



**US Northeast Hydro Region**

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October 30, 2012

**VIA E-FILING**

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Re: TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.; Vernon Project (FERC No. 1904); Notice of Intent to File Application for New License and Pre-Application Document  
CEII Letter – Pre Application Document contains Critical Energy Infrastructure Information**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to Section 15(b)(1) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 808(b)(1), and 18 C.F.R. §§ 5.5 and 5.6, TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. (“TransCanada”), herewith electronically files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) the attached Notice of Intent to File Application for New License (“NOI”) and the Pre-Application Document (“PAD”) for the Vernon Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1902). The current license for the Vernon Project expires on April 30, 2018. This letter references Critical Energy Infrastructure Information found in the PAD and therefore TransCanada respectfully requests FERC to classify the PAD as CEII. A Public version of the PAD, with the CEII material redacted, will be filed with the Commission simultaneously.

In accordance with Sections 5.5(c) and 5.6(a)(1) of the Commission’s regulations (18 C.F.R. §§ 5.5(c) and 5.6(a)(1)), TransCanada is providing copies of the NOI and PAD via email, weblink, U.S. mail or parcel service to appropriate federal and state agencies, Indian tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations and members of the public likely to be interested in the proceeding, as set forth on the attached distribution list. Documents can be downloaded at [www.transcanada-relicensing.com](http://www.transcanada-relicensing.com). In addition, we are providing courtesy paper copies of the NOI and PAD to Commission staff in the Office of Energy Projects, and Office of General Counsel – Energy Projects, as required by the Commission’s filing guidelines.

In accordance with Section 5.5(e) of the Commission’s regulations (18 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)), TransCanada hereby requests the Commission’s authorization for TransCanada to initiate consultation on the Commission’s behalf pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.2(c)(4) of the regulations

implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We understand, however, that the Commission remains ultimately responsible for all findings and determinations.

TransCanada has identified one mussel species (dwarf wedgemussel) at the Vernon Project that is listed under the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) (16 U.S.C. § 1536). In addition, American eel has been identified at the Vernon Project and this species, along with blueback herring (not found at the Vernon Project since 2000), are both currently under review for potential listing under the ESA. Therefore, TransCanada also hereby requests to be designated as the Commission's non-Federal representative for purposes of consultation under section 7 of the ESA and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 C.F.R. Part 402, Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the implementing regulations at 50 C.F.R. § 600.920, should such consultation become necessary in the future.

If there are further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 603-498-2851 or [john\\_ragonese@transcanada.com](mailto:john_ragonese@transcanada.com).

Sincerely,



John L. Ragonese  
FERC License Manager

Attachments: Distribution List  
Notice of Intent  
Preliminary Application Document

cc: Distribution List

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