

HUDSON RIVER SAFETY, NAVIGATION & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

January 8, 2021

RE: Steering Committee Resolution on Utilities Infrastructure within the Hudson River

Hello:

The Hudson River Safety, Navigation & Operations Committee (HRSNOC) was formed in 2018 in order to provide a forum to facilitate outcomes that enhance and promote safety of property and personnel, environmental protection and operational effectiveness unique to the Hudson River Region and its associated activities. The HRSNOC Steering Committee is made up of ten member organizations that are representative of the varied private Hudson River stakeholders. Our Steering Committee works closely with HRSNOC government agency members, including the U.S Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA and various New York State agencies in a harbor safety committee framework that has served many other ports and waterways around the country for decades.

The Champlain Hudson Power Express Project, if developed, will have a significant impact on the Hudson River. Many transmission cables cross the Hudson River but this will be the first to follow the bottom of the Hudson River lengthwise. The project permits require the cable to be routed in more than twenty feet of water depth which puts the cable in the areas that large commercial vessels operate in.

The Steering Committee is concerned with the potential navigational and environmental risks associated with this project. Since commercial vessels must anchor from time to time, improper cable burial routing and/or burial depth increases the risk of an anchor being fouled by the cable or, in an effort to avoid the buried cable, could influence the decision of the mariner in a situation where deploying the anchor may be necessary. The attached resolution was adopted by the voting members of the Hudson River Safety, Navigation & Operations Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

Captain Ian Corcoran
Chair, HRSNOC/President, Hudson River Pilots' Association
(718) 815-4316

HUDSON RIVER SAFETY, NAVIGATION & OPERATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Hudson River Safety, Navigation and Operations Committee has concluded that commercial vessels must be able to safely anchor in the Hudson River as may on occasion be required;

WHEREAS certain entities have applied to various regulatory agencies for permits to place structures such as cables and/or pipelines on or below the bed of the Hudson River in areas which may create a hazard to safe navigation by impeding a commercial vessel in its ability to safely anchor when required; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hudson River Safety, Navigation and Operations Committee shall advise the regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over permitting the placement of structures such as cables and pipelines on or under the bed of the Hudson River of its deep concerns that the placement of structures of any type only be permitted in a way that will insure the ability of commercial vessels to anchor in the Hudson River in a manner that will ensure the safety of the vessel, crew, cargo, other vessels and local communities.

