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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION  
22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0022

WALTER E. WHITCOMB  
COMMISSIONER

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVENE**

**CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY'S**

**NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT PROJECT**

**SITE LAW CERTIFICATION**

**PURPOSE:** The Maine Land Use Planning Commission (the Commission) will hold a public hearing and seek public comment regarding portions of Central Maine Power Company's (CMP) (83 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04336) proposed New England Clean Energy Connect Project (NECEC Project or Project) located within the Recreation Protection (P-RR) subdistrict. As part of its proposal, CMP intends to install a new high voltage direct current transmission line that crosses or traverses three separate P-RR subdistricts: West Forks Plantation and Moxie Gore (Kennebec River crossing site); Beattie Twp., Lowelltown Twp., Skinner Twp., and Merrill Strip Twp. (near Beattie Pond); and Bald Mountain Twp. (near the Appalachian Trail). Other segments of the Project are proposed in Appleton Twp., Bradstreet Twp., Concord Twp., Hobbstown Twp., Johnson Mountain Twp., Parlin Pond Twp., and T5 R7 BKP WKR. The Project also abuts the boundaries of T5 R6 BKP WKR (Haynestown), The Forks Plantation, and Pleasant Ridge Plantation.

In accordance with State law, the Commission must certify to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) whether the NECEC Project is an allowed use within the subdistricts in which it is proposed and whether the Project meets any land use standards established by the Commission that are not duplicative of those considered by DEP in its review of the Project under the Site Location of Development Law. 12 M.R.S. § 685-B(1-A)(B-1). The NECEC Project is a utility facility and, within the P-RR subdistrict, may be allowed by special exception provided the applicant shows by substantial evidence that: (a) there is no alternative site which is both suitable to the proposed use and reasonably available to the applicant; (b) the use can be buffered from those uses within the vicinity or area likely to be affected by the proposal with which it is or may be incompatible; and (c) such other conditions are met that the Commission may reasonably impose in accordance with the policies of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. *Land Use Districts and Standards*, Chapter 10, Section 10.23,I,3,d,8.

The purpose of the hearing is to allow CMP and members of the public the opportunity to present testimony and evidence as to whether the NECEC Project meets the special exception criteria for the P-RR subdistrict.

**TIME AND PLACE:** Hearing dates and locations, once set, will be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the townships and plantations identified above and will be available on the Commission's website at [www.maine.gov/dacf/lupc/](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/lupc/). The hearing will be governed by the *Maine Administrative Procedures Act* (Title 5, Chapter 375) and Chapter 5 of the Commission's *Rules for the Conduct of Public Hearings*.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** All interested persons are invited to attend and offer testimony relevant to the allowed use determination of the NECEC Project within the P-RR subdistrict. The public is not required to submit written testimony before the hearing, nor file Petitions to Intervene, in order to testify. Members of



the public may simply attend the hearing and give oral testimony. A written comment period will follow the hearing.

**PETITIONS TO INTERVENE:** Persons interested in seeking Intervenor status in this matter must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission pursuant to Chapter 5, Section 5.13 of the Commission's rules **by 5:00 P.M. on August 2, 2018**. The public is not required to file Petitions to Intervene in order to testify.

Closing dates for the hearing record will be established in a subsequent procedural order.

Any Petition to Intervene should be sent to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0022. Petitions also may be submitted by email to [bill.hinkel@maine.gov](mailto:bill.hinkel@maine.gov).

**Disabilities:** Persons with disabilities planning to attend the hearing are requested to inform the Commission in advance so that arrangements can be made for services they require.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** A copy of CMP's applications for the NECEC Project, including Section 25 of the application regarding the Commission's certification, may be viewed at:

- Commission's website [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/lupc/projects/site\\_law\\_certification/slc9.html](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/lupc/projects/site_law_certification/slc9.html)
- Commission's Augusta office at 18 Elkins Lane, Augusta; (207) 287-2631; Hours: M-F, 8:00-5:00; please call first.

**FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS:** If you wish to receive email notices about upcoming public hearings, public comment periods, and important deadlines related to the Commission's review of the NECEC Project, please go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDACF/subscriber/new>, enter your email and select the items for which you would like to receive notices. To receive notices about the NECEC Project by mail, please contact the Commission by calling (207) 287-2631.