



# Lake Erie Connector Project

## Final Environmental Assessment Volume II-Appendices

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Washington DC

October 2016

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**FINAL**

**LAKE ERIE CONNECTOR PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Volume II Appendices**

**DOE/EA-2019**

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY  
AND ENERGY RELIABILITY**



**COOPERATING AGENCY**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 OVERVIEW

On May 29, 2015, ITC Lake Erie Connector, LLC (ITC Lake Erie or Applicant) applied to the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038, and the regulations at 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §205.320 et seq. (2000), “Application for Presidential Permit Authorizing the Construction, Connection, Operation, and Maintenance of Facilities for Transmission of Electric Energy at International Boundaries.” The DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) is responsible for reviewing Presidential permit applications and determining whether to grant a permit for electrical transmission facilities that cross the United States’ international border. If DOE issues a Presidential permit to ITC Lake Erie (OE Docket Number PP-412), it would authorize ITC Lake Erie to construct, operate, maintain, and connect the United States’ portion of the proposed Lake Erie Connector Project (LEC Project or Project) where the Project crosses the United States-Canada border.

The proposed LEC Project consists of an approximate 72-mile long, 1,000-megawatt (MW), +/-320-kilovolt (kV), high-voltage direct current (HVDC) electric power transmission system that originates in Haldimand County, Ontario, Canada and terminates in Erie County, Pennsylvania, United States. The proposed LEC Project would cross the United States-Canadian border in Lake Erie as a submerged cable and extend approximately 35 miles underwater through Lake Erie and emerge onshore in Erie County, Pennsylvania on private property west of Erie Bluffs Park. The proposed Project would run approximately 7 miles underground to a proposed +/- 320-kV new direct current (DC) to 345 kV alternating current (AC) HVDC converter station (Erie Converter Station) in Conneaut Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania. Approximately 2,153 feet of 345 kV AC underground transmission cables would run between the proposed new Erie Converter Station and the nearby Penelec Erie West Substation. The proposed Project would terminate at the existing Penelec Erie West Substation and interconnect with the transmission system operated by PJM Interconnection, LLC, (PJM), a Regional Transmission Operator (RTO).

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and in considering an application for a Presidential permit, the DOE must take into account potential environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line and associated facilities before making a final decision. The DOE is using the NEPA process to involve federal, state, and local agencies; tribal governments; and the public in the environmental review of the proposed LEC Project. This document constitutes the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) Comment Response Document for the LEC EA. The Draft EA and all other documents associated with the EA are available on the LEC Project website at [www.lakeerieconnectorea.com](http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com).

### 1.2 HISTORY OF OUTREACH AND PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

The DOE provided a 30-day public review period starting June 3, 2016 and ending on July 5, 2016, for the Draft EA. The public review period was initiated through publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Erie Times-News on June 3, 2016 (*Attachment 1*), which has distribution along the proposed transmission line. The NOA was sent to interested parties, including federal, state, and local officials; regulatory agency representatives; stakeholder organizations; and private individuals in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line.

The DOE received written comment letters and emails from private citizens, citizen groups and government agencies. A copy of the comment letters received are included in *Attachment 2* and are also available on the LEC Project website at [www.lakeerieconnectorea.com](http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com).

**1.3 COOPERATING AGENCIES**

The DOE invited several federal and state agencies to participate as cooperating agencies in preparing this EA because of their special expertise or jurisdiction by law (40 CFR 1501.6). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, agreed to be a cooperating agency for the proposed LEC Project EA on March 9, 2016. The DOE has the authority to issue the Presidential permit for the international border crossing, and the USACE issues Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 and Section 10 permits. No other agencies or Native American tribes made a request to participate as cooperating agencies.

**2 AGENCY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EA**

A variety of issues and concerns were raised during the public review period. The DOE considered all comments in preparing the Final EA. This section lists the commenters and summarizes the comment documents received during the public comment process. Commenters on the Draft EA included one state agency and several individuals. ITC Lake Erie provided revisions to the Project route that are consistent with other federal and state applications filed by ITC Lake Erie. *Table 1* provides a list of those persons and/or agencies who provided comments during the Draft EA comment period. The DOE responded to those comments that are within the scope of and relevant to the analysis within this EA.

**TABLE 1. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMMENTERS**

<b>Commenter Name</b>	<b>Commenter Agency or Organization</b>
Daniel Ryan	Fisheries, Biologist, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Douglas Lavery	Private Citizen
David Lavery	Private Citizen
Jerome Skrypzak	SONS of Lake Erie Fishing Club
	Conneaut Township Supervisors
	Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Ms. Gail Prunty	Private Citizen
Mr. James Jordano	Private Citizen
Mr. Dave Marino	Private Citizen
Pat Bartosek	Private Citizen
	Petition Letter to USACE
Kaleen Marino	Private Citizen
Kately Almeter	Private Citizen
Michelle Mihalak	Private Citizen
	Signed Petition
Lora Z. Lattanzi	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*Table 2* summarizes the comments submitted during the Draft EA public comment period into major representative issues and concerns, organized by general topic. All comments received are presented in their entirety in *Attachment 3* of this Comment Response Document. *Table 3* identifies the substantive revisions that were made from the Draft EA to the Final EA as a result of these comments.

**TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF AGENCY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Comment Summary</b>
<b>Purpose and Need for the Action</b>	<p><i>General.</i> Commenter stated that ITC was sold to a Canadian power company (Fortis) and that Fortis sold 19.9% to a Singapore company (GIC). With this change, the Commenter feels that this is not in the best interest of the United States.</p> <p><i>General.</i> Commenter disappointed that he did not receive a letter for the public notice.</p> <p><i>Public Meeting.</i> Due to the many concerns, property owners are seeking a public meeting. Would like non-biased engineers and individuals to discuss the Project.</p> <p><i>Environmental Impact Studies.</i> Commenter concerned that land owners have not had access to environmental impact studies conducted by ITC Lake Erie for this Project.</p> <p><i>Project Route.</i> Was this route selected because it is: the least environmental impact or most affordable?</p> <p><i>General.</i> Thirteen property owners state that there was no concern for health, safety, welfare, responsibility for damage or compensation by any entity to these property owners.</p>
<b>Proposed Action and Alternatives</b>	<p><i>General.</i> Because ITC was sold to a foreign country, the Commenter is concerned that the United States will continue to be dependent on energy supplied by a foreign county. Commenter suggested using an American company to save American jobs, and give “the American power companies a chance to meet emissions” standards.</p> <p><i>Alternative Route.</i> Commenter suggested that another route be selected because of concerns about Project effects on health, noise, well water, property devaluation, quality of life, and wildlife.</p> <p><i>Alternative Route.</i> Commenter suggested using the Penelec route.... “it is shorter and would be less costly”.</p> <p><i>Environmental Impact Statement.</i> Commenter asked if an environmental impact statement (EIS) was prepared for this Project.</p> <p><i>Aids-to-Navigation Plan.</i> Commenter suggested contacting the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to determine if an Aids-to-Navigation plan is needed. Also, elaborate on ways to mark the locations of the “side-casting habitat” so anglers can utilize the man-made habitat.</p> <p><i>Hydro Power.</i> Commenter is concerned that “hydro power” will not be the only source of power. Would like to know all the power sources.</p> <p><i>Alternative Route.</i> Commenter suggested adopting the route proposed by Conneaut Township Supervisors...a direct power line route from Lake Erie to Conneaut Township to the Lexington Road sub-station noting that this is Penelec land and ROWs. Commenter noted that the Project will have impact on the local ground water, local feeder stream and stormwater runoff.</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p><b>Alternative Route.</b> Commenter noted that there are two existing ROWs that are not being utilized for this project. One is an abandoned railroad and the other is a high power electric line. Commenter stated that both routes would affect less people and that both are direct routes from the shoreline to the substation.</p>
<p><b>Land Use</b></p>	<p><b>Property Values.</b> Commenter would like a property value study for residents living close to the converter hall.</p>
<p><b>Transportation and Traffic</b></p>	<p><b>Weight Limits.</b> Commenter is concerned about the weight limits on the local roads.</p>
<p><b>Water Resources and Quality</b></p>	<p><b>Drinking Water.</b> Commenter is concerned that drinking water would be adversely affected during the laying of the transmission cables and for the long-term. Commenter suggested using the Penelec right of way (ROW) rather than disrupting residents along the proposed transmission cable path. Also, the commenter stated that the proposed transmission cable will be buried “within feet of” or “below the drinking water lines”.</p> <p><b>Vaults.</b> Commenter is concerned that the vaults will affect the flow, water table, and quality of water.</p> <p><b>Water Table.</b> Commenter wants assurances that the water table will not be disturbed.</p> <p><b>Water Temperature.</b> Commenter is concerned that the “2.3 degree” rise in temperature will adversely affect fishing in the lake.</p> <p><b>Private Wells.</b> Commenter is concerned that private wells will be contaminated or become dry. Would like to know plans should this occur. Also concerned if the proposed transmission cable will require ground water for cooling, how will this impact my water supply?</p> <p><b>Water.</b> Commenter was told by Wyatt Price, ITC representative, that all of their trees would be removed because the transmission line needs a substantial amount of water to keep the transmission lines cool. What will be the impact on the streams, wetlands and wells because the of this?</p> <p><b>Water.</b> Will the springs close to the surface that supply water to ponds and wells be destroyed during installation of the transmission line? Would this cause unwanted flooding?</p> <p><b>Polluted Sediments.</b> Commenter fears polluted sediments will be reintroduced into the lake’s waters.</p>
<p><b>Aquatic Habitats and Species</b></p>	<p><b>Blasting.</b> Commenter is concerned about the effects that blasting and burying the transmission cable will have on aquatic species and resources.</p> <p><b>Water Temperature.</b> Commenter is concerned that the rise in water temperature will adversely affect aquatic resources.</p> <p><b>Construction.</b> Commenter is concerned that during construction and afterwards that there will be “long-term negative effects” on local fishing businesses.</p> <p><b>Algae.</b> Commenter is concerned that algae growth will be affected.</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p><b>Side-casting.</b> Commenter would like additional information about configuration, size, and location of the side-cast material and its benefit to fish instead of side-casting material beside excavated trench. Commenter suggested this material be utilized to create fish habitat by configuring suitable-sized debris in piles to create an array of suitable fish habitat.</p> <p><b>Spawning Season.</b> Because construction (blasting and trenching) would occur near sensitive habitats and during spawning season of yellow perch, smallmouth bass and walleye, the Commenter suggested that the size of the proposed trench in waters less than 20 feet deep, be calculated and added to the EA as permanent impacts to fish spawning habitat.</p> <p><b>Underwater Blasting.</b> Commenter recommended that anticipated fish mortality be investigated and included as part of the EA. Commenter suggested that hydroacoustics and/or sonar be utilized to determine seasonal fish density in proximity of the proposed time and locations of blasting. Include fish mortality numbers in the EA.</p> <p><b>Fish Management.</b> Commenter recommended determining the location of the proposed electrical lines in relation to hydroacoustic monitoring equipment and any associated interference to telemetry studies by the proposed Project. Include any foreseeable impacts to these telemetry studies as a result of the Project.</p> <p><b>Electromagnetic Field.</b> Commenter recommended indicating which fish species would be most sensitive to electromagnetic fields (EMF), including salmonids and sturgeons, and discussing EMF thresholds for these species. Commenter also recommended comparing detectability thresholds for EMFs for each species indicated in the EA and the proposed EMF levels that will be emitted by the Project and any potential adverse impacts to these fishes. Commenter recommended that the EA indicate and further elaborate on avoidance and minimization practices (i.e., proximity to sensitive aquatic resources, burial, cable shielding, etc.) to avoid and minimize any potential adverse impacts of EMFs to fishes.</p> <p><b>Water Temperature.</b> Commenter is concerned about the long-term effect of heat from the transmission cables. Will even a slight temperature increase in lake water have consequences to flora and fauna, particularly the fresh water fisheries?</p> <p><b>Electromagnetic Field.</b> Commenter would like 100 percent guarantee that EMFs will not damage the human body or cause interference with electrical appliances.</p> <p><b>Fishes.</b> Commenter states that pollution of water will cause run off issues down stream and eventually affecting trout waterways. All drainage goes into Lake Erie.</p>
<p><b>Aquatic Protected and Sensitive Species</b></p>	<p><b>Eastern Sand Darter.</b> Commenter suggested that any reference to numbers or abundance of eastern sand darters in the Project</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>area be removed from the EA until consultation regarding the eastern sand darter abundance within the Project area is finalized.</p>
<p><b>Terrestrial Habitats and Species</b></p>	<p><b>Ecosystem.</b> Commenter is concerned about the detrimental impact of the Project on local wildlife, ecosystem and water table.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem.</b> Commenter states that EPA recommends including vegetative performance standards that include a 5 percent invasive species action level and no greater than 33 percent total coverage by a single vegetative species to ensure a diverse community.</p> <p><b>Heat and Mature Trees.</b> Commenter asks: “What effect will the heat from the transmission cable have on mature trees and their dormancy; will there be a permafrost effect; how will this affect the local wetlands and amphibians...will they thrive?”</p> <p><b>General.</b> Commenter is concerned that up to 13 large trees will be removed along the ROW. Trees provide a wind break, heat reduction and a priceless aesthetic value to the property. Commenter notes that one hickory tree is over 250 years old. Commenter also states that cutting trees 25 feet from the center of the road, would remove the anchors and support that hold up the taller trees behind them. Ninety (90) percent of the tree roots are within the top 2 feet of the surface.</p>
<p><b>Terrestrial Protected and Sensitive Species</b></p>	<p><b>Protected and Sensitive Species.</b> Commenter is concerned that the converter hall cooling fans (due to noise and heat) will affect flight path of bald eagles and bats in the area.</p> <p><b>Protected and Sensitive Species.</b> Commenter would like to know what will happen to the eagle’s nest, blue heron and other wildlife.</p>
<p><b>Terrestrial Wetlands</b></p>	<p><b>Wetlands.</b> Commenter suggested that wetlands be relocated.</p> <p><b>Wetlands.</b> Commenter suggests that five years of monitoring may be insufficient for PFO wetland establishment/restoration areas because of the amount of time required to establish a mature forested system. Commenter states that EPA recommends at least ten years of monitoring. Performance standards should include criteria aimed at describing growth of the tree stratum in the mitigation area (i.e., annual average increase in height or DBH) to demonstrate the areas are on a trajectory of being a forested system. Woody vegetation should show a positive increase in height at the end of each year of monitoring.</p> <p><b>Ecosystem.</b> ITC should provide greater detail on construction details, treatment expected, and possible maintenance anticipated for the specific biofilter wetland areas.</p> <p><b>Water Shed.</b> Commenter states that a large portion of the proposed line is in a High Quality Cold Water Fishery.</p>
<p><b>Geology and Soil</b></p>	<p><b>Thermal Pollution.</b> Commenter is concerned about the amount of thermal pollution created by transmission cables.</p> <p><b>Thermal Pollution.</b> Commenter questions how heat from the transmission cables will affect the local road in winter.</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	N/A
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<p><b>Vaults.</b> Commenter is concerned that vaults will be located in residential front yards.</p> <p><b>Vaults.</b> Commenter is concerned that the location of the vaults has not been disclosed.</p>
<b>Recreation</b>	N/A
<b>Visual Resources</b>	<p><b>Visual Effects.</b> Commenter is concerned about the visual and noise impact that the converter hall will have on the residential area.</p> <p><b>Visual Effects.</b> Commenter is concerned that large trees that protect home from wind and dust will be removed and replaced with shrubbery.</p>
<b>Public Health and Safety</b>	<p><b>Health.</b> Commenter is concerned about possible safety and health effects of high AC/DC transmission cables buried in home owners front yards.</p> <p><b>Health.</b> Commenter is concerned about health effects of everyday exposure to the cables on people and pets. Commenter also states there are concerns affiliated with the cable because whenever there is an electrical current there will be a magnetic field.</p> <p><b>Health.</b> Commenter is concerned that health issues have not been identified.</p> <p><b>Electromagnetic Field.</b> Commenter is concerned that the EMF emitted from “such a high DC/AC” transmission cable could affect health and quality of life.</p> <p><b>Electromagnetic Field.</b> Commenter would like to know how the “line is encased or protected to not emit harmful static electric magnetic fields”?</p> <p><b>Children.</b> Commenter is concerned about health risks to children.</p> <p><b>General.</b> Commenter would like “admission from ITC that dangers do exist and a bond to protect the community for a Project that is portrayed to be so safe”. The Commenter further notes that ITC should take responsibility for the huge change that will take place, notify all government agencies of its commitment to the community by accepting the responsibility for any damages addressed.</p> <p><b>Health.</b> Commenter states that human life has not been given as much concern as issues such as wildlife, fish, shrubs, wetlands, and historic sights. Commenter notes that property owners will be very much impacted.</p>
<b>Noise</b>	<p><b>Noise.</b> Commenter is concerned about possible adverse effects from noise levels due the operation of the proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Cooling Fans.</b> Commenter is concerned that noise from cooling fans will annoy residents, pets, and wildlife; affecting quality of life.</p>
<b>Hazardous Materials and Wastes</b>	<b>Sediments.</b> Commenter is concerned that the trenching process in the lake bottom could release toxic sediments.

