

# Response to New York Energy Highway RFI

May 30, 2012

## EDP Renewables North America

Encourage Champlain Wind Link



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**Respondent Information**

EDP Renewables North America LLC (“EDPRNA” – formerly Horizon Wind Energy) and its subsidiaries develop, construct, own, and operate wind farms throughout North America. Based in Houston, Texas, with wind farms and offices across the United States and Canada, EDPR NA has developed more than 3,700 megawatts (MW) and operates over 3,500 MW. EDPRNA’s highly qualified team has a proven capacity to execute projects and achieve goals.

In New York, EDPRNA has had a regional development office in Albany, and has actively developed wind projects since 2001. We currently co-own and operate the 332 MW Maple Ridge wind farm in Lewis County, own and operate the 11 MW Madison Wind Farm in Madison County, and are currently constructing the 215 MW Marble River Wind Farm in Clinton County. Additionally, we have hundreds of mega-watts in the interconnection queue and look forward to constructing more renewable energy projects in New York in the years to come.

EDPRNA has 513 MWs of development projects currently going through the NYISO queue – including 215 MWs of the under-construction Marble River Wind Farm. Additionally, we have considerable possibility of project expansion in these regions. The areas that we are developing wind farms have the necessary land, wind, and community support to be economically competitive; transmission is the largest constraint. As such, EDPRNA’s response to this RFI will be highlighting the transmission solutions we believe that would allow the most amount of new wind generation to be built. EDPRNA has the following wind farms in development:

<b>Project</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>MW</b>
Arkwright Summit Wind Farm	Chautauqua	80
Alabama Ledge Wind Farm	Genessee	80
Rolling Upland Wind Farm	Madison	60
Machias I Wind Farm	Cattaraugus	80

While these are just the projects that are currently in queue, EDPRNA has had to drop 590 MWs of queue positions over the past years due to transmission constraints or due to questions in commercial viability. In total, with the right transmission solutions and commercial opportunities we believe we could develop and construct (including the wind farms above) the projects in the following zones in the near term.

<b>Zone</b>	<b>MWs</b>
A	120
D	200
E	60
F	50

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**Project Proposal:**

Build a 230kV transmission line from Plattsburgh and New Haven, Vermont connecting NYISO and ISONE systems with a capacity of 600 MW. The specifications for this project could be similar to those currently available for the proposed Champlain Wind Link (NYISO queue position 343) or newly developed based upon the results of the Energy Highway RFI. Based upon the most recently updated queue information, this project could be operational as early as 2014.

One potential plan for the proposed project has already been entered into the queue by a reputable transmission company, and it is likely that other such companies would be interested if this project were generally proposed for the NYS Energy Highway. The technology for this project utilizes current methods of transmission construction.

**Project Justification**

This will benefit the State's objectives and goals in the following ways:

**Current Operations:** A 230kV line between Plattsburgh and New Haven would increase the power flow from Zone D and reduce congestion at Willis to Moses 230 KV lines and around Plattsburgh substation. Additionally, the proposed project would increase the reliability of the system by connecting North Country system to Maine. The renewable power can flow from Zone D, into ISONE, and back into NYISO Zone Fin the vicinity of the proposed CARIS upgrades, further improving the usefulness of this project. Additionally, the proposed project would provide alternative ways for the electricity to move to southern New York, reducing Moses South interface congestion and relieving the central east constraints.

**New Generation:** This proposed line could incent hundreds of additional MWs of wind energy in upstate New York in Zone D, and would free up the existing transmission lines to be able to have additional new generation from Zone E.

**Relieves congestion:** This would reduce congestion in Moses and from the north to downstate—and improve the reliability of the north country.

**Adhere to Renewable Portfolio Standard goals:** Not only would this line allow for the build-out of additional megawatts of renewable energy in Zone D to comply with New York's Renewable Portfolio Standard, but it also could allow for the export to ISO-NE for the New England states to meet their RPS goals—providing additional jobs, economic development and opportunity to New York.

