followed, as described in the approved SWPPP. Updates to the implementation of erosion and sediment control measures are shown on the C-190 civil sheets in Appendix C and in Appendix D.

5.3.2 Dust Control

CMT Hut construction will be completed in accordance with the dust control measures in the approved Segment EM&CP and associated SWPPP without revision.

5.3.3 Stream Crossings

Construction of the CMT Huts will not involve any new stream crossings and will not increase the risk of unanticipated culvert replacements. In the event of an unanticipated culvert replacement, CHPE would follow the procedures in the Stream Crossings section of the approved segment EM&CPs.

5.3.4 Horizontal Directional Drilling

There are no HDDs associated with the CMT Hut scope.

5.4 MS4 COORDINATION

The municipalities in which the proposed Segment 6 (Ballston) and Segment 12 (Stony Point) CMT huts will be installed operate Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) and therefore require MS4 acceptance of the measures proposed to reduce stormwater runoff. Table 3 identifies those municipalities and the status of the MS4 permit for each. The host municipalities for the CMT Huts in Segments 1 (Putnam Station) and 11 (Catskill) do not operate such a system and therefore do not require MS4 acceptance.

Table 3. Status of MS4 Approvals

CMT Hut	Municipality	Status
Stony Point	Town of Stony Point	Stony Point signed the MS4 acceptance form for the Segment 12 (Package 7B) SWPPP on 10/18/2022. CMT Hut SWPPP Amendment Memo has been submitted to the Town of Stony Point and is attached in Appendix D for reference
Ballston	Town of Ballston	The Town of Ballston signed the MS4 acceptance form for the Segment 6 (Package 4A) SWPPP approved on 12/12/2023. CMT Hut SWPPP Amendment Memo has been submitted to the Town of Ballston and is attached in Appendix D for reference.
Catskill	Town of Catskill	No MS4. Full Segment SWPPP approved on 08/17/2023 by NYS as part of the EM&CP.

		CMT Hut SWPPP Amendment Memo is included in Appendix D for NYSDEC review.
Putnam	Town of Putnam	No MS4. Full Segment SWPPP approved on 10/13/2022 by NYS as part of the EM&CP. CMT Hut SWPPP Amendment Memo is included in Appendix D for NYSDEC review.

5.5 MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION, AND RECORDKEEPING

Maintenance, inspection, and recordkeeping will be conducted in accordance with the previously-approved EM&CPs and SWPPPs. No modifications to these items are required for this Certificate Amendment and EM&CP Supplement.

5.6 POST CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Construction of CMT Huts will not result in any increase of impervious area, and it is not anticipated to contribute a significant pollutant load within the watershed or to downstream waterbodies (Appendix D). As such, peak flow mitigation and water quality treatment are not included as a part of this Certificate Amendment and EM&CP Supplement, and post-construction stormwater management practices are not proposed.

For the sites in Segment 1, 6, and 12, CHPE has proposed to use the "NG Substation Section" Specifications (Appendix C sheet C-600A, detail 5) for the pad surrounding the hut and the "TRC Limited Use Pervious Access Road" (Appendix C sheet C-600B) for the driveway leading to the hut. Equipment pads and driveways using these details have been previously approved by NYSDEC as pervious surfaces for other energy projects and renewable energy projects, respectively. CHPE will continue to inspect and maintain the driveway and equipment pad to ensure that they remain pervious for the lifetime of the Facility.

For the site in Segment 11, the hut will be located on an existing impervious surface, so there will be no increase in impervious area.

6. SENSITIVE LAND USES

6.1 AGRICULTURAL LANDS CCS AND BMPS

None of the CMT Huts are located on agricultural land.

6.2 RECREATIONAL AREAS CCS AND BMPS

The hut in Putnam Station (Segment 1; Package 1A) is within the Adirondack Park but all proposed construction activities are within existing LOWs for the project, and work will be relatively short in duration. No impacts to park users are anticipated due to the construction of the CMT Hut in Segment 1.