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Comment Summary</b>
	<p><b>Cooling Fans.</b> Commenter is concerned that noise from cooling fans will annoy residents, pets, and wildlife. Heat generated from cooling fans will change the flight patterns of birds; specifically, blue heron and eagles.</p> <p><b>Drilling Fluid Management Plan.</b> Commenter requested that the Drilling Fluid Management Plan (DFMP) be provided and elaborate upon in the EA. “DFMP should include contacting the appropriate authorities should a release occur.”</p>
<b>Air Quality</b>	N/A
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	N/A
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	N/A
<b>Cumulative Impacts</b>	<p><b>Terrorist Attacks.</b> Commenter is concerned that the converter hall would make the area susceptible to terrorist attacks due to the size of Penelec.</p> <p><b>Lake Erie.</b> Commenter is concerned about the negative impact of the Project on Lake Erie in both long- and short-term.</p>
<b>Appendices</b>	N/A

**TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF SUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

<i>EA Section</i>	<i>Revision to Draft EA</i>
<b>Summary</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No substantive changes were made to this chapter</li> </ul>
<b>Chapter 1. Purpose and Need</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No substantive changes were made to this chapter</li> </ul>
<b>Chapter 2. Proposed Action</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided information on the non-material route modifications</li> <li>Provided additional information on the Applicant’s proposed Inadvertent Fluid Release Prevention, Monitoring and Contingency Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Chapter 3. Affected Environment</b>	
3.1.9, and 3.2.10: Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated information on the status of the Section 106 process including additional studies and PASHPO consultation</li> <li>Provided updated information on additional plant surveys of state listed species and effects</li> <li>Added updated environmental justice criteria from state of Pennsylvania</li> </ul>
3.2.7.1: Protected Species	
3.2.18: Environmental Justice	
<b>Chapter 4. Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No substantive changes were made to this chapter</li> </ul>
<b>Chapter 5. Environmental Consequences of the Proposed NECPL Project</b>	
5.1.3: Water Resources and Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided additional information on the Applicant’s proposed Inadvertent Fluid Release Prevention, Monitoring and Contingency Plan</li> </ul>
5.1.4: Aquatic Habitats and Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional discussion included regarding the timing of HDD and trenching activities in nearshore areas and coordination with PFBC</li> <li>Provided additional information on the Applicant’s proposed Inadvertent Fluid Release Prevention, Monitoring and Contingency Plan</li> <li>Discussed mitigation measures developed in consultation with PFBC regarding the use of side-cast rock for spawning habitat</li> <li>Provided estimated threshold distances of expected fish mortality during blasting</li> <li>Provided additional discussion regarding the effects of EMF on freshwater fish species</li> <li>Additional discussion included regarding potential impacts of the Project on ongoing telemetry studies being performed by various fishery management agencies</li> <li>Added information on the PFBC’s Biological Opinion determination for various state protected species (sand darter, cisco, and lake sturgeon)</li> </ul>
5.1.7, 5.2.7: Terrestrial Protected and Sensitive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated analysis to include expanded LOD rare plant study results</li> </ul>

<i><b>EA Section</b></i>	<i><b>Revision to Draft EA</b></i>
5.1.17: Socioeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added revised information on Environmental Justice areas</li> </ul>
5.2.10: Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added expanded study results for cultural resources on the route modification LOD</li> <li>Added information regarding PASHPO concurrence with the findings of the Phase1B survey report.</li> <li>Added information regarding PASHPO concurrence with the findings of the Phase II Archaeological Evaluation.</li> <li>Updated Section 106 consultation process</li> </ul>
5.2.9: Geology and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided additional information on the Applicant's proposed Inadvertent Fluid Release Prevention, Monitoring and Contingency Plan</li> </ul>
<i><b>Chapter 7. List of Preparers</b></i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One DOE staff member was added to the List of Preparers</li> </ul>
<i><b>Chapter 8. References</b></i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>References were updated based on changes to the Final EA</li> </ul>
<i><b>Appendices</b></i>	
Appendix: Comment Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comment Table was added</li> </ul>

**Attachment 1: EPA Notice of Availability**

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subject to a negotiated royalty. DOE will review all timely written responses to this notice, and will grant the license if, after expiration of the 15-day notice period, and after consideration of any written responses to this notice, a determination is made in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c) that the license is in the public interest.

Issued: July 6, 2015.

Grace M. Bochenek,  
Director, National Energy Technology  
Laboratory.

[FR Doc. 2015-17654 Filed 7-16-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

[OE Docket No. PP-412]

**Application for Presidential Permit; ITC Lake Erie Connector Project**

**AGENCY:** Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of application.

**SUMMARY:** ITC Lake Erie Connector LLC (ITC Lake Erie) has applied for a Presidential Permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the United States border with Canada.

**DATES:** Comments or motions to intervene must be submitted on or before August 17, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments or motions to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher Lawrence (Program Office) at 202-586-5260 or via electronic mail at [Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov), Katherine Konieczny (Program Attorney) at 202-586-0503.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential Permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 10485, as amended by E.O. 12038.

On May 29, 2015, ITC Lake Erie filed an application with the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential Permit. ITC Lake Erie has its principal place of business in Novi, Michigan. ITC Lake Erie is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Lake Erie Holdings LLC, which is,

though another entity, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp.

ITC Lake Erie proposes to construct and operate the ITC Lake Erie Connector Project (the project), a ± 320 kilovolt (kV) high-voltage direct current (HVDC) bi-directional electric transmission line that would originate Haldimand County, Ontario, Canada, and terminate in Erie County, Pennsylvania. The proposed project facilities would be capable of transmitting up to 1000 megawatts (MW) of power.

The U.S. portion of the proposed project would cross the U.S.-Canada border in Lake Erie as a submerged line, buried in the lake bed, and would run approximately 35.4 miles before reaching the shore on private property, west of Erie Bluffs Park. From the shore, the line would be buried underground for approximately 7.1 miles, along mostly roadway rights-of-way and terminate at the proposed Erie Converter Station. From the Erie Converter Station, a 345 kV alternating current (AC) transmission line would run approximately 1,900-3,000 feet (depending on final routing) underground and connect into the U.S. grid at the existing Erie West Substation owned by Penelec. The total length of the Project would be 72.4 miles, with the U.S. portion totaling about 42.5 miles.

The Project would be operated in accordance with the established engineering and technical criteria of the Independent System Operator of Ontario (IESO) and the PJM Interconnection (PJM). In the U.S., the Project would be placed under operational control of PJM.

Since the restructuring of the electric industry began, resulting in the introduction of different types of competitive entities into the marketplace, DOE has consistently expressed its policy that cross-border trade in electric energy should be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. DOE has stated that policy in export authorizations granted to entities requesting authority to export over international transmission facilities. Specifically, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities to provide access across the border in accordance with the principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the Federal Power Act and articulated in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 888 (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission

Services by Public Utilities; FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶31,036 (1996)), as amended. In furtherance of this policy, DOE invites comments on whether it would be appropriate to condition any Presidential Permit issued in this proceeding on compliance with these open access principles.

**Procedural Matters:** Any person may comment on this application by filing such comment at the address provided above. Any person seeking to become a party to this proceeding must file a motion to intervene at the address provided above in accordance with Rule 214 of FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214). Two copies of each comment or motion to intervene should be filed with DOE on or before the date listed above.

Additional copies of such motions to intervene also should be filed directly with: Andrew Jamieson, Counsel, ITC Holdings Corp., 27175 Energy Way, Novi, MI 48377, [ajamieson@itctransco.com](mailto:ajamieson@itctransco.com) AND John R. Staffier, Stunz, Davis & Staffier, P.C., 555 Twelfth Street NW., Suite 360, Washington, DC 20004, [jstaffier@sdatty.com](mailto:jstaffier@sdatty.com) AND Ellen S. Young, Stunz, Davis & Staffier, P.C., 555 Twelfth Street NW., Suite 360, Washington, DC 20004, [eyoung@sdatty.com](mailto:eyoung@sdatty.com).

Before a Presidential Permit may be issued or amended, DOE must determine that the proposed action is in the public interest. In making that determination, DOE considers the environmental impacts of the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, determines the project's impact on electric reliability by ascertaining whether the proposed project would adversely affect the operation of the U.S. electric power supply system under normal and contingency conditions, and any other factors that DOE may also consider relevant to the public interest. Also, DOE must obtain the concurrences of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential Permit application.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above, or by accessing the program Web site at <http://energy.gov/oe/services/electricity-policy-coordination-and-implementation/international-electricity-regulation-2>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 13, 2015.

**Christopher A. Lawrence,**  
Electricity Policy Analyst, National Electricity  
Delivery Division, Office of Electricity  
Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S.  
Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2015-17655 Filed 7-16-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-9021-9]

### Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

*Responsible Agency:* Office of Federal  
Activities, General Information (202)  
564-7146 or <http://www2.epa.gov/nepa>.  
Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact  
Statements (EISs)  
Filed 07/06/2015 Through 07/10/2015  
Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

#### Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act  
requires that EPA make public its  
comments on EISs issued by other  
Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters  
on EISs are available at: [https://  
cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/  
action/eis/search](https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/action/eis/search).

*EIS No. 20150189, Draft, NOAA, MA,*  
Amendment 18 to the Northeast  
Multispecies Fishery Management  
Plan, Comment Period Ends: 08/31/  
2015, Contact: John K. Bullard 978-  
281-9135.

