

proposed actions. The Draft FR/EIS is currently scheduled for distribution to the public in June 2018.

Dated: November 14, 2017.

**Peter M. Weppler,**

Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch,  
Planning Division.

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of a Public Meeting for The Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study—Brandon Road Draft Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement—Will County, Illinois and Extension of Public Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Public meeting and extension of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Rock Island and Chicago Districts, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), will host a public meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana to discuss the draft report titled The Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study—Brandon Road Draft Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement—Will County, Illinois and receive input regarding this study.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on December 5, 2017, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in New Orleans, Louisiana. USACE is also extending the public comment period for the original notice that published in the **Federal Register** on September 27, 2017 (82 FR 45008) until December 8, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at USACE, New Orleans District, 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70118.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew Leichty, Program Manager, by mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, Clock Tower Building (ATTN: Leichty), P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004, by phone: 309-794-5399; or by email: Andrew.L.Leichty@usace.army.mil.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Web Participation:* A Facebook Live format web audio/video broadcast will be available for the meeting. Visit <http://glmris.anl.gov/brandon-rd/> for details on how to participate in these virtual meetings. Phone and web conference access is as follows: *Phone:* Toll-Free: 877-848-7030, access code 9079541,

security code 1111, *Web Conference URL:* <https://www.webmeeting.att.com>, Meeting number 877-848-7030, Access Code 9079541.

Written comments are accepted until December 8, 2017. Written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

*Mail and Hand Delivery:* to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, ATTN: GLMRIS-Brandon Road Comments, 231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604. Comments must be postmarked by December 8, 2017 *GLMRIS Project Web site:* Use the web comment function found at <http://glmris.anl.gov>.

A Facebook Live participants can use the “Live Chat” feature. However, these comments will not be recorded in the official record.

The draft report/EIS and additional information regarding this meeting can be found at <http://glmris.anl.gov/brandon-rd/>.

**Authority:** This action is being undertaken pursuant to the Water Resources and Development Act of 2007, Section 3061(d), Public Law 110-114 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*, as amended.

Dated: November 15, 2017.

**Andrew Barnes,**

Assistant Chief, Programs and Project Management Division.

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### [OE Docket No 371]

#### Record of Decision for Issuing a Presidential Permit to Northern Pass Transmission LLC for the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project

**AGENCY:** Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its decision to issue a Presidential permit to Northern Pass Transmission LLC (Northern Pass or Applicant) to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S./Canada international border in northern New Hampshire. The potential environmental impacts associated with the transmission line are analyzed in the *Final Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0463). The transmission line would cross the U.S./Canada international border into Pittsburg, NH and extend approximately

192 miles to an existing substation located in Deerfield, NH.

**ADDRESSES:** The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and this Record of Decision (ROD) are available on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Web site at <https://energy.gov/nepa/> and the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project EIS Web site at <http://www.northernpasseis.us/>. The EIS Web site also includes a list of libraries where the final EIS is available for review. Copies of the final EIS and this ROD may be requested by contacting Mr. Brian Mills, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; phone 202-586-8267; email [Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project EIS, contact Mr. Brian Mills as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Executive Order (EO) 10485 (Sept. 3, 1953), as amended by EO 12038 (Feb. 3, 1978), delegates to DOE the authority to issue Presidential permits for the construction, operation, maintenance, or connection of electricity transmission facilities at the U.S. international borders. DOE may issue a permit if it determines that the permit is in the public interest and after obtaining favorable recommendations from the U.S. Departments of State and Defense. In determining whether issuance of a permit would be in the public interest, DOE assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, the potential impact of the proposed project on electric reliability, and any other factors that DOE considers relevant to the public interest. Issuance of a Presidential permit is a Presidential action, carried out by DOE pursuant to delegated Presidential authority. Accordingly, DOE has no legal obligation to prepare an EIS when it considers a Presidential permit application, since NEPA does not apply to acts of the President. Nonetheless, DOE opts to comply with NEPA and other Federal statutes as part of its “public interest” review of Presidential permit applications, pursuant to DOE’s long-standing Presidential permit regulations.

On October 14, 2010, Northern Pass applied to the DOE for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a high voltage direct current (HVDC) electric transmission