Access to public recreational areas will be maintained at all times during construction activities. Construction and operation of the huts will not lead to any new traffic impacts.

The hut in the Town of Ballston (Segment 6; Package 4A) is approximately 50 ft from the Town of Ballston Bike and Hike Trail. Construction impacts were approved through the Segment 6 EM&CP, and no additional impacts are anticipated for the installation of this CMT Hut. The BMP's outlined in the Segment 6 (Package 4A) EM&CP will be followed. The Town has been notified of this Certificate Amendment and EM&CP Supplement, and will be provided with pre-construction notice before work on the CMT Hut begins.

7. VEGETATION CLEARING AND DISPOSAL

All vegetation clearing and disposal for these CMT Huts will be conducted in accordance with previously approved Segment EM&CPs.

8. ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

This Section of the EM&CP Supplement addresses environmentally sensitive areas, specifically waterbodies and regulated wetlands, groundwater and wells, ecologically sensitive species and habitats (e.g., state and federally listed species, significant natural communities), and invasive species in the vicinity of the CMT Huts (Table 4). These resources have been described in previously approved Segment EM&CPs, a brief summary is provided here.

Table 4. Environmentally Sensitive Areas for all CMT Hut Locations Based on Desktop Analysis

	1A - Putnam	4A - Ballston	7A - Catskill	7B - Stony Point
Wetlands	No impacts	New permanent impacts to state wetland and buffer (quantified below)	No impacts	No impacts
Waterbodies	No impacts	No impacts	No impacts	No impacts
Floodplains	No impacts	No impacts	Hut located within FEMA Zone AE, but will be on a local high elevation spot approx 4.5 ft above the base flood elevation.	No impacts
Groundwater and Wells	No wells	No wells	No wells	No wells
Federally-listed species[1]	Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis)* Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) Tricolored Bat *(Perimyotis subflavus*) Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)	Tricolored Bat *(Perimyotis subflavus*) Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)	Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis)* Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) Tricolored Bat *(Perimyotis subflavus*)	Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) Tricolored Bat *(Perimyotis subflavus*) Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)

	1A - Putnam	4A - Ballston	7A - Catskill	7B - Stony Point
			Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)	
State-listed species	**BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION<** [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] **>END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**
Invasive Species	No new impacts	No new impacts	No new impacts	No new impacts
Noise and Noise Mitigation	No new impacts	No new impacts	No new impacts	No new impacts
Cultural Resources	No new impacts	No new impacts	No new impacts	No new impacts

[1] Species identified through Official Species List requests made with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) service.

8.1 WATERBODIES AND REGULATED WETLANDS

8.1.1 Waterbodies

There are no proposed impacts to waterbodies associated with any CMT Hut installations.

8.1.2 Wetlands

The CMT Huts in Segments 1 (Putnam Station), 11 (Catskill), and 12 (Stony Point) will have no new wetland impacts.

Segment 6 wetland delineations were described in the approved Segment 6 EM&CP, Wetland and Waterbody report. The hut in Segment 6 (Ballston) will lead to a conversion of previously identified and approved impacts to Wetland P4-M (NYSDEC FWW R-41, Class 3), including the regulated adjacent area for that wetland, from temporary to permanent impacts. Specifically, approximately 7,700 SF of impacts to the 100-foot adjacent area previously identified in the Segment 6 EM&CP as temporary impacts would become permanent and approximately 161 SF of direct impacts to the wetland would become permanent. Permanent impacts will be appropriately mitigated as required and in consultation with NYSDEC and NYSDPS staffs.

8.1.3 Floodplains

The CMT Huts in Segments 1 (Putnam Station), 6 (Ballston), and 12 (Stony Point) are not located within FEMA designated floodplanes. The CMT Hut in Segment 11 (Catskill) is located within FEMA Designated Flootplane Zone AE. The latest FEMA mapping referenced in October of 2024 shows a base flood elevation in Zone AE at EL 9 ft. The finished floor elevation of the CMT Hut will be EL 13.5 ft. This is also above the 500-year flood elevation of EL 10.9 ft. Engineers reviewed the design of the CMT Hut site and foundations and determined that, because the elevation of the hut is above the base flood elevation, it can be expected to withstand a base flood without impact to operations.