*EIS No. 20150190, Draft, USFS, CA,*  
Trestle Forest Health Project,  
Comment Period Ends: 08/31/2015,  
Contact: Jennifer Ebert 530-647-5382.

*EIS No. 20150191, Draft, USACE, TX,*  
Surface Coal and Lignite Mining in  
Texas, Comment Period Ends: 09/08/  
2015, Contact: Darvin Messer 817-  
886-1744.

*EIS No. 20150192, Final Supplement,*  
*USN, GU,* Guam and Commonwealth  
of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Military Relocation (2012 Roadmap  
Adjustments), Review Period Ends:  
08/17/2015, Contact: Joseph A.  
Campbell CAPT USN 703-602-3924.

*EIS No. 20150193, Draft, BLM, UT,*  
Beaver Dam Wash National  
Conservation Area Red Cliffs National  
Conservation Area Draft Amendment  
to the St. George Field Office  
Resource Management Plan, Comment  
Period Ends: 10/15/2015, Contact:  
Keith Rigtrup 435-865-3063.

*EIS No. 20150194, Draft, WAPA, CA,*  
San Luis Transmission Project,  
Comment Period Ends: 08/31/2015,  
Contact: Donald Lash 916-353-4048.

*EIS No. 20150195, Final Supplement,*  
*TVA, TN,* Integrated Resource Plan,  
Review Period Ends: 08/17/2015,  
Contact: Charles P. Nicholson, 865-  
632-3582.

*EIS No. 20150196, Draft Supplement,*  
*BR, CA,* Bay Delta Conservation Plan/  
California Water Fix, Comment Period  
Ends: 08/31/2015, Contact: Michelle  
Banonis 916-930-5676.

*EIS No. 20150197, Final, USFS, CA,*  
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
Land Management Plan, Review  
Period Ends: 08/17/2015, Contact:  
Denise Downie 530-543-2683.

#### Amended Notices

*EIS No. 20150180, Final, USFS, AZ,*  
Flagstaff Watershed Protection  
Project, Review Period Ends: 08/10/  
2015, Contact: Erin Phelps 928-527-  
8240 Revision to FR Notice Published  
07/02/2015; Correction to Review  
Period Ends 08/10/2015.

*EIS No. 20150182, Final, VA, CA,* San  
Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical  
Center Long Range Development Plan,  
Review Period Ends: 08/10/2015,  
Contact: Robin Flanagan 415-750-  
2049 Revision to FR Notice Published  
07/10/2015; Correction to Review  
Period Ends: 08/10/2015.

Dated: July 14, 2015.

Dawn Roberts,

Management Analyst, NEPA Compliance  
Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2015-17602 Filed 7-16-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0341; FRL-9930-83-  
OAR]

### Notice of Availability of the Environmental Protection Agency's Update of Two Chapters in the EPA Air Pollution Control Cost Manual; Extension of Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice; extension of comment  
period.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA) is announcing that the  
period for providing public comments  
on the June 12, 2015, notice of data  
availability of the "Environmental  
Protection Agency's Update of Two  
Chapters in the EPA Air Pollution  
Control Cost Manual" is being extended  
by 30 days.

**DATES:** The public comment period for  
the notice of data availability published  
June 12, 2015 (80 FR 33515) is being

extended by 30 days to September 10,  
2015, in order to provide the public  
additional time to submit comments.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the  
notice of data availability may be  
submitted to the EPA electronically, by  
mail, by facsimile or through hand  
delivery/courier. Please refer to the  
notice of data availability (80 FR 33515)  
for the addresses and detailed  
instructions. Publicly available  
documents relevant to this action are  
available for public inspection either  
electronically at [http://](http://www.regulations.gov)

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in hard copy at  
the EPA Docket Center, Room 3334,  
1301 Constitution Avenue NW.,  
Washington, DC 20004, Attention  
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-  
0341. The Public Reading Room is open  
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday  
through Friday, excluding legal  
holidays. A reasonable fee may be  
charged for copying. The EPA has  
established the official public docket  
No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0341.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For  
questions on the EPA Air Pollution  
Control Cost Manual update and how to  
submit comments, contact Mr. Larry  
Sorrels, Health and Environmental  
Impacts Division, Environmental  
Protection Agency, C439-02, 109 T.W.  
Alexander Drive, Research Triangle  
Park, NC 27709; telephone number:  
(919) 541-5041; fax number: (919) 541-  
0839; email address: [sorrels.larry@  
epa.gov](mailto:sorrels.larry@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The EPA  
received two requests to extend the  
comment period on the June 12, 2015,  
notice of data availability of the  
"Environmental Protection Agency's  
Update of Two Chapters in the EPA Air  
Pollution Control Cost Manual." Based  
on the evaluation of those requests and  
the level of interest in the notice of data  
availability, the EPA is extending the  
public comment period for an  
additional 30 days. The public comment  
period will end on September 10, 2015,  
rather than August 11, 2015. This will  
ensure that the public has sufficient  
time to review and comment on all of  
the information available, including the  
notice of data availability and other  
materials in the docket.

Dated: July 9, 2015.

Stephen D. Page,

Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and  
Standards.

[FR Doc. 2015-17656 Filed 7-16-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

**Attachment 2: Newspaper Notice of Availability**

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PROOF OF PUBLICATION  
In  
THE ERIE TIMES-NEWS  
COMBINATION EDITION

Kleinschmidt Associates  
141 Main Street  
PO Box 650  
Pittsfield ME 04967

REFERENCE: 90085 205072  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY LAKE ERIE CON

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA)  
COUNTY OF ERIE ) SS:

Tom Mezler, being duly sworn, deposes and says that: (1) he/she is a designated agent of the Times Publishing Company (TPC) to execute Proofs of Publication on behalf of the TPC; (2) the TPC, whose principal place of business is at 205 W. 12th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania, owns and publishes the Erie Times-News, established October 2, 2000, a daily newspaper of general circulation, and published at Erie, Erie County Pennsylvania; (3) the subject notice or advertisement, a true and correct copy of which is attached, was published in the regular edition(s) of said newspaper on the date(s) referred to below. Affiant further deposes that he/she is duly authorized by the TPC, owner and publisher of the Erie Times-News, to verify the foregoing statement under oath, and affiant is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice or advertisement, and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place and character of publication are true.

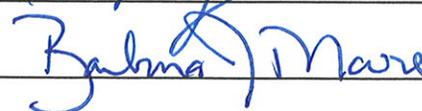
PUBLISHED ON: 06/03/16

TOTAL COST: \$206.60 AD SPACE: 47 Lines

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
LAKE ERIE CONNECTOR  
PROJECT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT  
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is evaluating whether to issue a Presidential permit to ITC Lake Erie Connector, LLC (applicant) to construct, operate and maintain a new electric transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border in Lake Erie, Pennsylvania.  
DOE prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of issuing a Presidential permit to the applicant. The draft EA is available for review on the following website: [www.lakeerieconnectorea.com](http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com).  
DOE encourages your participation in this process. Public comments on the draft EA will be accepted through July 5, 2016. Comments on the draft EA can be submitted in writing to Mr. Brian Mills at: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585; via e-mail to [Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov); by facsimile to (202) 586-8008; or through the project website at <http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com> (preferred method). Envelopes and the subject line of e-mails should be labeled "LEC Draft EA Comments." All comments received on or before July 5, 2016 will be considered in preparation of the final EA.  
(6-205072-NT-3)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of June 2016

Affiant: 

NOTARY: 

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
NOTARIAL SEAL  
Barbara J. Moore, Notary Public  
City of Erie, Erie County  
My Commission Expires March 23, 2020  
MEMBER, PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NOTARIES

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**Attachment 3: Draft Environmental Assessment Comment Letters**

Mr. Douglas Lavery	May 17, 2016
Conneaut Township Supervisors	June 20, 2016
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission	June 29, 2016
Mr. Douglas Lavery	June 29, 2016
Mr. Douglas Lavery	June 30, 2016
Mr. David Lavery	July 2, 2016
SONS of Lake Erie Fishing Club	July 5, 2016
Ms. Gail Prunty	July 14, 2016
Mr. Douglas Lavery	July 19, 2016
Mr. James Jordano	July 20, 2016
Mr. Dave Marino (multiple emails)	July 21, 2016
Mr. Dave Marino	July 22, 2016
Pat Bartosek	July 22, 2016
Letter to USACE	July 22, 2016
Ms. Kaleen Marino	July 23, 2016
Ms. Kately Almeter	July 25, 2016
Ms. Michelle Mihalak	August 5, 2016
Signed Petition	Not Dated
U.S. Fish and Wildlife	August 4, 2016
Mr. John Staffier	September 26, 2016
Revised Artificial Reef Conceptual Plan	September 26, 2016

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Tuesday, May, 17, 2016  
 Douglas Lavery  
 [Redacted]  
 [Redacted]

Good evening council members,  
 My concerns are about a company called ITC, which is planning to install the project called, The Lake Erie Connector.  
 1000 MW. Bi-directional High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)  
 Building a convertor Hall on Lexington Rd, Girard, PA. Conneaut Twp.  
 My concerns and others living in this rural setting are

1. Has an environmental impact study been received from ITC
2. Has a loss of property values study been done for local residents close to the convertor hall
3. The water table in our area is 13' deep and very high quality  
 If one of the scheduled connection vaults is placed in the area the water flow and quality will be destroyed. The vaults are 10'x10'x30' with 1.5' of coverage
4. Residents within the convertor hall area will most definitely lose tremendous property values on their homes along with the country living we are associated with will be disrupted. This local community neighborhood which has a standard of owner pride will be lost.
5. The sound effects from the convertor hall cooling fans that we have been told will produce 50+ decibels will undoubtedly annoy residents, pets & natural wildlife. The heat generated from the cooling fans will change the flight patterns of natural birds. This will definitely change the daily sightings of the eagles / blue heron and other fowl.
6. Health effects or quality of life from such a high DC/AC buried cable being installed in the ground of each homeowner or neighbor's property. Which could emit an electric magnetic field
7. Information from ITC has been basically less than informational but just enough to satisfy the federal government requirements.
8. Local residents have no local government supplying information, asking for information, or being supplied information from ITC to help tax paying Erie County residents from basically having their country living being destroyed by the installation of the lines and the convertor hall for the profit of ITC, leaving the residents with property that will be worth absolutely nothing and have to deal with for the rest of their lives.
9. ITC has sold its company to a Canadian power company called Fortis for 11.3 Billion dollars. Fortis has sold 19.9% of its holdings to a Singapore power company GIC for 1.3 Billion dollars. I feel neither of these companies will care about the Americans this

**DL 01**-No, ITC Lake Erie prepared an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment. DOE determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) was warranted for this Project, and DOE independently conducted their analysis for the EA

**DL 02**-No.

**DL 03**-DOE addressed groundwater effects in Section 5.2.3. Where aquifers are shallow enough to be affected by construction activities, ITC Lake Erie proposes construction techniques as described in **Section 5.2.11.1** to mitigate the risks to nearby groundwater supplies that use the aquifers.

**DL 04**-Property values are not assessed as part of the EA review process.

**DL 05**-See Section 5.2.15.2 for effects on particular receptors in the area of the cooling fans. DOE determined that the operational noise associated with the new Erie Converter Station would comply with current local and state regulations.

**DL 06**-No adverse effects of EMF on homeowners is anticipated because the transmission cable will be buried.

**DL 07**-Comment noted.

**DL 08**-DOE has provided a website to keep the public informed of the environmental review process at [www.lakeerieconnectorea.com](http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com).

**DL 09**-Comment noted. The ownership of the proposed LEC project is not analyzed in the EA.

will affect.

10. The Lexington rd. site will most definitely be put on a terrorist hit list because Penelec will supply 12 American states including Washington DC from this sub station and it will supply Canada with unknown areas of power.

In closing the residents of Lexington Rd need the councils help to protect them from this project that has no concerns for the people or the environment it will affect. Big money will be made from the production of this electric but none of it will help Erie County or the United States because the owners are from Canada and Singapore.

Websites for information  
lakeerieconnector.com

*DL 10*-Comment noted. Ownership of the proposed LEC project is not analyzed in the EA.

**CONNEAUT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**12500 US ROUTE 6N**  
**ALBION, PA 16401**  
**(814) 756-4301**

June 20, 2016

Mike Ivester, Regional Manager  
Local Government & Community Affairs  
ITC Midwest  
123 5<sup>th</sup> Street S.E.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Dear Mr. Ivester,

We, the new, legal representatives of Conneaut Township, have listened to many complaints by our constituents over the last several months concerning the planned Electric Converter Station proposed by ITC.

We have also provided an open public meeting, with a presentation by ITC, to discuss the proposed route, construction, and pertinent facts of operation of the planned Station. Several important points have not been addressed, however, and those points still disturb our constituents.

First, and mainly, is the drinking water concern.

Second is the possible health effect from such a large buried electrical cable in such close proximity to living space.

Third is the noise magnitude of this operation.

Fourth is the loss of quality of life.

Finally, and importantly, is the huge property devaluation.

Our Township is basically rural, with only a small portion of homes with city water near the town of Albion. Conneaut Township does not experience water shortages with the water wells in the Township. More importantly, the northwest corner of our Township, where the proposed ITC converter Station would be located, is in the best aquifer in our Township. The proposed line is within feet of, and possibly into or below, the water line of the concerned citizens' drinking water. This is a huge concern, as any damage to the water table could have a substantial long-term effect on our citizens.

