Docket No. \_\_\_\_ Exh. TDI-JMB-16b



October 28, 2014

Mr. Robert Creller Chair, Select Board Town of Alburgh 1 North Main Street Alburgh, Vermont 05440

Dear Mr. Creller,

I hope this letter finds you well. The purpose of this letter is to summarize TDI-New England's (TDI-NE) proposed New England Clean Power Link Project (NECPL), as we have discussed, and to ask for the Town of Alburgh Select Board's preliminary support of the project.

The proposed project is a high voltage direct current electric transmission line that would import 1,000 MW of clean, reliable, cost-competitive power to Vermont and New England. The proposed line would run along an underwater and underground route for 154 miles from the Canadian border to a new a converter station that TDI-NE would build in Ludlow, VT. In the Town of Alburgh, the cables would be buried along Bay Road for approximately 0.3 miles and for 0.2 miles on land TDI-NE owns on Bay Road before entering Lake Champlain via a Horizontal Directional Drill.

TDI-NE would use a minimally invasive open trench method to install two, approximately 5 inch diameter cables, along with a fiber optic line to monitor the cables, at a depth of approximately four feet within Bay Road's existing right-of-way.

TDI-NE has consulted with the Town on the installation means and methods and has, and will continue to design the project based on the Town's input. After installation of the line, Bay Road will be restored to the same or better condition. Preliminary engineering details have been developed and made available during recent public meetings and via e-mail to the Town. TDI-NE understands that it will need to provide more detailed information at a later stage for the Town to fully assess the project.

TDI NE has conducted significant and broad outreach to communities along the route of the proposed line and it appreciates the opportunities we've had to discuss this project with your Town and the Select Board. In addition, we've had multiple conversations with interested Alburgh citizens including several homeowners along Bay Road. We held a well-attended Open House in the Town Offices on August 28, 2014, providing us an opportunity to explain the project and to answer town residents' questions. Of course, we continue to be available to discuss the project with anyone who may be interested in learning more about it.

The Town of Alburgh would directly benefit from the new, annual property taxes it would receive from the project. The cost to install the cables is estimated to be about \$5 million per mile. TDI-NE is also committed to using qualified Vermont-based construction workers to assist in building the project.



On a broader level, the Clean Power Link will bring many benefits throughout the region. These include: lower, more stable power prices to help consumers and fuel the economy; reduced emissions to help fight climate change; major new property tax revenue to host towns; significant construction jobs; new permanent jobs created by project operations and the indirect effect of lower energy prices; buried electric infrastructure that helps protect the cables against natural disasters; and NECPL's ability to quickly restart the electric grid in the event of a blackout.

TDI-NE appreciates the Town's consideration of this request. We look forward to continuing to work with the Town as the project design advances.

Sincerely,

Josh Bagnato Project Manager

**New England Clean Power Link** 

The Town of Alburgh Select Board hereby provides its preliminary support to TDI New England in support of its proposed New England Clean Power Link.

By:

**Robert Creller** 

Chair, Town of Alburgh Select Board

Robert Celly