

State of Maine
Department of Environmental Protection
And
Land Use Planning Commission

In the Matter of: Central Maine Power Company New England Clean Energy Connect
Application for Site Location of Development Act and Natural Resources Protection Act Permits

Pre-Filed Direct Testimony of Mike Novello

As interveners in CMP's NECEC transmission line project permit, we contest the inclusion of photos and photo simulations from private lands, including those from our managed property, taken without our consent. This project will pass through several miles of private working forests, which only allow public recreational access at the sole discretion of the individual landowners. Based on recent public comments regarding the NECEC project, it is apparent this access privilege is misunderstood by many in the public. We ask you to not encourage this misunderstanding by considering photos or simulations from viewpoints that occur on private land.

There are several examples within the applicant's visual assessment that included photos and subsequent simulations from vantage points occurring within our client's ownership in The Forks. In Appendix B Map 3, photos 3-36 and 3-37 were taken from our client's property on Mosquito Mountain, without our consent. The photographer utilized a hiking trail that is under no formal agreement nor maintained by any recognized organized group. The consultant's assessment of this mountain as a regional resource is very subjective – it is promoted primarily by local rafting companies looking for additional activities for their customers. Photos 3-38 (Mosquito Pond's unauthorized boat put in) and 3-39 (log yard on private logging road) were also taken on our client's land. Again, neither of these photos had our consent to be used in this permit application, nor do they seem pertinent to the application. In Appendix D, photo simulations 16 and 17 both improperly utilize Mosquito Mountain photos from our client's ownership perspective to evaluate scenic character impact.

To consider the scenic character from private lands simply because the public has traditionally been allowed to recreate on them is an inappropriate and troubling precedent. We strongly believe that regulators should not be considering views from any private land or private roads in evaluating whether or not the CMP project will have an adverse effect on scenic character.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dated: February 25, 2019

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New Hampshire
Grafton County

The above-named Mike Novello, did affirm that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.



Notary Public

JOHN G. SOBETZER My Commission expires
Notary Public-New Hampshire
My Commission Expires: December 23, 2019