

October 9, 2018

To Maine DEP and LUPC:

CMP's proposal to create a new electric corridor from Canada through The Forks, to an expanded existing line south to deliver hydropower to Massachusetts. I oppose this project because it does not meet a public need for Maine people. This project only benefits CMP's ratepayers and the needs of Massachusetts people. Maine people need more in-state renewables to replace our heavy dependence on imported oil for heating and transportation. This project can harm existing and potential renewable energy projects by clogging up transmission lines and flooding the power market, thus lowering prices and incentives for new renewable projects in Maine. Maine needs a strong tourism industry, and this project will remove forests in a 150-foot-wide swath through some of Maine's premier wilderness hiking and river rafting lands. This will mar the view for boaters and Appalachian Trail users. More critically, wildlife habitat will be destroyed for Maine mammals, insects, amphibians, and brook trout as part of our large contiguous forest is removed permanently from feeding and traveling corridors. This will reduce the appeal to tourists who come to Maine to see moose, deer, foxes, wolverines, pine martens and other rare mammals. Any short-term benefits to Maine of construction jobs will not last and will probably be offset by losses from energy and tourism jobs. As a business owner, who lost control of part of my farm land in Monmouth to the last CMP transmission line expansion, I am concerned about the increase in electromagnetic radiation to river guides, wildlife and residents in close proximity to the proposed higher voltage lines. The PUC must make policy that invests money into solar, wind and small hydro energy projects that are built almost entirely by Maine companies and Maine people. CMP's proposed power line expansion does not benefit Maine ratepayers in the longer future, when we'll need more locally produced green electricity. CMP has not proven itself a reliable company that can deliver power effectively in the increasingly large storm systems now and in the future. CMP has cut customer service and reliability in favor of increasing corporate profits for shareholders. Since CMP has a delivery monopoly on electric power to the majority of Maine consumers, the PUC must advocate for us consumers and require CMP to develop energy conservation programs, mixed delivery systems to meet peak demand. PUC needs to develop a vision for a multi-strategic future electric delivery system that incorporates many smaller sources of electric power that can be mixed instantly to meet variable time power needs. Future projects must provide the increased green electricity Mainers will need for rapidly increasing electric cars and heat pumps in commercial, industrial and home settings. Green distributive electricity, is cost effective now over centralized hydro or fossil fuel plants. PUC's role must be to help transform Maine into more stable, storm resistant microgrids, encouraging increase in conservation of electricity and making smaller networks of green electricity in business parks, towns, commercial centers and schools. I highly recommend the PUC commissioners read *The Grid* by Gretchen Bakke, which is a sociological study of the US grid problems and presents transformative solutions to US future power needs.

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Sandra Howard has permission to submit this letter as part of sworn testimony.