

THE STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

APPLICATION FOR SITE LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT ACT PERMIT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT PERMIT
FOR THE NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT
FROM QUÉBEC-MAINE BORDER TO LEWISTON
AND RELATED NETWORK UPGRADES

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
CARRIE CARPENTER

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

TESTIMONY OF CARRIE CARPENTER

1 **Please state your name and address.**

2 My name is Carrie Carpenter and I live at 336 Beech Hill Road in Norridgewock,
3 Maine.

4 **What is the name of your organization and business address?**

5 I am submitting this testimony on my own behalf.

6 **What is your current position?**

7 I am a massage therapist.

8 **What other occupations have you had in the greater Forks area?**

9 Previously, I worked as a dishwasher, server, dining room manager, bartender and a
10 whitewater rafting guide.

11 **Why did you intervene in these proceedings?**

12 The purpose of my testimony is to express my concerns regarding the New England
13 Clean Energy Connect Project. I am 43 years old and I have lived in Somerset
14 County my entire life. While my primary residence is in Norridgewock, I spend a
15 significant amount of time at my camp in East Moxie Township, located on the east
16 shore of Moxie Pond. It looks directly across the pond towards the existing
17 transmission line. The current poles are just below or at the tree line and are not
18 visible from my camp. Even a small increase in pole height would make them
19 visible. There are 29 camps on the eastern shore of Moxie Pond, most with the same
20 direct line of sight to the transmission line.

21 The scenic quality of my property in East Moxie, like so many other properties in the
22 area, contributes greatly to its value and enjoyment. Our camp is small and rustic

1 with no indoor plumbing and only seasonal running water. The property is difficult
2 to access and, in the winter, the last 7 miles in are a snowmobile trail. We go there to
3 enjoy the view and for the sense of escape the view provides. When it's too cold to
4 go outside in the winter, I sit inside the camp and gaze out at the unobstructed
5 landscape. Some early summer mornings while others are still sleeping, my teenage
6 nephew sits alone out-front staring silently at the panorama. Experiencing that view
7 is restorative, spiritual, maybe even religious for some. If that view is marred by
8 transmission lines it will completely change our camp experience. All of the work it
9 takes to get to camp may no longer be worth making the trip. Spending less time at
10 our camp means all of the stores we frequent for supplies in Skowhegan, Solon,
11 Bingham, West Forks and Jackman will lose our business and the business of our
12 guests. Camp improvements are currently on hold as we wait on the decision
13 regarding NECEC. The local people we would hire to complete those improvements
14 will not get the work, which is another negative hit to the local economy.
15 If NECEC is approved and we decide to sell our camp, we will likely take a
16 significant loss. Trulia says "An unobstructed view would be priceless to some
17 buyers, and you could expect that to be reflected in the market value of your home.
18 When preparing a marketing plan to sell your house, your realtor will emphasize the
19 value and benefit of the view as one of its selling points¹." Our property
20 would lose that value.
21 The many camps on the other side of the lake which abut the powerline would also
22 lose value. The Home Guide of SF Gate says *proximity to power lines may lower a*

¹https://www.trulia.com/voices/Home_Buying/HOW_MUCH_VALUE_CAN_YOU_ADD_TO_YOUR_HOME_FOR_AN_UNO-10902 (last visited February 27, 2019)

1 *property's value by as much as 30%.*² This is due not only to aesthetics, but
2 also to concerns of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF), Noise and Light Impacts, and Stray
3 Voltage.

4 The unmarred landscape is vital to the economy of western and northern Somerset
5 County. Thousands of people go there to recreate because of its natural beauty, its
5 wildlife and the true backwoods experiences this region offers. The Wisconsin
6 Public Service Commission³ says transmission lines can negatively affect recreation
7 areas by 1). Discouraging potential users of recreational areas whose activities
8 depend on the aesthetics of natural surroundings (e.g., backpackers, canoers, hikers);
9 and 2). Altering the types of wildlife found in an area by creating more edge
10 habitat or additional mortality risks to birds.

11 NECEC would change our natural world forever and rob an entire region of its
12 identity.

13 “The natural landscape and visual quality of a community provide it with a sense of
14 pride and individuality, setting it apart from other places. Special vistas, views and
15 scenic areas contribute significantly to the quality of life, add to the value of
16 property, and enhance the desirability and livability of a community. People respond
17 positively to places that are visually appealing because an extremely high percent of
18 human sensory experience is visual. When development occurs on or in the vicinity
19 of a well-recognized landmark or outstanding view, it can have a dramatic effect
20 upon whether people still consider that place special.” (New Hampshire Office of

² <https://homeguides.sfgate.com/much-power-lines-lower-real-estate-value-2979.html> (last visited February 27, 2019)

³ <https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/Brochures/Environmental%20Impacts%20TL.pdf> (last visited February 27, 2019)

- 1 Energy and Planning, Technical Bulletin 10)⁴
- 2 Please speak for me and others in the territories your committee serves to represent
- 3 and say “NO” to NECEC. Thank you!

⁴ <https://www.cherryhillsvillage.com/DocumentCenter/View/140/Appendix-F---01-NH-Office-of-Energy-and-Planning---Preservation-of-Scenic-Areas-and-Viewsheds-PDF> (last visited February 27, 2019)

Date: 2/22/19

Respectfully submitted,

By: Carrie L. Carpenter
Print Name: Carrie L. Carpenter

STATE OF Maine
COUNTY OF Somerset

Personally appeared before me on the above-named Carrie L. Carpenter, who being duly sworn, did testify that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Before me,

Cynthia Kirk
Notary Public/ Attorney at Law

My Commission expires _____

