

INFORMATION NOTICE

March 30, 2012

In addition to New York state approval requirements, the Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. project (Champlain Hudson Project) has applied to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit, a permit necessary for the applicant to construct, operate, maintain, and connect the proposed electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. Among other things, DOE will assess the potential environmental impacts of the Champlain Hudson Project and determine whether issuance of a Presidential permit is consistent with the public interest.

DOE is aware that the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold public statement hearings in April on the Joint Proposal submitted to the Commission on February 24, 2012. The Champlain Hudson Project applicant has presented the Joint Proposal to DOE as its preferred alternative. Therefore, DOE intends to evaluate the Joint Proposal to determine whether to issue a Presidential permit.

In light of the submission of the Joint Proposal to DOE on February 28, 2012, DOE intends to issue an amended Notice of Intent (NOI) and reopen public scoping on its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Champlain Hudson Project. The scoping period will extend for 45 days after publication of the amended NOI in the *Federal Register*.

DOE held seven public scoping meetings on the Champlain Hudson Project in 2010. While DOE does not currently intend to hold further scoping meetings, it recognizes that comments provided by the public during the Commission's public statement hearings may be relevant to DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Therefore, DOE intends to review the April public statement hearing transcripts and consider them, to the extent matters relevant to the federal environmental review process arise, as scoping comments for purposes of the EIS. Additionally, the public is invited to provide scoping comments on the EIS by submitting them via e-mail to Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov, by fax to 202-586-8008 or by mail addressed to Brian Mills, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585.

For more information on the DOE Presidential permit or EIS process, please visit DOE's Champlain Hudson Project EIS website at: <http://chpexpresseis.org/>.