



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

PAUL MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

November 17, 2017

Natural Resources Council of Maine  
ATTN: Dylan Voorhees  
3 Wade Street  
Augusta, ME 04348

Appalachian Mountain Club  
ATTN: Kaitlyn Bernard  
15 Moosehead Lake Road  
Greenville, ME 04441

Conservation Law Foundation  
ATTN: Emily Green  
53 Exchange Street, Ste 200  
Portland, ME 04101

Moosehead Region Futures Committee  
ATTN: John Willard  
P.O. Box 164  
Greenville Junction, ME 04442

RE: Central Maine Power Company's New England Clean Energy Connect Project  
Natural Resources Protection Act and Site Location of Development Act Applications,  
DEP Project #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, Public Hearing Determination

Dear Mr. Voorhees, Ms. Green, Ms. Bernard and Mr. Willard:

Thank you for your recent letters requesting that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department) hold a public hearing as part of the review of the Central Maine Power Company's (CMP) Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), Water Quality Certification (WQC), and Site Location of Development Act (Site Law) applications for a transmission line from Beattie Township to Lewiston and other related infrastructure improvements.

According to the Department's *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2, § 7(B) (last amended October 19, 2015), the Commissioner may conduct a hearing on any application, and the Department will hold a hearing in those instances where the Department determines there is credible conflicting technical information and it is likely that a hearing will assist the Department in understanding the evidence.

In these public hearing request letters, comments were made regarding the proposed project's potential impacts to regional conservation efforts, scenic impacts, recreational impacts and wetland impacts. The Department has determined that the general concerns listed in the request letters do not rise to the level of being credible conflicting technical information specified in Ch. 2 § 7(B). However, the Department notes that the scope and scale of the proposed project is very large, the proposed transmission line would cross rivers that are

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designated in the Natural Resources Protection Act as outstanding river segments, and the proposed transmission line would cross the Appalachian Trail in multiple locations. Consequently, the Commissioner is exercising his discretion and will conduct a public hearing for this proposed project.

The Department will specify the parameters and timing of the public hearing in separate correspondence.

Thank you for your interest in this proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melanie Loyzim", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melanie Loyzim  
Deputy Commissioner

C: Paul Mercer, DEP  
Jim Beyer, DEP  
Gerry Mirabile, CMP