*CTS-01*-Groundwater effects are discussed in Section 5.2.3 of the Final EA.

*CTS-02*-No adverse effects of EMF on homeowners is anticipated because the transmission cable will be buried. EMF effects are discussed in Section 5.2.14.3.

*CTS-03*-Comment noted. Blasting effects would be addressed in ITC Lake Erie's blasting plan (Appendix J). Noise effects are addressed in Section 5.1.15 and 5.2.15.

*CTS-04*-DOE is preparing a Final EA under the National Environmental Policy Act to address the effects of the proposed LEC project on the human environment.

*CTS-05*-Comment noted. Property values are not analyzed as part of the EA review process.

*CTS-06*-No adverse effects of EMF on homeowners is anticipated because the transmission cable will be buried. EMF effects are discussed in Section 5.2.14.3.

The third concern is the noise level. We believe that the constant noise level proposed will be a definite nuisance and a radical change to the present living conditions. Is it right to ask our constituents for forfeit their peace and quiet?

With all the above problems not being addressed, it has caused stress and anxiety to the northwest neighborhood of Conneaut Township.

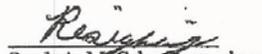
Lastly, there is a most definite and substantial loss of property value. Who would want to live next to this facility? Property values will decrease.

In conclusion, we feel that our constituents have very legitimate and honest complaints. These issues will have to be addressed before we can support such a large construction project. Without having these quality of life concerns addressed, it is unfair to our constituents to give our support to you.

Furthermore, we understand that there is already an alternate route available, which is fully owned by Penelec. That route already comes directly from Lake Erie, and would go to the very same location. That route is much shorter and would be less costly and less offensive to Erie County – especially our citizens. That route would not interfere with the homes and lives of our constituents. We hope that this idea will be researched, explored and utilized.

As the legal Representatives of Conneaut Township, we believe we have a responsibility to withhold our support until these concerns are addressed for the citizens that we represent.

  
Daniel G. Tercho, Chairman

  
Sarah A. McCabe, Supervisor

  
Gregory D. West, Supervisor

*CTS-06 Continued*-See Section 5.2.15.2 for effects on particular receptors in the area of the cooling fans. DOE determined that the operational noise associated with the new Erie Converter Station would comply with current local and state regulations.

*CTS-07*-Comment noted.

*CTS08*-Comment noted.

*CTS-09*-ITC Lake Erie provided an analysis of other routes considered in the Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative was selected by ITC Lake Erie and is being evaluated in this Final EA and the permit process conducted by the USACE for the Section 404 permit.

*CTS10*-Comment noted.



## Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

**Division of Environmental Services**  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
Phone: 814-359-5140  
Email: daniryan@pa.gov

June 29, 2016

Brian Mills  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585  
E-mail: Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov  
ATTN: LEC Draft EA Comments

Dear Mr. Mills:

This letter is in response to the a request dated June 3, 2016, from the Department of Energy in Washington, DC, in regards to the Lake Erie Connector Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft EA. The PFBC has had the opportunity to review the EA, and offers the following comments to quantify and clarify the impacts associated with the proposed project:

- Section 2.4.5.1. Aquatic Transmission Cable Installation in Lake Erie Segment, Horizontal Directional Drilling Method: This section references a Drilling Fluid Management Plan (DFMP). The DFMP should be provided and elaborated upon in the Environmental Assessment in order to minimize any impacts of inadvertent returns. In addition, the DFMP should include contacting the appropriate authorities should a release occur, specifically, PFBC law enforcement at 814-337-0444.
- Section 5.1.4.1. Effects of Construction, Fish: This section mentions the side-casting of rock associated with blasting and/or excavation, and that this material may provide an increase in spawning habitat area after construction activities cease. Please elaborate upon the configuration, size, and location of this material in order to show its benefit to fishes, in lieu of simply side-casting this material beside the excavated trench. The PFBC suggests that this material be utilized to create fish habitat by configuring suitable sized debris in piles to create an array of suitable topography as habitat for fishes.
- Section 5.1.4.1. Effects of Construction, Fish: The PFBC agrees that the applicant has proposed several efforts to avoid and minimize impacts to fish habitat, however, it appears that the project construction schedule cannot avoid in-water construction in sensitive habitats and timeframes. In particular, the proposed project intends to blast and trench in potential fish spawning habitats (generally, waters < 20 feet deep) during spawning timeframes of major Lake Erie gamefishes such as yellow perch, smallmouth bass and walleye (generally, April through July). The PFBC suggests that the size of the proposed trench in waters less than 20 feet deep, as well as the area impacted by side-casted material in waters less than 20 feet deep, be calculated and added to the EA as permanent impacts to fish spawning habitat.
- Section 5.1.4.1. Effects of Construction, Fish: The PFBC agrees that the applicant has proposed several efforts to avoid and minimize impacts to fish by underwater blasting, and that scientific literature

**PFBC 01-** ITC Lake Erie developed an Inadvertent Fluid Release Prevention, Monitoring and Contingency Plan which includes procedures to monitor for inadvertent fluid releases, as well as containment and clean-up procedures in the event of a fluid release. Additional text on the Drilling Fluid Management Plan has been added to Sections 2.4.5.1, 5.1.3.1, 5.1.4.1, 5.2.9.1 in the Final EA

**PFBC 02-** Additional text was added to Section 5.1.4 indicating that ITC Lake Erie has developed, in consultation with PFBC, a conceptual plan for the creation of two artificial reefs.

**PFBC 03-** Additional text was added to Section 5.1.4. ITC Lake Erie’s blasting impact analysis estimates that lethal impacts to fish would be expected to occur within a 63.3- foot radius of the blast location. Measures to avoid causing harm to fish and fish habitat include reducing charges from 10 pounds to 7 pounds and reducing blast hole spacing from 4-foot intervals to 2.5-foot intervals. Small detonating charges are proposed to be shot in the water column around the blast area 15 seconds prior to the trench blast in order to clear fish from the blast area. ITC Lake Erie’s blasting plan was added to Final EA as Appendix J.

**PFBC 04-** Additional text was added to Section 5.1.4.4 to address blasting and added the proposed Blasting Plan as Appendix J.

Our Mission:

[www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)

*To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.*



**Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission**

suggests fish mortality as a result of underwater blasting is highly variable. The PFBC recommends that anticipated fish mortality be investigated and included as part of the EA. The PFBC suggests that hydroacoustics and/or sonar be utilized to determine seasonal fish density in proximity of the proposed time and locations of blasting, and to estimate threshold distances of expected fish mortality. The resulting numbers should be used to predict fish mortality within the proposed blasting area and the EA should be amended to include this information.

- **Section 5.1.5.1, Effects of Construction, Eastern Sand Darter:** The information presented in the EA related to eastern sand darter impacts is not currently approved by the PFBC as the applicant is still in consultation with the PFBC about the proposed impacts. The EA presented average eastern sand darter abundance and assumed that the available trawl data across years and localities is representative of the eastern sand darter population at the site of construction. In addition, the average eastern sand darter abundance presented does not address bias inherent with the survey design or gear type or the potential for an abundant year class to be present during the construction period was also not considered. The PFBC suggests that any reference to numbers or abundance of eastern sand darters in the project area be removed from the EA until consultation with the PFBC regarding eastern sand darter abundance within the project area is finalized.
- **Section 5.1.4.3, Effects of Operations, Maintenance and Emergency Repairs:** Various fisheries management agencies have tagged, and are currently monitoring, movements of various Lake Erie fishes through hydroacoustic transmitter and receiver equipment submerged in Lake Erie. More information about these telemetry projects can be found at the following website: <http://data.glos.us/glatos/>. The PFBC recommends that the applicant contact Chuck Murray of the PFBC at 814-474-1515 to determine the location of the proposed electrical lines in relation to hydroacoustic monitoring equipment and any associated interference(s) to telemetry studies by the proposed project. The EA should be updated to include any foreseen impacts to these telemetry studies as a result of the project.
- **Section 5.1.4.3, Effects of Operations, Maintenance, and Emergency Repairs:** This section indicates that some aquatic species may be sensitive to electromagnetic fields (EMFs). Please indicate which species of fishes would be most sensitive to electric fields, including salmonids and sturgeons, and discuss if scientific literature suggests EMF thresholds for these species. Please compare detectability thresholds for EMFs for each species indicated above and the proposed EMF levels that will be emitted by the project, and any potential adverse impacts to these fishes. Please indicate and further elaborate on avoidance and minimization practices (i.e., proximity to sensitive aquatic resources, burial, cable shielding, etc.) being implemented for the project to avoid and minimize any potential adverse impacts of EMFs to fishes.
- **Section 5.1.12.1, Effects of Construction:** The applicant should contact WCO Tom Burrell of the PFBC at 717-705-7838 to determine if an Aids-to-Navigation (ATON) plan is warranted for this project. In addition, and in order to compensate for temporary losses in boating and angling opportunities due to the proposed exclusion zone around construction activities, elaborate upon ways to mark the locations of the habitat described in *Section 5.1.4.1, Effects of Construction, Fish* above (i.e., the second bullet point from the top discussing side casted material) so anglers can utilize this man-made habitat to target gamefishes.

Our Mission:

[www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)

*To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.*

**PFBC 04 continued**

**PFBC 05-**The data in the Final EA represents the best available science. In addition, impacts to sand darters will only occur during a single construction period and will not be permanent or ongoing. ITC Lake Erie is currently undergoing consultation with PFBC related to the development of an application for a PFBC blasting permit. This issue is being resolved through that process. No changes were made to the Final EA.

**PFBC 06-**This issues was addressed in the Joint Permit Application as follows: *“In an email dated March 24, 2015, the PFBC requested additional information regarding an analysis of effects of EMF on hydroacoustic telemetry tags and receivers (the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System currently monitors fish migration in Lake Erie). The telemetry receivers are not close to the cable. In addition, the static magnetic field from the cable is like that of the earth and of similar intensity. These magnetic fields will neither interfere with the acoustic signals nor the receiver instrumentation (personal communication, Dr. William Bailey, Exponent, March 24, 2015).”*

**PFBC 07-** In consultation with PFBC, ITC Lake Erie evaluated the effects of EMFs on several key species of interest including cisco, eastern sand darter, lake sturgeon, and steelhead trout. The area of highest concern for the Project would be the HDD portion of the underwater cable route, extending approximately 0.37 miles. Additional text was added to Section 5.1.4.4.

**PFBC 08-**ITC Lake Erie contacted Tom Burrell and he indicated an ATON would not be required for this project. ITC Lake Erie and the PFBC have agreed on a conceptual plan for adding artificial reefs and will provide the locations for angler awareness.



The PFBC thanks you for the opportunity to comment on draft EA. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ryan", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Daniel Ryan  
Fisheries Biologist, PFBC  
Watershed Analysis Section  
Division of Environmental Services

Our Mission:

[www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)

*To protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.*

6/29/2016

Mr. Mills,

In response to the ITC/Lake Erie Connector Project.

Section 1 of the permit ITC states they are not owned by any foreign companies, at the time of the application. This was a true statement. ITC has sold to a Canadian power company called Fortis, for \$11.3 billion. Fortis has sold 19.9% to a Singapore company GIC for \$1.3 Billion. This alone causes concerns about the USA being supplied electricity from foreign owned companies. The sale should be completed, according to the Fortis website, by the third quarter of 2016. When the sale is completed ITC has no stock in this project.

The Conneaut Township supervisors have submitted a letter to ITC/Mike Ivester that until the concerns of local residents in the future convertor hall location have a guarantee that the water table will not be disturbed and what health issues can happen from such large buried power lines being located in the front yards will or possibly have on residents the supervisors can not approve this project to continue forward.

Some other local residents concerns are loss of property values, quality of life living next to the hall and last the impact from the cooling fans on residents, pets and wildlife.

I have included a copy of the supervisors letter to ITC.

My concerns which I brought to Conneaut Township, Erie County Council, Erie County Executive Cathy Dahlkemper , State Representative Parke Wettling among others are facts stated in the application.

The possible blasting of the bedrock which goes 2000 feet into the lake from the shore, will definitely kill many aquatic life species, along with the four local fish that will have some affects for long term from the buried lines.

Another concern is where the lines are to be buried the water temperatures will rise 2.3 degrees. The Erie area is a fishing community and fishing is a year round benefit to the local economy. The disruption during construction and after will leave a long term negative effect to local fishing business. There will be an effects on algae growth.

Local birds that the hall will affect should be considered from the local American Bald Eagle which has a flight path over the future site. This family of Eagles have been local residents for 20 + years and disrupt their life along with local residents is a shame all for a foreign owned power company. The other birds in the report should also be reviewed even down to the bats, which are losing population in America.

The reason for concern is the multiple cooling fans that will be installed in the hall will produce a decibel of 50+,and unknown heat generated into the atmosphere. That high of a constant decibel will be heard by humans,dogs,birds and wildlife. Please save our community from this great disturbance. The heat generated will cause unknown atmosphere issues.

