



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

January 17, 2025

Dear Interested Parties:

In December 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Grid Deployment Office (GDO) received an application from the Caribbean Transmission Development Co., LLC (CTDC) for a Presidential Permit for CTDC's Project Hostos. A Presidential Permit, if approved, would allow CTDC to construct, connect, operate, and maintain electric transmission facilities at the international border between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. This letter explains CTDC's proposal and how DOE will make a decision on CTDC's Presidential permit application.

You are receiving this letter because you are near the project's proposed location for new construction in Mayagüez. You are invited to submit comments to DOE to help inform DOE's review and attend one of two virtual public meetings on **Tuesday, February 4** or **Wednesday, February 5 from 6PM to 7PM AST**.

CTDC's Proposal

The proposed project, called Project Hostos, would cross the Mona Passage underwater and make landfall in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, near the Sila Maria Calderón Port. Project Hostos would also include the construction of underground transmission lines in the Mayagüez area, a new converter station near the Mayagüez Landfill on Calle Camino Cuba, and a connection with the grid at the Mayagüez substation. The land portion of Project Hostos, which would link the subsea cable to new transmission facilities, may involve construction within or near wetlands or the 100-year floodplain. If approved for a Presidential Permit and all other necessary federal, territory, and local permits, CTDC expects to begin construction on Project Hostos in early 2027 and is targeting commercial operation in 2030.

DOE's Analysis

Before DOE can grant a Presidential permit that authorizes CTDC to proceed with Project Hostos, DOE must determine that issuing the permit is consistent with the public interest. To make that determination, DOE will consider, among other things, the environmental impacts of the project. DOE will also determine the project's impact on reliability of the U.S. electric grid.

DOE determined, based on review of the permit application and more detailed information gathered since the application was submitted, that there is currently insufficient information to determine the significance of the potential environmental

impacts of Project Hostos. As a result, DOE is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which will help DOE assess potential environmental impacts from the proposed action, the range of reasonable alternatives, and whether to prepare a Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact (FONSI) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If DOE determines that an EIS is needed, DOE will issue a notice of intent to prepare an EIS but may not conduct additional scoping meetings.

#### Collecting Public Comment on CTDC's Proposal

DOE is conducting public scoping as part of the NEPA process, during which DOE requests that the general public and other entities identify issues and alternatives that will help DOE define the scope of its environmental assessment. We are asking for your comments to help determine the issues that should be addressed in the environmental assessment and whether an EA is the appropriate level of analysis or if an EIS is required. We are also soliciting feedback from the public on potential impacts to historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

#### **Virtual Meetings**

DOE will host two virtual meetings to provide an opportunity for interested parties to learn more about CTDC, to learn more about DOE's environmental analysis, and to submit comments. The meetings will be hosted online, via Zoom, on **Tuesday, February 4** and **Wednesday, February 5 from 6PM to 7PM AST**.

You can register for the meeting here: <https://tinyurl.com/ProjectHostos>

Meeting materials and other project information is available online, at the following address: <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doeea-2286-project-hostos-presidential-permit-puerto-rico>

#### **Submit Your Comments**

If you're unable to attend a virtual meeting, you may also submit comments via:

- **Email:** [CTDC.NEPA@hq.doe.gov](mailto:CTDC.NEPA@hq.doe.gov)
- **Mail:** U.S. Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Suite 4H-065, Washington, DC 20585
- **Voicemail:** (786) 671-1496

Please submit your comments by 11:59pm AST on February 25, 2025, and reference "Project Hostos" in your correspondence.

**Your participation and comments will help shape the scope and content of DOE's environmental assessment.**

If you have questions regarding the environmental assessment process, the Presidential permit process, or CTDC's Project Hostos, please contact DOE at the methods listed above. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

Bryan Palacio  
NEPA Document Manager  
Grid Deployment Office

Enclosure – Vicinity Map