8.2 GROUNDWATER AND WELLS

There are no groundwater wells located within the vicinity of the proposed CMT Hut locations.

8.3 ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE SPECIES AND HABITATS

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC database, and the previously approved EM&CP's for Segments 1, 6, 11, and 12, federally threatened and endangered species are located within the vicinity of all proposed CMT Hut locations:

- Putnam Hut: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared bat *(Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)
- Ballston Hut: Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)
- Catskill Hut: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)
- Stony Point Hut: Northern Long-eared bat *(Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION< [redacted] **.>END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

8.4 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

CMT Hut construction will be completed in accordance with the applicable Segment EM&CP Invasive Species Control Plan.

9. NOISE AND NOISE MITIGATION PLAN

Construction of the CMT Huts is anticipated to cause a temporary increase in noise levels consistent with construction activities associated with other portions of the Project. The sections below summarize the noise control and mitigation measures to be implemented for the CMT Hut installations.

Installation of the CMT Hut installation will be accomplished using the equipment listed below and within the Noise and Noise Mitigation Plan section of each geographic segment's approved EM&CP. The noise involved in construction of the CMT Huts will be similar to the noise involved in previously approved trench construction. The CMT hut does not create any permanent noise sources except for two (2) 12,000 BTU cooling units, similar in appearance and noise generation as a residential house window air conditioner. The units have 62 dB noise level at high setting. As a temporary condition, if there is a long-duration power outage, a portable generator will be brought on site, operated until power is restored, and then removed

9.1 SENSITIVE NOISE RECEPTORS

A summary of noise receptors in Segments 1, 6, 11, and 12 can be found in each Segment's previously approved EM&CP. Work on each CMT Hut installations will not expand the area within which construction noise is generated because the construction work is occurring within the previously approved limits of work in each Segment. The closest noise receptor to any CMT Hut (Putnam) is 225 feet away.

Given the low noise levels generated by equipment included in the CMT Huts, as well as the separating distance and existence of intervening vegetation between the CMT Huts and nearby sensitive noise receptors, construction and operation of the CMT Huts is not anticipated to create significant adverse noise impacts.

9.2 NOISE CONTROL MEASURES

9.2.1 Noise Control Measures for Equipment and Linear Construction

A summary of noise control measures for construction equipment used in Segments 1, 6, 11, and 12 can be found in each Segment's previously approved EM&CP. No measures beyond what has already been detailed are proposed for the CMT Hut installations.

9.2.2 Noise Control Measures for Point Source Producers

The CMT Hut installations will not create point source noise disruptions.

9.3 HDD NIGHTIME WORK

There are no HDDs associated with the CMT Huts.

10. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include archaeological and historic architectural resources that are listed on, eligible, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP).

The Applicant conducted a desktop analysis (Appendix F) of cultural and historical resources occurring along and within Segments 1, 6, 11, and 12 which were previously identified and are summarized in each of the Segments' previously approved EM&CPs. More details regarding cultural resource management are included in the Supplemental Cultural Resource Management Plan (SCRMP) of each Segment's previously approved EM&CP.

10.1 IMPACT AVOIDANCE

Putnam Station | Segment 1

The Putnam Station hut site is located within a reported archaeological site. The hut site is on the edge of Washington County Route 3, just within the woods. With review of historic maps and aerial imagery, the proposed hut site location has been disturbed from previous development of the area. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated to result from the CMT Hut.

Ballston | Segment 6

The Ballston hut is located adjacent to the Segment 6 trench. It is within the limit of work in an area where testing or monitoring was previously recommended by the Segment 6 EM&CP and SCRMP. Testing for CMT Hut construction will be conducted according to the Segment 6 EM&CP and SCRMP.

Catskill | Segment 11

The Catskill hut will be at the site of Transition Vault 2. The site was previously evaluated for cultural resources, as described in the approved SCRMP for Segment 11. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated to result from the CMT Hut.

