

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

and

**STATE OF MAINE
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF:

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY)
25 Municipalities, 13 Townships/Plantations,)
7 Counties)

L-27625-26-A-N)
L-27625-TB-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)

) APPLICATION FOR SITE LOCATION OF
) DEVELOPMENT ACT PERMIT AND
) NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION
) ACT PERMIT FOR THE NEW ENGLAND
) CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT

**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF GARNETT ROBINSON OF
PRE-FILE TESTIMONY OF ROBERT MEYERS (GROUP 3)**

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

2 My name is Garnett Robinson, and my mailing address is PO Box 82, Dixmont, Maine 04932. I
3 own property located at 331 Moosehead Trail, Dixmont, ME 04932.

4 **Q. Did you provide your general qualifications in your Pre-file Testimony?**

5 Yes, I did. Please refer to my pre-file testimony and resume.

6 **Q: What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

7 A: The purpose of my testimony is to address/rebut the Testimony of Robert Meyers,
8 Executive Director of the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA).

9 **Q. What have you reviewed to prepare this testimony?**

10 A: I reviewed the following:

- 11 1. Pre-Filed Direct Testimony of Robert Meyers dated February 28, 2019, Exhibit IG3-3
12 2. Various Websites.

13 **Q. Can you detail any concerns, if any, that you have with Mr. Meyers testimony?**

14 A. I do have concerns. I believe Mr. Meyers knowingly misrepresented the position of the
15 MSA membership. It is clear from sections 1 and 2 of Mr. Meyers' pre-file testimony that he is
16 the head of a large association made up of many different clubs, each of which have many
17 members. It appears that he has presented his opinion to be representative of the club membership
18 despite never having polled members as to what experiences or sites draw them to areas, or what
19 values are important to members, or if the members actually support the proposed NECEC
20 Corridor; a polling process which other large public organizations did undertake. For example, the
21 Sportsman Alliance of Maine (SAM) which, after doing so, rescinded its support of NECEC. The
22 failure to poll members and the position taken by Mr. Meyers is one of the reasons I and others
23 dropped our membership/subscription to Maine Snowmobiler.

1 In section 4 of his testimony, Mr. Meyers stats: “In my opinion, the predominant attitude of the
2 Association’s membership with respect to construction of the currently proposed transmission line
3 would be indifference or support, with little or no opposition.” Mr Meyers knew this to be untrue
4 and in fact contradicted this position in public statements to reporter Fred Bever for an article on
5 Maine Public (See Exhibit 1). In brief, the article reports that Mr. Meyers says:

6 [H]e’s seen contention in the group before, as when a development called Plum Creek was
7 proposed for the Moosehead Lake region. But that this year’s contention over the CMP
8 project has a certain edge. ‘This is literally the first time we’ve had somebody say ‘I don’t
9 like what you’re doing so much I’m going to quit,’ ”

10 This article aired/appeared after John Willard, a prominent MSA member and owner of the
11 Birches on Moosehead Lake, and numerous other MSA members testified in opposition to
12 NECEC before the PUC. They openly declared they would be dropping their membership to
13 MSA after a MSA spokesperson testified on behalf of the association in support of the project.
14 Mr. Meyer’s sworn testimony “with little or NO opposition” cannot be truthful given his
15 acknowledgment in public statements that the project is a subject of controversy within the
16 membership.

17 In addition to publicly acknowledging that the membership is not in fact in agreement with the
18 position Mr. Meyers expressed in his pre-file testimony, he has been actively trying to squelch the
19 voices of members in opposition to the project. Former MSA members, Monica Russ McCarthy
20 and her husband Steve McCarthy were asked to leave the MSA’s Maine Snowmobile Show
21 because they were wearing “Say No to the NECEC corridor” shirts. (See Exhibit 2).

22 In sum, Mr. Meyers pre-file testimony on behalf of the MSA asserting “little or no opposition” to
23 NECEC is not truthful.

1 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

2 Yes, it does.

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Date: 3/12/2019

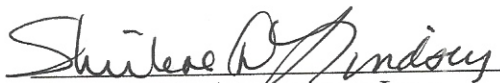
Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Print Name: Garnett Robinson

STATE OF Maine
COUNTY OF Penobscot

Personally appeared before me the above-named Garnett Robinson, who being duly sworn, did testify that the testimony submitted in the above captioned proceeding was true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Before me,


Notary Public/ Attorney at Law
My Commission expires _____

SHIRLENE D. LINDSEY NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MAINE MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JANUARY 7, 2025

<https://www.mainepublic.org/post/some-maine-outdoorsmen-are-worried-about-potential-impact-cmp-transmission-line>

Some Maine Outdoorsmen Are Worried About The Potential Impact Of The CMP Transmission Line

By Fred Bever • Oct 25, 2018

When a representative of the Maine Snowmobile Association praised the new project at a public hearing last week, some members dissented.

Some snowmobilers and hunters in Maine are raising their voices against the high-voltage transmission line that Central Maine Power wants to string through western Maine in order to bring electricity to Massachusetts. The Maine Snowmobilers Association (MSA) is contending with dissent in its ranks, while the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine is reconsidering its initial endorsement of the project.