On a personal concern from having to live so close to this foreign owned power business, the local water table is nine feet to thirteen feet deep, The vaults they propose to install are 10'x10'x30' with 1.5' of ground cover and a 6"+ gravel base. That puts them in the water table which if disrupted could possibly go away. I have asked the land agent repeatedly where the location of the vaults are and his comments are they have not be established. I feel a project of this size and being pushed this fast, an important detail like vault locations should have been decided long ago. ITC knows that PA DOT has told them about weight limits on local roads. The application states there are 15 to 16 vaults on the land route. The local community is not being given the whole truth about this project.

May 21st,2016 Erie County Councilwoman Carol Loll requested ITC come to the Erie County Courthouse for a public meeting. I attended and asked all and more of the issues stated above

*DL 01*-Comment noted.

*DL 02*-DOE addressed groundwater effects in Section 5.2.3. Where aquifers are shallow enough to be affected by construction activities, ITC Lake Erie proposes construction techniques as described in *Section 5.2.II.1* to mitigate the risks to nearby groundwater supplies that use the aquifers.

*DL 03*-Comment noted.

*DL 04*-Blasting effects are addressed in Section 5.1.4.1 and additional text was added. ITC Lake Erie's blasting impact analysis estimates that lethal impacts to fish would be expected to occur within a 63.3 foot radius of the blast location. Measures to avoid causing harm to fish and fish habitat include reducing charges from 10 pounds to 7 pounds and reducing blast hole spacing from 4-foot intervals to 2.5-foot intervals. ITC Lake Erie's blasting plan is included in Appendix J.

*DL 05*-The effects of a rise in water temperature has been addressed in Section 5.1.3.2. Exponent used a set of conservative variables in terms of soil thermal properties and water velocity and found the largest increase in temperature to be approximately 4.4°F (2.4°C) at the water/soil interface on the lakebed. The point of highest temperature increase was found to be approximately 9 inches (23 cm) in the downstream water flow direction from the cables' centerline. As seen in the attached Figure 5.3-1, the physical extent of this temperature increase is very limited. For example if one were to move vertically by only 4 inches (10 cm) from the point of highest temperature increase on the lakebed, the temperature increase would drop to a mere 0.2°F (0.1°C) (Exponent 2015b).

*DL 06*-Effects on birds of prey are discussed in Section 5.2.7.1.2.

*DL 07*- DOE determined that the operational noise associated with the new Erie Converter Station would comply with current local and state regulations. The most significant sound sources at the new Erie Converter Station during normal operation are associated with the cooling fan system; however, these effects would be limited to one potential receptor. See Section 5.2.15.2 for effects on particular receptors in the area of the cooling fans.

*DL 08*-DOE addressed groundwater effects in Section 5.2.3. Where aquifers are shallow enough to be affected by construction activities, ITC Lake Erie proposes construction techniques as described in *Section 5.2.II.1* to mitigate the risks to nearby groundwater supplies that use the aquifers.

**DL 09**-A DOE public meeting has not been authorized for this Project. DOE provided public input through its website and public comment period on the Draft EA.

Unfortunately ITC's Mike Ivester, Andrew Jamieson nor Steve Halmi were able or were willing to answer these questions.

February 2016 the Supreme Court put a stay on the EPA, closing coal powered electric production plants down. Their concerns were that closing plants without given them a chance to meet emission standards is making America electric weak. In a era when the USA wants to not be energy dependent on foreign companies, we are considering letting one build in America and produce power in Canada to be owned by foreign business.

I asked ITC if the power to be supplied was produced by hydro and the answer was NO. In closing I ask of the Dept. of Energy and the Whitehouse to review the future owners of ITC and put a stop to this project. Review the way the power will really be produced. Give the American power companies a chance to meet emissions and save American jobs before suppling other foreign companies with work opportunities funded by the American public who buy electricity.

Please delay or stop the approval of ITC's application to move forward.

Thank You

Douglas Lavery

Included Conneaut Township's letter ITC

Concerns addressed to Conneaut Township and Erie County Council

**DL 10**-Comment noted.

**DL 11**-DOE is responsible for reviewing Presidential permit applications and determining whether to grant a permit for electrical transmission facilities that cross the United States' international border.

ITC Lake Erie Connector Project  
 Comment Receipt

Refers to Comment Placed on June 30, 2016

Name Douglas Lavery  
 Address Withheld to protect the privacy of commenter  
 Email Withheld to protect the privacy of commenter  
 Phone Withheld to protect the privacy of commenter  
 Subject ITC has sold out

Message  
 Mr. Mills, It's application states that they are not owned by any foreign companies in Section 1. at the time of the application that was a true statement. ITC has sold it's entire company to a Canadian power company called Fortis for \$11.3 billion. Fortis has sold 19.9% to a Singapore company GIC for \$1.3 billion. When this project starts it will be owned by foreign business companies. I thought America was trying to become independent of foreign energy suppliers. Please review this information on the ITC and Fortis websites. Four species of fish that are common to the Erie, PA shores will be also effected by the buried lake lines. Erie, PA fishing is a great income and sport for this local area. If blasting the bedrock occurs and even burying the lines will cause a disruption to the aquatic life which will be disastrous to local sport fishing. The rise in water temperatures where the lines are buried will cause issues with the four or more species of fish identified. The four species of birds identified, one being the bald eagle which lives within 1/2 mile of the proposed convertor hall site will definitely have its flight pattern effected by the noise and heat from the hall cooling fans. The other birds will also be effected equally along with the bats which are slowly disappearing from America. Local residents and pets that will have the hall built with in site and sound will be affected as the wildlife will be. Water tables will be disrupted from the installation of the lines and vaults that are schedule to be installed in their front yards. ITC's land agent will not identify where the vaults are located because ITC knows there is or will be a severe water issue for residents when completed. Property values have not addressed,health issues have not been identified, quality of rural living will be destroyed by the construction of the hall. There are many residential issues that ITC has conveniently avoided to answer. There is a alternate route available which is owned by Penelec that goes from the West sub station to the lake, this would not involve any residential properties but ITC says Penelec does not want it on their land and also wetland issues. The current route has wetlands thru it and it does not seem to be a problem. The Penelec route should be used and the wetlands relocated which has happened numerous times in this area for commercial malls etc. Please check into how the Canadian power will be produced, when I asked if it

**DL 01**-Comment noted.

**DL 02**- Blasting effects are addressed in Section 5.1.4.1 and additional text was added Lake Erie's blasting impact analysis estimates that lethal impacts to fish would be expected to occur within a 63.3 foot radius of the blast location. Measures to avoid causing harm to fish and fish habitat include reducing charges from 10 pounds to 7 pounds and reducing blast hole spacing from 4-foot intervals to 2.5-foot intervals. ITC Lake Erie's blasting plan is included in Appendix J.

**DL 03**-The effects of a rise in water temperature has been addressed in Section 5.1.3.2. Exponent used a set of conservative variables in terms of soil thermal properties and water velocity and found the largest increase in temperature to be approximately 4.4°F (2.4°C) at the water/soil interface on the lakebed. The point of highest temperature increase was found to be approximately 9 inches (23 cm) in the downstream water flow direction from the cables' centerline. As seen in the attached Figure 5.3-1, the physical extent of this temperature increase is very limited. For example if one were to move vertically by only 4 inches (10 cm) from the point of highest temperature increase on the lakebed, the temperature increase would drop to a mere 0.2°F (0.1°C) (Exponent 2015b). Effects on birds of prey are discussed in Section 5.2.7.1.2.

**DL 04**-See Section 5.2.15.2 for effects on particular receptors in the area of the cooling fans. DOE determined that the operational noise associated with the new Erie Converter Station would comply with current local and state regulations.

**DL 05**-Property values are not analyzed as part of the EA review process.

**DL 06**-ITC Lake Erie provided an analysis of other routes considered in the Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative was selected by ITC Lake Erie and is being evaluated in this Final EA and the permit process conducted by the USACE for the Section 404 permit.

**DL07**-Comment noted.

was hydro only the ITC answer was NO. It will be supplied by different producers? I thought it was to be all hydro and green. I have some information which I will mail to you. The information is a letter to ITC from Conneaut Township supervisors stating they will not give approval of any further movement on the projects until all the concerns from the residents located close to the hall are resolved. Water, loss of property values, noise levels, quality of life, health concerns all related to the construction of the lines, vaults and the hall. Please put a halt to the approval of ITC's application because of the sale to foreign companies and the people, wildlife, aquatic and pets this project will affect. Thank you

***DLO8***-Comment noted. Property values are not analyzed as part of the EA review process.

Site <http://www.lakeerieconnectoreia.com>

Date/Time: June 30, 2016 12:50 am

ITC Lake Erie Connector Project  
Comment Receipt

Refers to Comment Placed on July 2, 2016

Name David Lavery  
Address Withheld to protect the privacy of commenter  
Email Withheld to protect the privacy of commenter  
Phone Withheld to protect the privacy of commenter  
Subject ITC Lake Erie Connector Draft EA

Message Dear Mr. Mills, It is with a heavy heart that I feel the need to address a letter of this nature. The ITC Lake Erie Connector Project is planning on locating their DC inverter directly across the road from our beautiful, peaceful, country property & home on Lexington Road in Girard, PA. I have several concerns regarding this project. Mainly, the affect this placement will have on our well water, health, noise level, property devaluation & wildlife. As a 100% disabled veteran suffering from PTSD & Agent Orange, my stress level is on the rise. I have verbally expressed my concerns to Conneaut Township, Erie County Council & representatives of ITC. If this cannot be stopped, surely another route can be placed that would not disturb so many local families & their property. Now that ITC has sold to a Canadian power company called Fortis, for 11.3 billion & Fortis is selling 19.9% to a Singapore company, GIC for \$1.3 billion, who is going to care about us in the USA? I am asking the DOE "not" to issue a Presidential Permit to LLC to connect an electric transmission line across the US border with Canada. I strongly feel it is not in our public's best interest, it is only in the best interest of the stock holders for Fortis & GIC. Sincerely, David C. Lavery

Site <http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com>

Date/Time: July 2, 2016 8:34 pm

**DL 01**-DOE has addressed the effects on well water, health, noise, and wildlife in in Sections 5.2.4, 5.2.14, 5.2.15, and 5.2.6, respectively.

**DL02**-ITC Lake Erie provided an analysis of other routes considered in the Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative was selected by ITC Lake Erie and is being evaluated in this Final EA and the permit process conducted by the USACE for the Section 404 permit. This information is summarized in Section 2.6 and Appendix C.

**DL03**-Comment noted.

ITC Lake Erie Connector Project  
Comment Receipt

Refers to Comment Placed on July 5, 2016

Name Jerome Skrypzak for the SONS of Lake Erie Fishing Club  
Address  
Email  
Phone  
Subject Lake Erie Cable Connector

Message On behalf of the over 3000 members of the SONS of Lake Erie Fishing Club I would like to make the following comments. We are greatly concerned by the proposed blasting in Lake Erie to be undertaken during the construction and the potential harm it will impose on the fishery. We are also concerned with the trenching to be undertaken on the Lake bottom and the amount of toxic sediments that could potentially be released by this process. We are also concerned with the amount of thermal pollution that will be generated from the cable when finally completed. Finally our concern is for the property holders along the path of the cable and the potential of adversely affecting the ground water and their wells. There is a right of way that is available on Penelec property and should be used rather than disrupting residents along the currently proposed path We strongly feel that this project should be put on hold until all of the possible negative issues are resolved. Yours truly, Jerry Skrypzak President SONS of Lake Erie

Site <http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com>

Date/Time: July 5, 2016 6:31 pm

*JS 01*-ITC Lake Erie anticipates that the blasting would occur for about 130 days between May and November. Blasting outside of spawning season would reduce impacts to spawning habitat and behaviors and would likely be coordinated with the PFBC. Effects on fisheries resources from blasting are addressed in Section 5.1.4.1 and in Appendix I of the JPA, Volume III and Appendix J of the Final EA.

*JS 02*-No significant effects on cisco, eastern sand darter, or lake sturgeon are expected due to the small thermal increase in water temperature associated with operating the transmission system in Lake Erie. Thermal effects of the transmission cable are discussed in Section 5.1.5.2.

*JS 03*- Property values are not analyzed as part of the EA review process.

*JS 04*-Comment Noted.

FarmandDairy.com | 800-837-3419 or 330-337-3419

# We only have so much groundwater

By Gail Prunty

When you see the earth's surface on a globe, all of the blue gives the illusion that we have water o'plenty! But in reality, once you "hold the salt" water in oceans (97 percent) and "put the freeze" on water trapped in ice caps and glaciers (2 percent), suddenly 99 percent of the water on Earth is not directly usable by humans.

Our remaining fresh water supplies are either stored beneath the ground (in soil or fractured bedrock) or in surface water (in streams, rivers, and lakes). Of this, a mere 1 percent of fresh liquid water that we can use and which our survival depends, more than 98 percent exists beneath the land's surface.

Water underground. Groundwater is water found below the land's surface and fills the spaces and cracks



Gail Prunty

## The Dirt on Conservation

between soils, sand grains and rocks. If this saturated area, or zone, is capable of storing and yielding groundwater to a well, it is called an aquifer.

Aquifers are composed of permeable sediment or rock of which Ohio has three major types: sand and gravel deposits, sandstone bedrock, and carbonate bedrock (limestones and dolomites).

Here in the Heartland, our average precipitation is between 30 to 44 inches per year. As this rain and snowmelt soak into the ground, most is taken up by plants or soil, while some slowly seeps into the layers of pore space.

