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**Action Plan contracted for Coos Loop Transmission Lines**

CONCORD, N.H., April 29, 2010 – The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) is pleased to announce the selection and contract approval of KEMA, Inc to develop an Action Plan and Cost Allocation Methodology to address the upgrade of transmission lines in Coos County to encourage additional development of renewable energy generation.

The \$189,800 contract is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s State Energy Programs – Feasibility Studies, and is coordinated on behalf of the North Country Transmission Commission. Through a competitive Request-for-Proposal and interview process working with the North Country Transmission Commission (NCTC), KEMA was selected from six proposals, and was approved on April 28, 2010 by Governor Lynch and the Executive Council.

Project tasks include meeting with a wide range of stakeholders to review the challenges and opportunities of transmission cost allocation and developing the action plan to pay for the upgrade of the transmission system. The plan anticipates the integration of an additional 400 megawatts of new renewable energy generation on the Coos Loop.

OEP Director, Joanne Morin said, “This action plan will give us a fair and objective plan to move forward. We anticipate a lot of progress once this plan is complete. This upgrade project will cost about \$150 million, and we want to make sure that the NCTC understands all the funding options, locally, regionally, nationally, before a decision is finalized.”

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