

\$1B project would bury powerline under Hudson

80-mile line could power a million homes

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A \$1 billion project proposed to run through the region would bury an 80-mile power line beneath the Hudson River to bring more power to the New York metro area.

West Point Partners, LLC, based in Fairfield, Conn., plans to file an application this month with the state Public Service Commission to lay the high-voltage power cord from Athens in Greene County down to Buchanan in Westchester County.

The line would bring 1,000 megawatts, enough to power about 1 million homes, with a potential for 1,000 megawatts more, through a direct current, 18-inch-diameter line. The company hopes to have it online by late 2016 or 2017.

Except for connections at two substations that would convert the AC power to DC power on either end of the line, it would be completely buried beneath the Hudson River bed or adjacent land, said Chris Hocker, vice president of planning for West Point Partners.

"The whole idea is to increase flow from upstate to downstate," said Hocker.

This isn't the first underwater extension-cord project making its way through our region. The \$2.2 billion Champlain Hudson Power Express project would also go beneath the Hudson and bring power from Quebec to the New York area. It's been approved by the state Public Service Commission.

The project also comes as operating licenses for two nuclear reactors in Westchester's Indian Point are set to expire in 2013 and 2015. The West Point Partners project would connect, if approved, right beneath Indian Point's nose in Buchanan.

The project also fits into Gov. Andrew Cuomo's plan to build an "energy highway" system that he touched on in his 2012 State of the State address. Cuomo's said he wants to close Indian Point, which provides 25 percent of New York City's power.

Hocker said Indian Point's fate doesn't matter when it comes to his company's project.

"Our facility would be beneficial regardless of the fate of Indian Point," said Hocker.

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