Replenishing aquifers. Approximately 3-16 inches of Ohio's annual rainfall replenishes our aquifers in this process called "recharge." The top of this saturated zone is known as the water table and water tables vary in depth — rising during wet seasons and falling deeper during dry seasons. Lakes, rivers, streams and ditches also recharge aquifers.

As part of the water cycle, groundwater does not remain stagnant underground, but moves very slowly from upland to lowland ... sometimes only a few feet each year.

In Ohio, we are fortunate to have abundant groundwater resources. Approximately 45 percent of Ohioans depend on groundwater for their homes, businesses, schools, industries, farms and drinking water supplies.

7/14/16  
Farm & Dairy

Collectively, we consume more than 1 billion gallons of groundwater each day. Yet our connection to groundwater's significance seems to be buried deeper than the water itself.

Fragile. Groundwater is an especially fragile resource that is very slow-moving, mostly unseen, sluggish to recharge, and incredibly difficult to clean. So it's incredibly surprising how ill-equipped and unarmed we are in the realm of groundwater protection.

The risks of groundwater contamination and the price of cleanup are far greater than most communities could ever imagine or afford. Groundwater contamination occurs when man-made or even naturally occurring materials seep into groundwater supplies and render it unsafe and unfit for human use.

Examples of potential pollutants include household hazardous wastes, leaking underground storage tanks and landfills, failing septic systems, runoff including fertilizers, pesticides, animal wastes, chemicals and road salt, and naturally-occurring arsenic, lead, methane, radon and other elements or gases.

Protecting groundwater. As homeowners and residents, we can and must protect and preserve our groundwater.

The first and most critical step is that we strive to be "well educated."

Over the past 30 years, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found an increased proportion of waterborne disease outbreaks

(Continued on Page A19)

FarmandDairy.com | 800-837-3419 or 330-337-3419

(Continued from Page A18)

associated with private household drinking water supplies, with the majority of documented outbreaks caused by groundwater.

While routine testing ensures state and federal standards in public water supplies, it is the primary responsibility of the individual well owners to ensure that the water drawn from their wells is safe.

In Ohio, more than 700,000 people have their own wells. Routine monitoring of your water well is extremely important, not only to determine the current water quality, but also to provide a baseline of quality and the ability to detect changes in future water tests.

The Ohio Department of Health recommends that private water system owners test total coliform bacteria, E. coli, nitrates, and arsenic annually as well as any time there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance of your drinking water.

In addition to your water chemistry and bacteria tests, your annual water supply maintenance check

should also include a static water level check, a water yield test, and a visual inspection of the well cap and cover.

**Knowing the drill.** If planning a new or replacement water well, contact your local health department to begin the process of obtaining a well permit. A lot evaluation is required by a registered private water system contractor.

The Ohio Department of Health requires every well to have a permit prior to being drilled. Private water system permits are good for one year.

Within this timeframe, the installation or alteration must be performed, the system must pass a final inspection, and the water supply must pass a water test through a state-certified water testing lab.

**Learn more.** For more information on water well maintenance, visit [odh.ohio.gov](http://odh.ohio.gov), [epa.ohio.gov/home](http://epa.ohio.gov/home), your local health department, the Ohio Watershed Network ([ohiowatersheds.osu.edu](http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu)), or your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

*(Gail Prunty is the education/communications specialist for the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District.)*

REF CELRP - 0PF2013 - 1434

7/19/2016

Mr. Fodse,

In response to the ITC/Lake Erie Connector Project.

Section 1 of the DoE permit ITC states they are not owned by any foreign companies, at the time of the application. This was a true statement. ITC has sold to a Canadian power company called Fortis, for \$11.3 billion. Fortis has sold 19.9% to a Singapore company GIC for \$1.3 Billion. This alone causes concerns about the USA being supplied electricity from foreign owned companies. The sale should be completed, according to the Fortis website, by the third quarter of 2016. When the sale is completed ITC has no stock in this project.

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Some other local residents concerns are loss of property values, quality of life living next to the hall and last the impact from the cooling fans on residents, pets and wildlife.

I have included a copy of the supervisors letter to ITC.

My concerns which I brought to Conneaut Township, Erie County Council, Erie County Executive Cathy Dahlkemper, State Representative Parke Wettling among others are facts stated in the application.

The possible blasting of the bedrock which goes 2000 feet into the lake from the shore, will definitely kill many aquatic life species, along with the four local fish that will have some affects for long term from the buried lines.

Another concern is where the lines are to be buried the water temperatures will rise 2.3 degrees. The Erie area is a fishing community and fishing is a year round benefit to the local economy. The disruption during construction and after will leave a long term negative effect to local fishing business. There will be an effects on algae growth.

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I feel a project of this size and being pushed this fast, an important detail like vault locations should have been decided long ago. ITC knows that PA DOT has told them about weight limits on local roads. The application states there are 15 to 16 vaults on the land route. The local community is not being given the whole truth about this project.

May 21st, 2016 Erie County Councilwoman Carol Loll requested ITC come to the Erie County Courthouse for a public meeting. I attended and asked all and more of the issues stated above

RECEIVED

2016 JUL 26 P 1:41

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Note: This is a duplicate of Mr. Lavery's letter of 6-29-2016- please see responses on pages 3-10 and 3-11.

Unfortunately ITC's Mike Ivester, Andrew Jamieson nor Steve Halmi were able or were willing to answer these questions.

This meeting brought up concerns from the PA Fish and Boat Commission to the Dept. of Energy along with the SONS of Lake Erie have also submitted a letter to the Dept. of Energy with their concerns.

All the information sent to the Dept. of Energy is on their website  
[www.lakeerieconnectorepa.com](http://www.lakeerieconnectorepa.com)

February 2016 the Supreme Court put a stay on the EPA, closing coal powered electric producing plants down. Their concerns were that closing plants without given them a chance to meet emission standards is making America electric weak. In a era when the USA wants to not be energy dependent on foreign companies, we are considering letting one build in America and produce power in Canada to be owned by foreign business.

I asked ITC if the power to be supplied was produced by hydro and the answer was NO.

In closing, Please forward all information to any other organization that currently has a application in their office waiting for approval of this project.

I do understand from our phone conversation that the issues in this letter does not involve your office for permitting, but please take all the information your office has received from local residents and postpone the current permit application from ITC/Fortis,GIC who ever is the current owner of this project.

Give the American power companies a chance to meet emissions and save American jobs before suppling other foreign companies with work opportunities funded by the American public who buy electricity.

Thank You  
Douglas Lavery

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2016 6:14 PM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Notice # 16-21 celrp-op-f 2013-1434

To Whom It May Concern:

I spoke to you a month ago, my complaint is why are they coming on peoples private property when they could have used an alternate route going from the lake shore to Lexington PENELEC substation. We have had our well checked by Moody which we had an excellent report on return of water into our well with no contamination. Our water vain is located between 5 and 6 feet down below ground, our main water supply comes from across the road which is east of our home, if they contaminate our water supply or our well goes dry are they going to purchase our home at market value. We have major concerns about our water supply, if you would like to speak with us concerning this matter, please feel free to contact us at your convenience, thank you for your time.

James Jordano

**JJ 01**-Effects on wells along the proposed route are discussed in Section 5.2.11.1 and include proposed construction techniques to avoid, reduce, or mitigate risks to wells adjacent to the proposed LEC Project route.

-----  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 10:37 AM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public notice Response to app No 2013-1434 notice 16-21

Mr. Fodse,

I am a resident of Girard Township, 2101 Townline Road, and I have several concerns and questions regarding the proposed HVDC line that is planned to be placed within 50' of my home where my family of six reside.

I am disappointed that I have not personally received a letter for the public notice and that I was informed of the Notice from a previous land owner across the street. (James Traut 2342 Townline road) We recently purchased that property also.

First and foremost I'm concerned with the safety and health affects the line would have on my residence and family.

How is the line encased or protected to not emit harmful static electric or magnetic fields?

Is there a recommended distance for buffer zone for residential living space from these types of lines?

I have other questions and will follow up with separate emails regarding each.

Thank you for your time.

--

Respectfully,

Dave Marino, LA

DM 01-Comment noted. The availability of the Draft EA was noticed in the Erie Times and posted on the project website. If you would like to receive further notification from DOE, please sign up on the project website at [www.lakeerieconnectorea.com](http://www.lakeerieconnectorea.com).

DM 02- Effects on health and safety are discussed in Sections 5.1.14 and 5.2.14. These sections focus on contractor health and safety, electromagnetic field effects, and public safety and health effects, which would be primarily recreation and navigation on the lake for the Lake Erie segment. The proposed transmission line would be primarily underground or under the lake bed, limiting exposure to the public.

DM 03-Yes, a description of the transmission cable is presented in 2.4.2 and electromagnetic field effects are discussed in Sections 3.1.14.3, 3.2.14, 5.1.4.3, 5.2.4.3, 5.1.14.3, and 5.2.14.

DM04- As described in Section 2.4.1, the majority of the transmission cable is buried underground and in previously disturbed rights of way.

**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 10:50 AM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public notice Response to app No 2013-1434 notice 16-21

Mr. Fodse,

Here are a few of my other environmental concerns regarding my Land, Trees Water supply and even my house foundations.

What affect with the line have regarding heat, I have heard that it is very hot. Will there be a permafrost affect from the line in the winter? How will that affect mature trees and their dormancy? How will this affect the local wetlands and the amphibians that thrive here? The water shed for a good portion of the proposed line is in a HQ CWF.

Will the line affect my drinking water, we have a shallow well of 12-15' which is plentiful and I'm concerned the trench may redirect the ground water in some way or fashion or the water table be contaminated due to the very sandy parent soil material.

Thanks!

--

Respectfully,

Dave Marino, LA

*DM 01*-Thermal effects on soils are discussed in Section 5.2. 9.1. In Section 5.1.2.1, DOE discusses the thermal effects on aquatic species. Typically operation of the transmission cable would slightly raise the temperature of sediment immediately surrounding the transmission cable and most terrestrial wildlife would move from the immediate area. Regarding thermal effects on cold water fisheries habitat, anticipated increases in the temperature of the sediment and water column would not significantly affect populations of aquatic species because the increases would fall within the range of natural ambient variability. Mature trees and other plants would not likely be in the ROW area where the cable would be buried. Soil temperature above the transmission cables is anticipated to increase due to operation of the proposed HVDC transmission cables; however, the heat would dissipate quickly with increasing distance from the proposed transmission cable, particularly if the soil is appropriately moist (HDR 2016). Large-rooted plants would be removed to avoid interference with the buried transmission cable at the actual site of the cable.

*DM 02*-Effects on wells along the proposed route are discussed in Section 5.2.11.1 and include proposed construction techniques to avoid, reduce, or mitigate risks to wells adjacent to the proposed LEC Project route.

.6 and

**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 11:04 AM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public notice Response to app No 2013-1434 notice 16-21  
**Attachments:** IMG\_7433.jpg; IMG\_7425.jpg

Mr. Fodse,

We went to a meeting last night at the Girard township building and they are currently discussing with the power company to widen the right of way for tree removals to 50'. My house is an old farm house build before there were automobiles and there are 13 trees along the ROW that will be removed if they move forward with the 50 clear area. They are going to compensate us for the trees (they say they will) but these trees provide a wind break, heat reduction and aesthetic that is priceless. Not to mention that it will reduce my property value and sale potential. The one tree is a hickory that is over 250 years old.

I have recently purchased the property across the street and it has mature forest along the right of way. This forest of 15 acres is possibly some of the oldest 2nd growth in Erie County. Many trees there are upwards of 100' tall and 30 to 40" diameter. I have attached a few pictures. If they cut the trees down 25' form the center of the road I will loose the anchors and support that hold up the taller trees behind them.

I don't believe they should be able to cut the trees down, they should encase the line so that the trees will not affect them. 90 per cent of roots are within the top 2' of the surface.

--  
 Respectfully,

Dave Marino, LA

**DM 01-**Some clearing would be required to install and maintain the cable. Avoidance of mature selective trees would be preferred but may not be feasible.

**DM 02-**Comment noted.

**DM 03-** The USACE and DOE required ITC Lake Erie to look at other routes for the transmission cable. Due to the many factors discussed in the Final EA, the proposed route was selected by the applicant and analyzed further in the EA. The route alternatives are discussed in Section 2.6 and Appendix C.

**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 11:47 AM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public notice Response to app No 2013-1434 notice 16-21

Mr. Fodse,

As you have seen I have several concerns regarding the line location to my properties and the affects it will have an them and the environment. One of the other main issues I have is that there are two existing right of ways or routes that are not being utilized for this line. One is an abandon railroad and the other is a High Power Electric line. Both of these existing routs affect less people than the current route and both are direct routes from the shoreline location to the substation. Most people are in favor of the line being located in one of the existing right of ways but money talks. Our township supervisors said the main reason they want the line here is to strengthen the Power grid of the country and its our duty to allow it. I feel that it is important for green power but everything I have worked extremely hard for will be affected permanently and will not recover in my lifetime due to the loss of aesthetic and sale value. The power grid of the country can be strengthened but it should not be on the backs of citizens who pay taxes and are not getting any compensation for use of the right of way while it destroys their properties and values. They need to utilized one of the other routes that are available. This is a multi billion dollar project, half a million for an other route is a drip in the bucket to them, please have a voice for the working folks of these townships whose properties will suffer.