Stony Point | Segment 12

The Stony Point hut will be at the site of Transition Vault 3. The site was previously evaluated for cultural resources as described in the approved SCRMP for Segment 12. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated to result from the CMT Hut.

10.2 CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGIST

A summary detailing the Consulting Archaeologist (CA) and their responsibilities is included in the SCRMP and the Cultural Resources Section of each Segment's previously approved EM&CP.

10.3 UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A summary detailing the unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources is included in the SCRMP and the Cultural Resources Section of each Segment's previously approved EM&CP.

10.4 UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

A summary detailing the unanticipated discovery of human remains is included in the SCRMP and the Cultural Resources Section of each Segment's previously approved EM&CP.

11. ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION AND MPT PLAN

The prefabricated huts are smaller than the cable reels that have been delivered to the hut sites. The Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (MPT) Plan for each Segment is included in each previously approved EM&CP and will be utilized as required for the CMT Hut construction.

12. CO-LOCATED INFRASTRUCTURE

As noted in each previously approved Segment EM&CP, during Project construction, minor and temporary impacts to existing utilities and/or co-located infrastructure (CI) may occur where they will be crossed or paralleled by the Project. Consistent with CC 27, CI consists of electric, gas, telecommunication, water, sanitary and storm sewers, and steam infrastructure, appurtenant facilities, and associated equipment, whether above ground, below ground, or submerged that are located within the Construction Zone in each Segment's previously approved EM&CP.

The CMT Hut installations will not introduce any new CI interactions and will not adversely impact CI. Therefore, nothing additional is needed as it relates to CI for this Certificate Amendment and EM&CP Supplement.

13. CLEANUP AND RESTORATION

CMT Hut construction will be completed in accordance with the cleanup and restoration measures in the previously approved Segment EM&CP.

14. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

The detailed requirements for operations and maintenance of the CMT Huts and their associated sites will be included in the project-wide Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan required under Certificate Condition 132. This section provides an overview and preliminary information on operations and maintenance of the CMT Huts.

The CMT Huts are unstaffed and configured for remote monitoring. The data collected by the equipment in the huts will be received and interpreted by equipment and personnel at the project's two converter stations. Consequently, no regular personnel access to the huts will be needed. To maintain the huts in good working order, CHPE will periodically inspect the buildings and site features, and seasonally will provide snow removal and leaf removal, together with storm cleanup (fallen limbs, etc.) as needed and appropriate.

CHPE's periodic inspections will check the exterior and interior condition of the buildings, check that fences and gates are intact, and that gates and locks are operational, assess perimeter trees for any die-off that could result in falls onto the huts or site, check that security lights and sensors are operational, and check that signs are in place (e.g., "No Trespassing" sign). For CMT Hut sites that include driveway culverts, CHPE will inspect that the pipes are free of blockages or other damage. During inspections that find deficiencies, CHPE personnel will make immediate repairs if possible or schedule necessary repairs for a future date.

Adjacent to each hut, a pad is provided for a portable generator. In the event of a prolonged power outage, a portable generator (30-100 amp) would be brought to the site and operated, then removed upon restoration of primary power.

For compliance with SPDES, the CMT Hut sites include permanent stormwater practices to infiltrate stormwater runoff. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will include the necessary permanent signage and recommended long-term maintenance practices, which will be incorporated in the project-wide O&M Plan.

With respect to building and site security, access to CMT Huts is limited to authorized personnel and controlled by a Card Reader at the door of each unit. At each CMT Hut, an exterior camera (1 each, located on the same façade as the entry door) and an interior camera (1 each) provide full-time, remote observation. As noted above, each Hut site is surrounded by a fence, with gate access, and the gate will be always locked aside from intentional access by CHPE personnel or emergency personnel (see below).

