



April 1, 2015

Ref: 57666.00

Ms. Meghan McIntyre, Environmental Analyst
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier VT 05620-3522

Re: TDI – New England
New England Clean Power Link Project
Grand Isle, Rutland, and Windsor Counties, and Lake Champlain, Vermont
Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application

Dear Meghan:

On behalf of Champlain VT, LLC, d/b/a TDI-New England (“Applicant” or “TDI-NE”), VHB, in collaboration with TRC, has prepared the enclosed application and supporting materials for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (“VT DEC”) requesting an Individual Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (“WQC”), pursuant to 33 CFR §1341, to authorize the work within waters of the U.S. and State required to construct and operate the proposed New England Clean Power Link (“NECPL” or “Project”). The NECPL is designed to transmit high voltage direct current (“HVDC”) electricity, with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts (“MW”), from Canada to the New England electric grid.

This electric transmission line is proposed to extend from the Canadian border at Alburgh, Vermont to Cavendish, Vermont, via a route which includes both underwater and overland sections. In Ludlow, the line will terminate at the proposed converter station, where the electricity will be converted from direct current (“DC”) to alternating current (“AC”), and then enter the ISO-NE grid at the existing Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (“VELCO”) 345 kV Coolidge Substation in Cavendish, Vermont, located approximately 0.6 mile to the south of the proposed converter station.

The underwater portion of the transmission line will enter Lake Champlain in Alburgh, Vermont and exit the lake in Benson, Vermont. The overland cable route will be installed underground

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within existing rights-of-way (e.g. roads, railroad) in 13 towns in Grand Isle, Rutland and Windsor Counties.

The Applicant submitted an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on November 7, 2014 requesting an Individual Section 404/Section 10 Permit, pursuant to 33 CFR 325 and is in the process of providing additional information to support that application concurrent with this filing.

The enclosed application and appendices provide detail regarding the proposed Project, existing conditions, water bodies and other natural resources studied, and analyses conducted to determine the extent of potential impacts to water quality. A list of the enclosed appendices is provided along with this permit application submittal. For your convenience, the application materials are included on the enclosed CD ROM. Hardcopies can be provided upon request.

An application fee check for \$20,000 is enclosed, which represents the maximum fee for the 401 WQC.

We appreciate the time spent by yourself and other Agency personnel in providing guidance regarding this application to date. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or require further information regarding the enclosed WQC application or supporting materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey A. Nelson', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey A. Nelson, CPESC, CPSWQ
Director, Energy and Environmental Services

JAN/jkw
Enclosures (CD-Rom)

cc: Billy Coster, VT ANR (cover letter and CD only)
Michael S. Adams, USACE (cover letter)
Josh Bagnato, TDI-NE (cover letter only)
Andy Raubvogel, Attorney (cover letter and CD only)
Sean Murphy, TRC (cover letter only)