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Signed in Washington, DC, on December 1, 2021.

Treena V. Garrett,

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S.
Department of Energy.*

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[OE Docket No. PP- 481-2]

Application To Amend Presidential Permit; CHPE LLC

AGENCY: Office of Electricity,
Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: CHPE LLC (the Applicant) has filed an application to amend Presidential Permit No. PP-481-1. CHPE LLC is requesting the amendment to clarify the maximum electric transmission capacity of the previously permitted facilities.

DATES: Comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be submitted on or before December 22, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Comments or motions to intervene should be addressed to Christopher Lawrence,
Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Lawrence (Program Office) at (202) 586-5260 or by email to *Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov*, or Christopher Drake (Attorney-Adviser) at (202) 586-2919 or by email to *Christopher.Drake@hq.doe.gov*.

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 November 24, 2021, CHPE LLC filed an application with the Office of Electricity of the Department of Energy (DOE), as required by regulations at 10 CFR 205.320 *et seq.*, requesting that DOE amend Presidential Permit No. PP-

481-1 to clarify the maximum electric transmission capacity of the previously permitted facilities.

On October 6, 2014, DOE issued Presidential Permit No. PP-362, authorizing Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. (CHPEI) to construct, operate, maintain, and connect the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project (Project). As described in PP-362, the Project is a 1,000-megawatt (MW), high-voltage direct current (HVDC), underground and underwater merchant transmission system that will cross the United States-Canada international border underwater near the Town of Champlain, New York, extend approximately 336 miles south through New York State, and interconnect to facilities located in Queens County, New York, owned by the Consolidated Edison Company of New York. The aquatic segments of the transmission line will primarily be buried in sediments of Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Harlem, and East rivers. The terrestrial portions of the transmission line will primarily be buried within existing road and railroad rights-of-way (ROW). On July 21, 2020, DOE issued Presidential Permit PP-481 transferring the facilities authorized in PP-362 to CHPE LLC at the request of CHPEI and CHPE LLC.

On April 30, 2021, DOE issued Presidential Permit No. PP-481-1, amending CHPE LLC's permit to incorporate proposed revisions to the Project route and authorizing the increase in the Project's capacity from 1,000 MW to 1,250 MW.

In its Supplemental Request for authorization to increase the Project's capacity from 1,000 MW to 1,250 MW in PP-481-1, CHPE LLC noted that it had "submitted an application request (NYISO Queue Position #887) for an additional 250 MW injection at the Point of Interconnection at the New York Power Authority's Astoria Annex 345 kV substation." The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) evaluated the request via an "Interconnection System Reliability Impact Study for the NYISO Q887: CH Uprate Project" (Interconnection Study) and provided the Interconnection Study to DOE. To gauge the reliability impact of the additional 250 MW injection at the Astoria Annex Substation, the Interconnection Study modeled 1,298 MW of Project withdrawal at the Hertel Substation in Canada to account for expected transmission line losses. In other words, an assumption in the Interconnection Study was that the transmission rate at the U.S.-Canada border would have to be 1,298 MW for 1,250 MW to be injected at the Astoria

Annex Substation more than 300 miles away.

Article 3 of PP-481-1 states, in part, that the "maximum non-simultaneous rate of transmission over the permitted facilities shall not exceed 1,250 MW." On its face, this language limits the Project's authorized capacity such that the Project cannot transmit at a rate greater than 1,250 MW anywhere between the border crossing and the Astoria Annex Substation, and therefore is prohibited from withdrawing approximately 1,298 MW at the Hertel Substation in order to inject 1,250 MW at the Astoria Annex Substation. CHPE LLC requests that DOE amend the Presidential Permit to explicitly state that the Project is authorized to inject 1,250 MW at the point of interconnection at the Astoria Annex Substation. This amendment would account for anticipated line losses and is consistent with the reliability analysis conducted by NYISO. The requested capacity increase to allow 1,250 MW injection at the Astoria Annex Substation is the only requested amendment; no other changes to the permitted facilities as described or analyzed in PP-481-1 are contemplated.

Comments and other filings concerning this application should be clearly marked with OE Docket No. PP-481-2. Consideration of comments is limited to those addressing the subject of the proposed amendment; comments on any part of PP-481-1 will not be considered. Additional copies are to be provided directly to Mr. Donald Jessome, Chief Executive Officer, Transmission Developers Inc., Pieter Schuyler Building, 600 Broadway, Albany, New York 12207-2283, *donald.jessome@transmissiondevelopers.com*, and Jay Ryan, Baker Botts LLP, 700 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, *jay.ryan@bakerbotts.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 will consider the environmental impacts of the proposed action (*i.e.*, granting the Presidential permit or amendment, with any conditions and limitations, or denying the permit), determine the proposed 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 weigh any other factors that DOE may also consider relevant to the public interest. DOE also must obtain the favorable recommendation of the Secretary of

State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

This application may be reviewed or downloaded electronically at <https://www.energy.gov/oe/pending-applications>.

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 2, 2021.

Christopher Lawrence,

Management and Program Analyst, Electricity Delivery Division, Office of Electricity.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Proposed Extension

AGENCY: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: EIA invites public comment on the proposed three-year extension, without change, to the *Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery*, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This generic clearance enables EIA to collect customer and stakeholder feedback from the public on service delivery in an efficient and timely manner to ensure that EIA's programs effectively meet our customers' needs and to collect feedback on improving service delivery to the public.

DATES: EIA must receive all comments on this proposed information collection no later than February 7, 2022. If you anticipate any difficulties in submitting your comments by the deadline, contact the person listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically to Gerson Morales by email at Gerson.Morales@eia.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerson Morales, U.S. Energy Information Administration, telephone (202) 586-7077, or by email at Gerson.Morales@eia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information collection request contains:

(1) *OMB No.:* 1905-0210;
 (2) *Information Collection Request Title:* Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery;

(3) *Type of Request:* Three-year extension without change;

(4) *Purpose:* This information collection activity provides a means to collect qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient timely manner, in accordance with the Administration's commitment to improving service delivery. Qualitative feedback means data that provide useful insights on perceptions and opinions but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of the study. This feedback provides insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences, and expectations. It also provides an early warning of issues with service, or focuses attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve the accuracy of data report on survey instruments or the delivery of products or services. These collections allow for ongoing, collaborative, and actionable communications between the agency and its customers and stakeholders. It also allows feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management. EIA will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- Information gathered will be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of the agency;
- Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions;
- Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study;
- The collections are voluntary;
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future; and
- With the exception of information needed to provide remuneration for participants of focus groups and cognitive laboratory studies, personally identifiable information (PII) is

collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained.

If these conditions are not met, EIA will submit an information collection request to OMB for approval through the normal PRA process. The solicitation of feedback on Agency Service Delivery includes topics such as: Timeliness of publishing, understanding of questions and terminology used in EIA products, perceptions on data confidentiality and security, appropriateness and relevancy of information published, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses are assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. Advances in technology and service delivery systems in the private sector, have increased the public's expectations of the Government's customer service promise. The Federal Government has a responsibility to streamline and make more efficient its service delivery to better serve the public.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:* 80,600;

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:* 80,600;

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 8,600;

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* \$702,190 (8,600 annual burden hours multiplied by \$81.65 per hour). EIA estimates that respondents will have no additional costs associated with the surveys other than the burden hours and the maintenance of the information during the normal course of business.

Comments are invited on whether or not: (a) The proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) EIA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used, is accurate; (c) EIA can improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information it will collect; and (d) EIA can minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, such as automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Statutory Authority: Executive Order 12,862 (1993) and Executive Order 13,571 (2011).