**Financial**

As EDPRNA is a generator of power projects and not a transmission operator, we cannot provide detailed analysis of the financial aspects of this project. We would imagine that estimated costs could be provided by National Grid or the New York Power Authority.

**Permit/Approval process**

EDPRNA cannot provide detailed information on the permitting and approval process for these additional projects.

**Other Considerations, if applicable**

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EDPRNA cannot comment on the main issues or challenges this proposal would face.

**Additional Information**

**Property**

EDPRNA suggests a line under Lake Champlain or similar to achieve the most benefits.

**Projected In-Service Date and Project Schedule**

Based upon the most recently updated queue information, this project could be operational as early as 2014.

**Interconnection**

The interconnection point will be the existing Plattsburg and New Heaven substations.

**Technical**

EDPRNA, as a generator of renewable energy, cannot comment on this section.

**Construction**

While EDPRNA cannot comment on the construction of the transmission lines, we can comment on the construction that is incented if this project becomes operational and benefits renewable energy.

EDPRNA is currently constructing the 215 MW Marble River Wind Farm in upstate New York. The NYSERDA bids that we won for the RECs associated with this project for the first ten years had an economic development component for the state of New York. As such, this has encouraged us to use many New York-based companies, who are involved in the entire construction process.

**Operational**

A 230kV line between Plattsburgh and New Haven would increase the power flow from Zone D and reduce congestion at the Willis to Moses 230 KV lines and around Plattsburgh substation. Additionally, the proposed project would increase the reliability of the system by connecting the north country system to Maine. The renewable power can flow from Zone D, into ISONE, and back into NYISO Zone F in the vicinity of the proposed CARIS upgrades, further improving the usefulness of this project. Additionally, the proposed project would provide alternative ways for the electricity to move to southern New York, reducing Mose South interface congestion and relieving i the central east constraints.

**Socio-Economic**

While EDPRNA cannot comment on the socioeconomic benefits of this particular project from a micro level, we can discuss the socioeconomic benefits of our wind projects.

Per the existing NYSERDA bidding process, 70% of the weight assigned to a project is based on price, with the other 30% on the economic development a project can generate. Through rigorous tracking over the construction and first three years of operations, we track the millions (and sometimes tens or hundreds of millions) spent in New York. Our projects increase the tax base of the communities that we are in, and provide millions of revenues in royalties for New York landowners.

**Financial**

EDPRNA is not able to comment on the financial aspects of this project.

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**Environmental**

The enhancement of the energy grid will allow for the deployment of renewable energy will aid in the offset of carbon emissions generated by coal-producing sources. Wetlands, streams, forests and other natural areas can be avoided by properly identifying these natural resources during the design phase, avoiding the resources with proper siting, and utilizing existing disturbed areas to the maximum extent practicable. Certainly, areas will need to be cleared during construction; however, these areas can be restored to pre-existing vegetative states to ensure that minimal permanent disturbance will be realized. Given the minimal footprint of transmission infrastructure, operational impacts will be limited to corridors that will be required for transmission line upkeep. Mitigation measures to these impacts can be offset through acquisition of conservation easements, creation/restoration of wetlands, and mitigation banks.

**Project Contract/Request for Proposal (RFP) Status**

To our knowledge, this project has not been submitted to a New York state agency or authority in response to a Request for Proposal.

**Public Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement**

An organized public outreach campaign describing the nature of the proposed project and seeking public comment and input will allow for stakeholder engagement and buy-in. Similar to the process outlined in the Article X, a written public comment period up to 30 days should allow for the public to express concerns on the record. Issues can be addressed through a formal rebuttal to the comments. A public hearing would also allow for those concerned to publically submit comments as well.

**Conclusion**

EDPRNA appreciates being able to submit this response to the New York Energy Highway RFI, and is available for any follow-up questions on how to best get additional renewable generation online to meet New York's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Whitlock, Executive Vice President



EDP Renewables North America, LLC  
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