CMP's website for the project highlights endorsements from a variety of groups, from Gov. Paul LePage to the state Chamber of Commerce and a grab-bag of host communities. It also includes an endorsement from the state's premier hunting and gun rights advocacy group, the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine (SAM).

"That was months and months ago," says David Trahan, SAM's executive director. "It's become quite controversial."

Trahan says his board's initial endorsement vote was not unanimous, but given what seemed like the project's inevitability and a longstanding relationship with CMP that enhanced hunters' access to the woods, early support was warranted.

"Initially it looked like, with the governor's support, things seemed to be on greased skids to be completed and done," he says. "As more stuff has come up, more members have reached out to us and said 'what are we going to do here?'"

Trahan says that as CMP has provided more information to the state, and as the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife staff have raised concerns about ecosystem impacts, SAM's members have

become more concerned. They are worried about issues such as damage to winter deer yards and buffers for pristine habitat for native trout.

Those concerns have long been voiced by SAM's former executive director, George Smith.

"They don't care about our native brook trout," Smith says. "They were going to put these things 20 feet from the water, and they moved them back a little bit, but not nearly enough. And we have all the native brook trout in lakes and ponds left in this country. So this is a very important resource."

SAM is now sending a survey to its 8,000 members to get a better tally of their views on the project.

The snowmobiling community, meanwhile, also has a long-standing partnership with CMP, which provides riders access to hundreds of miles of powerline corridor. But when a representative of the Maine Snowmobile Association praised the new project at a public hearing last week, some members dissented.

Tania Merette of Long Pond Township says she was an MSA member but, "I will be rescinding my membership. I was one of those business members, I was one of those snowmobile members. So there's one less of each of those. And I ride those trails a lot."

A handful of other project opponents also say they are terminating their MSA memberships. And others, like Pete Dostie, say that they may stay in the organization, but will work against the project. Dostie's built miles of snowmobile trail on and around Coburn Mountain, and he says that CMP's plan to run the transmission line over a saddle in that mountain will ruin the outdoors experience there, harming area businesses that depend on winter snow-travelers.

"If you lose those trails or have these massive wires going basically around it like a horseshoe, we won't be able to get to it for two years for construction, and essentially after that it'll be... 'who wants to drive ten hours from New Jersey to be back in New Jersey?' They'll just find somewhere else to go and we'll lose that," Dostie says.

MSA Executive Director Bob Myers says he's seen contention in the group before, as when a development called Plum Creek was proposed for the Moosehead Lake region. But this year's contention over the CMP project has a certain edge.

"This is literally the first time we've had somebody say 'I don't like what you're doing so much I'm going to quit,'" he says.

Myers says the organization's 12,000 "family" memberships represent a diverse set of views on the issue. But the board, he says, emphasizes CMP's history of cooperation with snowmobilers and the importance of its trails for traversing the state, no matter what one thinks of their aesthetics.

"On a more basic level, they're a landowner, and it's our tendency to support landowners because they are the people that provide the access for our trails around the state," says Myers.

CMP has seen erosion in public support over the last couple of months. Five towns have voted to oppose the project — even though initially their local or county governments had endorsed it — and more votes in other towns are expected. The four candidates for governor have raised concerns about the project, and none of them has endorsed it.

CMP spokesperson John Carroll argues that the project provides a conduit for renewable hydro-electricity from Canada into New England, a positive step against global warming that, he says, outdoor enthusiasts should applaud.

"If we don't have good reliable long winters, if we don't have a reliable snowpack, if we see radical changes in our forest type that climate change affects everything about Maine, sportsmen as well as everyone else will be affected by it," Carroll says.

But some environmental groups say the project will not result in a reduction in greenhouse gases. Last week CMP filed its proposal to mitigate the project's ecosystem impacts. That includes the donation of more than 2000 acres of land to the state, and paying more than \$4 million into a state fund that can identify and secure other wildlife habitat.

Originally published 3:43 p.m. Oct. 25

Facebook , Public Group, Say NO to NECEC, Post October 19, 2018;

https://www.facebook.com/groups/279944929428517/search/?query=Maine%20Snowmobile%20Association&epa=SEARCH_BOX



Monica Russ McCarthy

October 19, 2018

Here's Bob Myers, Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) Executive Director, and another MSA rep trying to throw Steve McCarthy and me out of the snowmobile show at the Augusta Civic Center tonight. I didn't get the Civic Center staff person in the photo but they got staff to come to The Birches booth (where we were leaving the literature they requested) to remove us from the building. We weren't doing anything wrong, just wearing our shirts, and we said we'd leave if the police removed us so they finally backed off. Shortly before that, Steve had gone outside to get some more literature when he was stopped and harassed by Bob Myers and the individual operating the NECEC booth. It was at this point that the MSA director told Steve he didn't want to hear his speech about freedom of speech and when Steve tried to discuss it with him Bob Myers repeatedly told him (and me) to shut up. I wouldn't have believed it if I weren't here to see it.