Please do not accept this permit based on the availability of other less intrusive routs available for the proposed line. I can send a map of the other more direct routs that are available if you would like.

Thank you for your attention and concern.

--  
 Respectfully,

Dave Marino, LA

**DM 01**-ITC Lake Erie provided an analysis of other routes considered in the Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative was selected by ITC Lake Erie and is being evaluated in this Final EA and the permit process conducted by the USACE for the Section 404 permit. DOE discussed the alternative routes in Section 2.6 and Appendix C of the Final EA.

**DM 02**-Comment noted.

**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2016 5:34 PM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public notice Response to app No 2013-1434 notice 16-21  
**Attachments:** IMG\_9042.jpg; IMG\_9044.jpg

Mr. Fodse,

I have not heard back from you regarding my previous emails so please let me know you have received them.

Also, I have attached a few pictures of my front yard trees that will be removed due the new Power line. As you can see they protect my house from wind and dust from the dirt road. The power company does not want any large trees to be placed back. Only shrubbery.

*DM 01*-Comment noted.

Thanks.

--

Respectfully,

Dave Marino, LA

July 22, 2016

Micheal Fodse  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District  
1000 Liberty Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222-4186  
Re: Application No. 2013-1434

RECEIVED

2016 JUL 25 P 1:25  
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Dear Mr. Fodse,

I have concerns about the HVDC transmission line being installed underground in front of our property where we reside. We were approached by Wyatt Price a representative from ITC. In the conversation we were told that all of our trees would have to be removed because the transmission line needs a substantial amount of water to keep the transmission line cool. Since the line needs a substantial amount of water. What will be the impact on the streams, wetlands, and our wells? Also there are springs close to the surface that supply water to ponds and wells which will be destroyed from the insulation of the transmission line. Would this cause unwanted flooding?

Penelec has an existing right of way which would be better suited for this transmission line. This would be less of an impact on wetlands, streams and the water table that supply water to our wells. There are many concerns and questions from property owners affected by this HVDC transmission line. We are asking if a public meeting can be held on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pat Bartosek

*PB 01* - Operation of the proposed Project would slightly elevate the temperature of soil immediately surrounding the cable, but not to the extent that temperatures would affect plant growth. The effects on temperature of the soils and water are discussed further in Sections 5.2.9.2 and 5.1.9.2.

*PB 02* - The USACE and DOE required ITC Lake Erie to look at other routes for the transmission cable. Due to the many factors discussed in the Final EA, the proposed route was selected by the applicant and analyzed further in the EA. ITC Lake Erie provided an analysis of other routes considered in the Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative was selected by ITC Lake Erie and is being evaluated in this Final EA and the permit process conducted by the USACE for the Section 404 permit. Alternatives are discussed in Section 2.6 and Appendix C.

July 22, 2016

Regulatory Branch  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Pittsburgh District  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA  
15222-4186

RECEIVED  
2016 JUL 26 P 1:40  
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Attn.: Michael Fodse

Ref: CELRP-OPF2013-1434

Dear Mr. Fodse

This letter is in response to the public notice, 16-21, dated June 24, 2016, from Chief, Regulatory Branch, Scott A. Hans, Army Corps of Engineers. We would like to make known our response to the proposed activities of ITC Lake Erie Connector Project.

In our small community of Northwest Conneaut Township, which will be in close proximity to the site for the proposed ITC Converter Station, there are twenty-one (21) properties or partials that will be affected in one way or another by this project. Of the twenty-one households, four (4) properties have made or anticipate land sale/agreements. Four more are in negotiations for easement passage for the underground cable. That leaves thirteen properties that will have to live next to, within sight, within hearing distance, or have property near or bordering the ITC property. All the homes are in a relatively tight rural agriculture setting. There is no concern for the health, safety, welfare, responsibility for damage or compensation by any entity to anyone of the thirteen properties.

The permit process mentions the concern for wetlands and rare shrubs; concerns for endangered species, fish, wildlife, and historic places. Section no. 4 paragraph of the letter references unavoidable impacts to Waters of the United States. Additionally, no. 5 mentions the Encroachment Permit Water Quality Certification. Finally, no. 12 section gives residents a chance to respond.

Our neighborhood has been proactive in a timely manner, gathering information, attending meetings with ITC officials, township and county representatives. We are proud to say that we have gained the support of Conneaut Township Supervisors, our first line of defense in the American form of democracy known as constituent support. They support our legitimate neighborhood grievances for our drinking water. We have also gained the support of the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, a 3000 member sportsmen's organization concerned about our drinking water. Pollution of our water will cause run off issues downstream and eventually effecting trout waterways. We are located on one of the top aquifers for residential water use in Conneaut Township. All drainage goes directly into Lake Erie.

Our residents have been respectful, courteous and have communicated our expressed concerns for quality of life issues. Furthermore, we are concerned about the high levels of noise. Can anyone guarantee one hundred percent that the high electromagnetic wave disturbance will not damage the human body or cause interference to electrical appliances? Another legitimate complaint is the possible pollution to our drinking water, not only the construction, but the maintenance and inspection in future years. Lastly, is the physical, aesthetic, and radical change to our rural way of life. What compensation can address that fact? These issues are a major source of anxiety to this neighborhood. The problem of noise disturbance, sight, drinking water and bodily affects from electromagnetic waves, and property devaluation all remain unanswered. Each of these dynamic forces of change will affect each property in

*Property Owners 01*-Comment noted.

*Property Owners 02*- The Draft and Final EA addresses noise, health and safety of the human environment, specifically in Sections 5.1.14 and 5.2. 14.

*Property Owners 03*-The Draft and Final EA includes an analysis of effects on wetlands (Sections 5.1.8 and 5.2.8), rare plants (Sections 5.1.7 and 5.2.7), wildlife (Sections 5.1.6 and 5.2.6) , and cultural resources (Sections 5.1.10 and 5.2.10).

*Property Owners 04*-Comment noted.

*Property Owners 05*-the Draft and Final EA addresses effects on groundwater, specifically in Section 5.2.11 and Section 5.2.3.3. ITC Lake Erie proposed construction techniques to avoid, reduce, or mitigate risks to wells adjacent to the proposed LEC Project route.

*Property Owners 06*-See Section 5.2.15.2 for effects on particular receptors in the area of the cooling fans. DOE determined that the operational noise associated with the new Erie Converter Station would comply with current local and state regulations. Electromagnetic effects are discussed in Sections 5.1.4.4 (added text) and 5.1.14.1.

*Property Owners 07*-Responses to these issues are addressed in the above responses.

a different way. Honesty along with responsibility for a project of this magnitude have been lacking. Honesty will be exemplified in the admission that these dangers do exist. Responsibility will prevail when a commitment is shown by a bond to protect the community for the project that is portrayed to be so safe. Without these necessary steps, one can assume that this project speaks only of large profits for foreign investors at the expense of a small rural community. Who will protect us from these unknown environmental changes, especially when the owners and board of directors live in foreign countries, and we have no knowledge of who they are? This community, our life style and our property are the necessary resource to achieve the goal of the investors of this valuable project. Now is the time for action by ITC officials, to step forward and take responsibility for the huge change that will take place, and notify all government agencies of their commitment to the community by accepting responsibility for any damages addressed to the above concerns.

In conclusion, public notice no. 16-21 expresses concern for many important issues like wildlife, fish, shrubs, wetlands, and historic sights. Notwithstanding, the most important resource, human life, has not been given as much attention. Human life is a commodity that is priceless. This should be the first and primary concern of this project. Therefore, it appears that since the most important aspect of this project has been ignored, the basic quality of life that makes this neighborhood a nice place to live has not been addressed properly. Notwithstanding, is the fact, that we are being asked to change our life style without question and to accept a great change. This request of change is without any consideration for our family or property value. How can a change of this proportion take place without consideration for the most important capital in any project? It is irresponsible to allow this travesty of justice to occur. All of the thirteen property owners are affected, in one way or another, not just the land that will be traversed. Those destructive forces as mentioned above are a threat and will affect our environment. These issues must be addressed for each property owner before any permits are granted. However, most all of the above concerns could be averted, by following the Conneaut Township Supervisor's alternative route plan; the direct power line route from Lake Erie to Conneaut Township to the Lexington Road Sub-Station. That route is presently owned and operated by Penelec. That right of way goes directly to the site where the convertor station will be located and will have the least impact in Erie County. Penelec will benefit from the ITC project. Penelec has the necessary land for this project. Their direct right-of way is approximately one mile shorter than the highway route through our community of homes. Furthermore, their direct route will have less impact on the local ground water, local feeder stream and storm water runoff. Penelec, ITC, and the foreign investors should use their own land and be a good neighbor in Erie County. That compromise will protect and preserve the Lake Erie Watershed and our drinking water.

*Property Owners 08*-Comments noted.

*Property Owners 09*-The USACE and DOE required ITC Lake Erie to look at other routes for the transmission cable. Due to the many factors discussed in the Final EA, the proposed route was selected by the applicant and analyzed further in the EA. ITC Lake Erie provided an analysis of other routes considered in the Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative was selected by ITC Lake Erie and is being evaluated in this Final EA and the permit process conducted by the USACE for the Section 404 permit. Alternatives are discussed in Section 2.6 and Appendix C.

Sincerely,

A collection of handwritten signatures in black ink, arranged in two columns. The signatures are:
   
Left column: Theodore Lopez, Shirley E. Lopez, [unclear], [unclear], Steve R. Chur, Tom Fayter, [unclear].
   
Right column: Victor Wheeler, Andrea Wheeler, Rodney Leach, Judy Fish, Shelley Fayter, Edward Fayter.

**Sent:** Saturday, July 23, 2016 1:16 PM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] CELRP-OP-F 2013-1434

4561 Townline Road  
Girard, Pennsylvania  
July 23, 2016

Michael M. Fodse  
Regulatory Branch  
US Army Corp of Engineers  
Pittsburgh District  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-4186

Dear Mr. Fodse:

I am registering my concerns for the application numbered CELRP-OP-F 2013-1434, and I am requesting a public hearing to discuss the project.

The company making the request, ITC, has made numerous efforts to discuss the project. I appreciate their openness to questions. Still, I would like the opportunity to have non-biased engineers and individuals discuss the project, answer my questions, and hear any remaining concerns.

I worry about the negative impact this project may have on Lake Erie in both the short term and long term. One fear is that while laying the line the polluted sediments on the lake's floor will be reintroduced into lake waters. I also worry that there may be long term effects because of the heat output from the line. Will even a slight temperature increase in lake water have consequences to flora and fauna, particularly the fresh water fisheries?

I have questions how this line will impact my life directly since I live on the proposed route and own three other properties along it. The least of my concerns is the aesthetic loss of centuries old trees which will harm my property values. My husband and I are working to restore a concord grape vineyard. I question how the line will impact our efforts. I wonder how the heat dissipation will affect our road in the winter. Most concerning to my heart are the health risks to my children living and growing near the line.

If Pennsylvania and the United States governments believe the impact on Lake Erie will be worth the risks, I wonder why ITC chose this specific route. Is it because it makes the least environmental impact or is it the most affordable?

Again, ITC has made efforts to answer residents' questions and concerns. I still wish to hear from your experts on these matters. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaleen H. Marino

**KM 01**-DOE will not be hosting a public meeting for the LEC Project.

**KM 02**-Comment noted.

**KM 03**-The effects of a rise in water temperature has been addressed in Section 5.1.3.2. Exponent used a set of conservative variables in terms of soil thermal properties and water velocity and found the largest increase in temperature to be approximately 4.4°F (2.4°C) at the water/soil interface on the lakebed. The point of highest temperature increase was found to be approximately 9 inches (23 cm) in the downstream water flow direction from the cables' centerline. As seen in the attached Figure 5.3-1, the physical extent of this temperature increase is very limited. For example if one were to move vertically by only 4 inches (10 cm) from the point of highest temperature increase on the lakebed, the temperature increase would drop to a mere 0.2°F (0.1°C) (Exponent 2015b). Regarding sediment pollutants, Section 5.1.3 discusses the transmission cable installation methods and effects on turbidity and suspended solids.

**KM 04**-Health risks due to EMF have been addressed in the Final EA; in addition, temperature effects have been addressed in Section 5.2.6.2, and as noted, the heat from the transmission cable dissipates very quickly with increasing distance from the cable.

**KM 05**-ITC Lake Erie provided an analysis of other routes considered in the Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative was selected by ITC Lake Erie and is being evaluated in this Final EA and the permit process conducted by the USACE for the Section 404 permit. Alternatives are discussed in Section 2.6 and Appendix C.

**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2016 7:49 AM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Cc:** Martinsen, Jessica  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] LRP 2013-1434

Good morning,

EPA has reviewed the public notice and application for ITC Lake Erie Connector, LLC and is providing the following comments:

\* For the PFO wetland establishment/ restoration areas, 5 years of monitoring may be insufficient due to the amount of time associated with establishing a mature forested system. EPA recommends at least 10 years of monitoring.

*K 01-Comment noted.*

\* Furthermore, performance standards should include criteria aimed at describing growth of the tree stratum in the mitigation area (i.e. annual average increase in height or DBH) to demonstrate that areas are on a trajectory of being a forested system. Woody vegetation should show a positive increase in height at the end of each year during the monitoring period.