Each CMT Hut has been registered with the post offices and received physical address assignments for the 911 system. Because each CMT Hut is located within approximately 500 feet of public roads, or within that

same distance of private roads suitable for fire apparatus and other emergency vehicles, no additional provisions are necessary for emergency access. The CMT Hut driveways and building area pads are designed to support heavy vehicles.

15. VISUAL

Given that the Article VII Certification process for the CHPE Facility did not include assessment of any aboveground structures outside of the Astoria Converter Station and related interconnections and substation work in Astoria Queens, assessment of the potential visual impacts of the CMT Huts is not included in the regulatory record. For that reason, CHPE retained EDR to conduct a Visual Assessment (Appendix E) to evaluate potential visibility and visual impacts of the four CMT Huts in connection with this Certificate Amendment and EM&CP Supplement. This assessment included the identification of potential visually sensitive resources (VSRs) and potential CMT Hut visibility within separate 0.5-mile radius study areas around each proposed hut location, viewshed analysis to determine the geographic extent of potential visibility, verification of potential visibility in the field, and completion of photographic simulations (photosimulations) to demonstrate the potential visual impact of the CMT Huts from the location where the most open, unobstructed views were anticipated to be available.

The viewshed analysis and field review results indicate that potential views of the Huts are very limited due to the dense vegetation surrounding all of the sites. The only large contiguous areas of potential Hut visibility occur from the Hudson River, which was observed from the opposite shoreline, of the Catskill Hut, which is located on property owned by a cement plant and is proximate to industrial land uses. However, the Catskill Hut is unlikely to draw viewer attention due to the expansiveness of the landscape and other prominent landscape features that dominate the viewers' attention in views from the water. Furthermore, the CMT Huts will be a neutral tan color intended to blend into the surrounding landscape.

As shown in the photosimulations, the CMT Huts and associated structures will introduce built features that are utilitarian in nature. However, these features are not out of scale with existing landscape features in the view and are similar in appearance to other structures in the area. Open views of this nature will be limited to a small portion of the adjacent road and will be of short duration for drivers.

For 10 of the 18 identified VSRs, the viewshed analysis results indicate that views of the proposed CMT Huts would not be possible, and therefore the Huts will have no visual effects on these resources. Negligible visual effects are anticipated for the remaining eight resources that have potential visibility of the proposed Huts. Based on the field review results, views of the Huts would be heavily screened by existing terrain or vegetation where they will be essentially imperceptible to viewers, or they would only be possible from small, scattered areas or narrow viewing corridors through breaks in vegetation.

Due to the relatively low height, neutral color and small footprint of the CMT Huts, the visual impact of these components of the CHPE Project is anticipated to be minimal. The four CMT Huts sites are proposed to be sited within the Certificated Project's limit of work, therefore taking advantage of the clearing that was previously approved for the Certificated Project and minimizing the potential visual impact from construction of the CMT Huts. Based on the results of the Visual Assessment, there is little, if any, need for visual mitigation measures to further reduce visual impacts.

16. LOCAL LAW ASSESSMENT

The Applicant prepared a local law assessment to demonstrate that CMT Hut construction complies with substantive requirements of local law (Appendix G).

17. DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

If the CHPE HVDC facility is permanently de-energized at some future date, the CMT Huts will be decommissioned and removed as described herein (CC 162(k)). The site electrical service will be disconnected: any service poles will be removed, and overhead wires removed in coordination with the electrical service provider and underground conduits/wires on site will be excavated and removed. For the CMT Hut buildings and interior equipment will be salvaged, if worthy of salvage, or else disposed. The Hut buildings themselves will be removed, inclusive of concrete footings and generator pads. Disrupted areas due to building removal will be backfilled and compacted. The site fences, gates, bollards, and any other above-ground features will be removed. The driveway and building pad stone areas will be capped with 6 inches of topsoil, seeded, and turf will be established. If necessary for site grading, the top 6 inches of stone will be removed and exported prior to importing topsoil. Limited restorative tree and/or shrub plantings will be installed as necessary, using locally native or naturalized species. Where applicable, driveway culverts will be removed, and open drainage ditches or swales reestablished in their place.