

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

and

STATE OF MAINE
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY)
NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT)
#L-27625-26-A-N/#L-27625-TG-B-N/)
#L-27625-2C-C-N/#L-27625-VP-D-N/)
#L-27625-IW-E-N)

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY)
NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT)
SITE LAW CERTIFICATION SLC-9)
Beattie Twp, Lowelltown Twp, Skinner Twp,)
Appleton Twp, T5 R7 BKP WKR,)
Hobbstown Twp, Bradstreet Twp,)
Parlin Pond Twp, West Forks Plt, Moxie Gore,)
The Forks Plt, Bald Mountain Twp, Concord Twp)

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
EDWARD A. BARRETT

February 28, 2019

Edward A. Barrett being duly sworn submits this pre-filed testimony as follows:

1. I have a B.A. Degree and an M.A. Degree in Political Science from the University of Dayton. I have worked in various capacities in municipal governments for over 40 years. I was City Manager in Bangor for over 20 years. I was appointed City Administrator in Lewiston in January 2010. I am a member of the International City Management Association and the Maine Town and City Management Association.
2. The City of Lewiston intervened in support of this project because its direct and indirect economic benefits will be substantial both in the City of Lewiston and throughout the State.

3. The City will be most substantially and directly affected by the proposed project because the proposal is to construct a converter station within the City to convert direct current to alternating current and to install new transmission lines and upgrade existing transmission lines within the community. The anticipated investment in Lewiston is estimated to be in excess of \$250 million. This investment will substantially expand the City's tax base with profound beneficial effects. Based on FY 2016 data, Lewiston's assessed value per capital was \$60,690 by far the lowest among Maine's ten largest municipalities where the average is over \$114,000 per capita. Using U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2017 population estimates and Maine Revenue Service 2018 data, Lewiston's per capita assessed value was approximately \$61,728, still the lowest of any of the ten largest cities in Maine. At the same time, the community's median household income (\$39,890) is only about 75% of Maine's overall (\$53,024) and the City's poverty rate of 21.4% is 93% higher than Maine's poverty rate of 11.1%.
4. Lewiston's per capita operating expenses were the lowest among the ten largest Maine cities at only \$903 per capita as against an average of \$1,248. Despite the low per capita operating expenses, the City's low assessed value mathematically results in a high and burdensome municipal tax rate, particularly in light of the City's low median income and high poverty rates. After completion of the project, beginning in 2023, Lewiston anticipates receiving approximately \$8.39 million in additional revenue that is badly needed to meet the community's public service needs while also reducing the property tax burden.
5. In recent years, Lewiston has welcomed a significant number of immigrants and refugees, most of whom are not native English speakers. Many of these new members of the community understandably need additional support and educational and social services to adjust to their new lives here in Maine. Likewise, about two-thirds of the students in Lewiston schools come from economically challenged backgrounds with one-third present or former English language learners. The additional tax revenues are sorely needed to address these needs and will be of enduring value in our community.
6. Evidence in the PUC proceedings forecasts, on average, over 1,600 direct, indirect and induced Maine jobs each year during the six-year development and construction period and an annual average of 291 jobs to be added during the operations period from 2023 to 2037. Because the new converter station will be constructed and operated in Lewiston, a significant proportion of those jobs will be in and near Lewiston and will generate additional economic activity rippling through our community.
7. There is no serious basis for supposing that the demand for energy in the coming decades will be less, and there is every reason to forecast that it will be greater. This project adds capacity to the New England Grid which can only result in benefits in terms of availability, wholesale cost, and retail cost of electric energy in Lewiston and throughout


Maine. Lewiston itself is a significant user of electricity, and any reduction in the City's expenditures for electricity will further benefit the community.

8. Overall, construction of the project as proposed will generate substantial, direct and indirect benefits to the City of Lewiston itself and to the community it serves. Those benefits are in the form of materially improved municipal tax revenues as a consequence of increased municipal valuation, new jobs introducing additional money into the community, which in turn ripples through the economy and strengthens our community, and improvements in the reliability, availability, and cost of electric energy for the City itself and to facilitate the City's efforts at economic development.
9. Given these benefits, it is my opinion that, if and to the extent that the Project has any adverse effect on any existing scenic, aesthetic, or recreation uses, any such effect will not be unreasonable.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

2-28-15


Edward A. Barrett

STATE OF


Maine

COUNTY OF

Kennebec

February 28, 2019

The above-named Edward A. Barrett personally appeared before me and gave oath that the pre-filed testimony herein above is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.


Notary Public

Bar No. 4396

My commission expires: Aug. 31, 2019