

NAMRA's Response to Governor Cuomo's proposal to import more Canadian hydropower and build a transmission corridor from Canada to New York

May 27, 2020

Governor Cuomo yesterday promoted a \$3 billion power corridor to bring electricity from megadams 1,200 miles away in Canada to New York City as a way to jump start the economy. The project, the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) transmission corridor, will not deliver jobs or clean energy.

Instead CHPE will line the pockets of private corporations and the Canadian government. The electricity will be generated in Canada by state-owned monopolies with a track record of environmental destruction and human rights abuses. CHPE is a greenwashing, get rich scheme by Blackstone Group (BX) www.blackstone.com a \$500 billion multinational private equity firm that rose from the ashes of Lehman Brothers. In 2019, Blackstone's CEO Stephen Schwarzman took home \$568 million in compensation

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-01/blackstone-s-schwarzman-collects-568-million-in-dividends-pay>

Blackstone is in private talks with Mayor DeBlasio for a contract for the Canadian electricity and looking for public financing to help out Blackstone.

<https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2019/10/24/new-york-city-may-finance-power-line-in-push-for-quebec-hydro-1225983>

CHPE's power is likely to cost New York City more than locally generated and distributed renewable electricity. The City must establish a transparent procurement process for this \$3 billion project that will impact the pocketbook of every New Yorker.

CHPE will create only 26 direct, full-time jobs for New Yorkers.

Source: 2014 Environmental Impact Statement:

Impacts from Operations, Maintenance, and Emergency Repairs

Approximately 26 direct, full-time employees would be hired to operate the proposed CHPE Project; of this total, 21 employees would be located in the New York City metropolitan area. A negligible number of indirect jobs could also be created for maintenance inspections and possible emergency repairs that, if needed, would be conducted by contractors. Considering the low number of jobs that would be created, the existing workforce within the project area would be able to meet the employment and housing demands of the proposed CHPE Project.

CHPE will create at most 300 temporary construction jobs over 4 years; at \$3 billion for the corridor, that is \$10 million per job.

Impacts from Construction

Over the approximated 4-year construction period, the proposed CHPE Project would result in an estimated average 300 direct construction jobs. Additionally produced indirect and induced jobs would be associated with supplying materials and providing other services for construction of the proposed CHPE Project.

CHPE is a bad deal for New Yorkers. They will export their energy dollars to the Quebec Government and lose opportunities to create local, real, living wage, permanent jobs. Governor Cuomo should put people before profits in choosing infrastructure projects to restart the economy.

Take Action:

- Sign NAMRA's petition calling on politicians in the Northeast US to reject Canadian hydropower.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/reject-canadian-hydropower-a-human-rights-and-environmental-disaster/>

- Call Governor Cuomo now (1-518-474-8390) and tell him to keep jobs and energy dollars local: reject the CHPE corridor!

- Visit NAMRA's website to learn more and get involved!
(www.northeastmegadamresistance.org)