*K 02-Comment noted.*

\* Additionally, EPA recommends including vegetative performance standards that includes a 5% invasive species action level and no greater than 33% total coverage by a single vegetative species to ensure a diverse community.

*K 03-Comment noted.*

\* The applicant should provide greater detail on the construction details, treatment expected, and possible maintenance anticipated for the specific biofilter wetland areas.

*K 04-Comment noted. DOE provided additional text in Sections 2.4.5.1, 5.1.3.1, 5.1.4.1, 5.2.9.1 in the Final EA.*

Thank you for the opportunity to review. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 215-814-2797.

Thanks,

Katelyn

**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2016 10:31 AM  
**To:** Fodse, Michael M LRP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Lake Erie Connector Project

Hi Michael,

Thank you again for taking the time to talk with me today. Per our discussion, I'm not opposed to the project per se however the route is my concern. My house sits very close to the road, my guess would be 40 feet. My bedroom is in the front of the house(as is my nephews), therefore I feel like I would basically be sleeping on top of this cable every night which can't help make me wonder how it can or will affect my health. Not only my health but my pets and nephew that live with me as well. I try to live a fairly healthy lifestyle so that is something that is very important to me. I would probably be told that there are no health concerns affiliated with the cable but whenever there is an electrical current there will be a magnetic field.

Another major concern is my water well. I was informed that this cable requires ground water/moisture to keep it cool. If this cable is then utilizing any water that would be supplied to my well, how will this impact my water supply? I did have Moody and Associates test my well this past spring (March or April) at that time my water recovery was great. I truly appreciate that I have a baseline for how my well performs but then again, what good will that do me if my well stops producing water? I've been at this residence for roughly 10 years now and have never had an issue with my well.

If an alternate route was found that would be less intrusive to the residents of Girard Township, I would like to think that it could be a viable option as well? Have other routes been thoroughly investigated? If not, is it still possible for them to do so? If they have and are not viable options, has this information or can this information be given to either the residents or township supervisors?

Thank you again for your time~

Michelle Mihalak

**MM 01-**DOE evaluated the effects of the transmission cable on human health in Section 5.2.14.3. The LEC Project would pose very little risk for public health and safety because the proposed transmission cable would be buried underground.

**MM 02-**DOE addressed groundwater effects in Section 5.2.3. Where aquifers are shallow enough to be affected by construction activities, ITC Lake Erie proposes construction techniques as described in **Section 5.2.11.1** to mitigate the risks to nearby groundwater supplies that use the aquifers.

**MM 03-**ITC Lake Erie provided an analysis of other routes considered in the Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative was selected by ITC Lake Erie and is being evaluated in this Final EA and the permit process conducted by the USACE for the Section 404 permit. Alternatives are discussed in Section 2.6 and Appendix C.

**PETITION TO STOP THE ITC LAKE ERIE CONNECTOR PROJECT CONVERTOR HALL LOCATION**

The goal of this petition is to prevent the Lake Erie Connector project proposed for the Lexington Road site. The impact of this project to local environment is detrimental to our local wildlife , ecosystem , to say nothing to the damage to our local water table. We currently enjoy our local eagle's nest and many blue heron among other wildlife. What will happen to those?

We , the local residents have great concerns over the fact that we have had no access to any in depth environmental impact studies that have been conducted by the company (ITC) There are great concerns regarding the health effects of the constant noise from the cooling fans located in the convertor hall. The long term health effects from having high AC/DC buried cables in our front yards is unknown. To say nothing for the effect the entire project will have on our property values.

Please sign this petition if you agree.

*Petition 01* – Comment noted. Potential impacts to terrestrial species are discussed in Section 5.2.6 of the Final EA.

*Petition 02* – The Draft and Final EA addresses noise, health and safety of the human environment. See Section 5.2.15.2 for effects on particular receptors in the area of the cooling fans. DOE determined that the operational noise associated with the new Erie Converter Station would comply with current local and state regulations.

*Petition 03* – Electromagnetic field effects are discussed in Sections 3.1.14.3, 3.2.14, 5.1.4.3, 5.2.4.3, 5.1.14.3, and 5.2.14 of this Final EA. Property values are not assessed as part of the EA review process.

Page #
Print Name & Phone #
DAVID Lavery
[REDACTED]
Patricia Lavery
[REDACTED]
TONY TAYLOR
[REDACTED]
Sandra Wassler
[REDACTED]
Victor Wheeler
JOHN BROWN
[REDACTED]
Adam Hovel
[REDACTED]
Gerold Keller
[REDACTED]
Jessica Muth
LEE KELLER
[REDACTED]
LEWIS SHELDON
[REDACTED]
Susan M. Queney
[REDACTED]
Randall M. Queney

Page #
Print Name & Phone #
Ryan Cooper
[REDACTED]
Stacey Cooper
[REDACTED]
TIMOTHY SCHIRM
[REDACTED]
CAROL SCHIRM
[REDACTED]
John Koster
[REDACTED]
Kenneth + Joyce McDonk
[REDACTED]
David + Kimberly Lewer
[REDACTED]
Walter Roth
[REDACTED]
Shelley Taylor
[REDACTED]
Brianne Frittal
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Quinn Frittal
[REDACTED]
Andrew Frittal
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bernina Berning

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Print Name & Phone #
Shea Seidler
[REDACTED]
Anthony Monoski
[REDACTED]
ED FAYHUR
[REDACTED]
TIM Hannah
[REDACTED]
April MORE
[REDACTED]
Rick BLISS
[REDACTED]
SHIRLEY LOEPP
[REDACTED]
Theodore Loepf
[REDACTED]
Kathy Campbell
[REDACTED]
Lloyd Bestzer
[REDACTED]
RONALD STREVAUT
[REDACTED]
Mary Ann Lavery
[REDACTED]
DOUGLAS LAVERY
[REDACTED]



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101  
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

August 4, 2016

Brian Mills  
NEPA Document Manager  
National Electricity Delivery Division (OE-20)  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

RE: USFWS Project #2014-0986; CPA-2014-0005

Dear Mr. Mills:

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 2016, requesting our confirmation that there are no revisions to the list of federally protected species within the area being considered for the proposed ITC Lake Erie Connector, LLC, Lake Erie Connector project located in Erie County, Pennsylvania. We previously commented on this project in letters dated September 22, 2014, February 11, 2015, April 6, 2015, and April 11, 2016. We confirm there are no revisions to your list and direct you to review our April 11, 2016, letter, which you were previously copied.

This response relates only to federally protected species under our jurisdiction, based on an office review of the proposed project's location. No field inspection of the project area has been conducted by this office. Consequently, this letter is not to be construed as addressing other potential Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other authorities.

*To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.*

Please contact Melinda Turner of my staff at 814-234-4090 if you have any questions or require further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Lora Z. Lattanzi  
Field Office Supervisor

FWS 01-Comment noted. The April 11, 2016 USFWS letter has been added to the LEC project website.

**From:** John R. Staffier  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 2:39 PM  
**To:** Mills, Brian <Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov>; Smith, Julie A (OE) <JulieA.Smith@hq.doe.gov>; Kelly Schaeffer <Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtGroup.com>; Alison Jakupca <Alison.Jakupca@KleinschmidtGroup.com>  
**Cc:** Jamieson, Andrew ([AJAMIESON@Itctransco.com](mailto:AJAMIESON@Itctransco.com)); Browne, Peter <Peter.Browne@hdrinc.com>; Ellen Young <eyoung@sdsatty.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lake Erie Connector - revised artificial reef conceptual plan

Per our discussion last Friday, we were able to forward our revised conceptual plan for artificial reefs to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission this morning. By the email below, the PFBC has advised that the plan, a copy of which is attached hereto, will suffice for its purposes. Let me know if you have questions. Thanks.

JS 01 – Noted.

JRS  
John R. Staffier  
Stuntz, Davis & Staffier, P.C.  
555 Twelfth Street, NW  
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**From:** Ryan, Daniel [<mailto:daniryan@pa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 9:36 AM  
**To:** Browne, Peter  
**Cc:** Jamieson, Andrew ([AJAMIESON@Itctransco.com](mailto:AJAMIESON@Itctransco.com)); Mitchell, Robert; Smiles, Heather A; Fischer, Douglas; Hartle, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Lake Erie Connector - revised artificial reef conceptual plan

Peter,  
This plan will suffice for PFBC needs on the Chapter 105 side. I've copied Doug Fischer, Heather Smiles and Mark Hartle as an FYI. Let me know if you need anything else.

JS 02 - Concurrence noted.

Thanks,  
Daniel Ryan  
Fisheries Biologist  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
Phone: 814-359-5140  
Fax: 814-359-5175  
Email: [daniryan@pa.gov](mailto:daniryan@pa.gov)

**From:** Browne, Peter [<mailto:Peter.Browne@hdrinc.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2016 8:49 AM  
**To:** Ryan, Daniel  
**Cc:** Jamieson, Andrew ([AJAMIESON@Ictransco.com](mailto:AJAMIESON@Ictransco.com)); Mitchell, Robert  
**Subject:** Lake Erie Connector - revised artificial reef conceptual plan

Hi Dan,  
In follow up to our call last week, attached please find the revised conceptual plan for the artificial reefs for the Lake Erie Connector Project. Following your review, can you please respond with your approval, and we will update the Corps and DEP of our discussions.



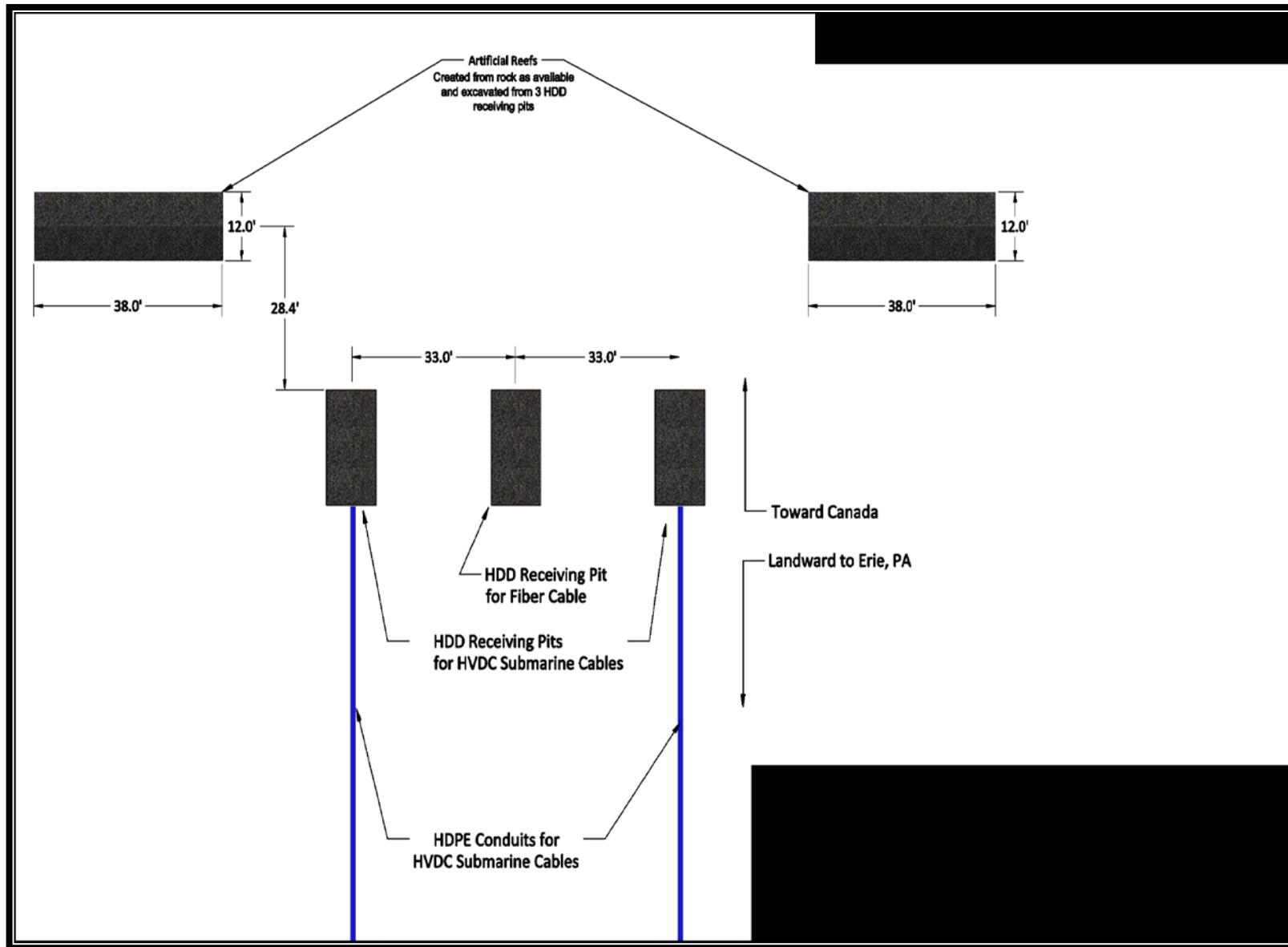
JS 03 – Communication noted.

Thanks,

**Peter**  
[Peter Browne](#)  
*Senior Consultant, Renewable Energy Services*

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