



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

August 28 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: Steven Croley
The General Counsel (GC-1)

FROM: Patricia A. Hoffman *PH*
Assistant Secretary
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability (OE-1)

SUBJECT: Determination of Appropriate Level of
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review

DOE Order 451.1B5 requires that each "Secretarial Officer and Head of a Field Organization shall, for matters under the office's purview:...(8) determine that an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement is appropriate or required."

On May 29, 2015, ITC Lake Erie Connector LLC ("ITC Lake Erie") applied to OE pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border.

The approximately 42.5 mile U.S. portion of the proposed transmission line would be capable of transmitting up to 1,000 Megawatts of power.

The HVDC line would extend south from the U.S.-Canada international border buried under the bottom of Lake Erie for approximately 35.4 miles, leave the Lake via Horizontal Directional Drilling for the approximately 7 mile terrestrial portion along or in existing roads to the proposed 6 acre Erie Converter Station (DC to Alternating Current (AC)) where an approximately 0.6 mile HVAC line would connect to the existing Penelec Erie West Substation in Erie County Pennsylvania.

The DOE proposed Federal action would be the issuance of a Presidential permit. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) anticipated action would be to issue a permit for portions of the Project involving work in the bed of Lake Erie

After due consideration of the nature and extent of the proposed project, including preliminary environmental information contained in the Presidential permit application and consultation with the USACOE, OE has determined that the appropriate level of NEPA review for this project is an environmental assessment (EA).

The USACOE will be requested to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EA.

The USACOE will consider the EA in deciding whether to issue permits required under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Brian Mills, OE's NEPA Compliance Officer, at 202-586-8267.