

The Mills administration made it clear that one of its priorities was to address climate change. When CMP first proposed 'the corridor' the idea was met by the Governor's administration with a definitive negative reaction. However, shortly thereafter a meeting took place with the Governor and CMP and immediately the CMP proposal had new life and the contribution this project would make toward meeting climate change goals was the reasoning.

Climate Change & Hydro-Quebec

- The following was written in an article about Hydro-Quebec: "If Hydro-Québec were to reduce imports into New England through other transmission lines in order to supply Massachusetts, which the contract does not prevent or penalize, the impact on New England carbon emissions could be a wash." (<https://commonwealthmagazine.org/opinion/hydro-quebecs-greenwashing-game/>) (visited March 17, 2019). This statement effectively corrupts Governor Mills' climate change benefit claim. She still supports the CMP project given the very serious information about the Hydro-Quebec contract and potential commitments?
- CMP's "benefit" to Maine ratepayers would be approximately **40 cents per month** in today's economy? CMP's proposal to provide electricity stations for electric cars means that CMP will sell **more** electricity!
- Another part of CMP's support to Mainers will be to help promote the use of heat pumps, which I understand run on electricity, right?
- CMP will profit to the tune of \$5 million/month;
- The HQ will rake in \$41 million/month?
- Maine was offered \$258 million **over 40 years?** – **That means Maine gets \$6.26 million a year while CMP nearly gets that amount EACH MONTH and its HQ gets 6 times that PER MONTH.** Does this seem equitable for even just the environmental damage alone?

Climate Change + The Corridor

"We" (Mills Administration) support our important climate change platform by suggesting that:

- we rip a new, 53.5 mile, 300 foot wide corridor **and** widen another 86 miles an additional 150 feet, which amounts to clearcutting ~3500 acres of land, thereby destroying 3500 acres of valuable biodiversity;
- this land, at worst, probably contains 10 cords/acre of merchantable wood, plus more in sub-merchantable wood (potential firewood) so that we are harvesting over 35,000 cords of wood that represents approximately **224** tons of carbon per acre (<https://www.treehugger.com/natural-sciences/how-much-carbon-do-different-forests-store-what-size-offsets-your-driving-for-a-year.html>) (>750,000 tons total) sequestered not to mention the 'ability' to absorb CO2 would be gone. Is this a good result for mitigating climate change?

- 35,000 cords could be harvested and that if it's not burned or chipped it would be hauled away in trucks at 8-15 cords/load, requiring significant diesel fuel to harvest, load and transport this wood? Even at 15 cords/load we are talking more than 2500 trips and that might be a significant amount of diesel fuel expended and exhaust blown into the atmosphere. We are combatting climate change in this way?

PPH and "Expert Endorsement"

There have recently been two articles in the Portland Press Herald that support the corridor and the reasoning seems to be CMP talking points?

- People with impressive credentials like Richard Barringer and Ken Kimmel (Union of Concerned Scientists) side with CMP but when asked (I wrote to them) the response I got was CMP talking points.
- Neither of these experts relied on any independent, scientific research upon which to base a decision of support?

Tux Turkel (PPH) claimed that 'dark money' is being used by opponents of the NECEC.

- Odd that 'dark money' might be used to promote **facts**?

PUC & Maine Statute 35-A

No one in the Mills Administration has yet addressed the fact that Tom Saviello has called on the PUC to follow Maine State law – regulating public utilities - requiring a third-party analysis of the cost of the transmission lines as compared to the cost of **alternatives**? (in this case the alternative is to NOT put in transmission lines).

- For anyone interested one should review <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/35-A/title35-A.pdf> Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A: Public Utilities. I do not see that Maine PUC is following its own statutory law..... yet.

Electromagnetic Radiation

No one has really addressed or brought up the EMR that will be produced by the power lines, even though EMR has been proven to be dangerous, particularly to children? But the power line won't be anywhere near children, will it?

Intrigue & Western Mountains and Rivers Corporation (WM&RC)

CMP helped support the development and registration of a non-profit organization named Western Mountains and Rivers Corporation

- CMP provided WM&RC with a start-up fund of \$250,000;
- promised an additional \$50,000/ year for 5 years; and one of its members is Peter Mills?
- Odd that this organization was incorporated in August 2017 and is a Non-Profit Corporation (T13-B), which is supposed to be a "Public Benefit Corporation".

Ecosystems & Biodiversity

No one has done an independent assessment of the potential damage to the ecosystem. The ecological impacts from the corridor, power line, and towers. . .

- For starters, the herbicides required to suppress regeneration will damage the ecosystem in ways we cannot predict. CMP seems to take a rather blasé approach to the ecological impact, and considering the number of streams, vernal pools, wetlands and migratory bird stopover habitat that will suffer minor to major impact. The prospects simply give a professional with my background an icy chill.
- I wonder why the Maine F&W Service and ACF are not all over this. Haven't heard a word from these critical voices.
- No independent entity has been discussed or retained for abiding by Title 35-A Does this just get ignored?

Final Summary

I am really lost for words about how this corridor could actually seriously be considered. The only justification that seems to be provided and the only information used by independent 'pundits' and 'experts' has been directly or indirectly provided by CMP. Also remember, the power from this corridor goes to Massachusetts.

The justification for this corridor and project condenses to the fact CMP will profit immensely and the Mills administration hangs its hat on a totally speculative and capriciously worded Hydro-Quebec contract that might have a positive impact on climate change, but probably won't. This is NOT a gamble worth taking. There are many more viable alternatives that could be implemented that would not have the consequences of this project.