

Section 5

Noise

5.0 DEVELOPMENTS PRODUCING A MINOR NOISE IMPACT

The proposed generator lead transmission line will produce a minor noise impact during construction, as well as possibly a minor noise impact during operation.

5.1 CONSTRUCTION NOISE IMPACT

Noise associated with construction activities taking place between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., or daylight hours, whichever is longer, is exempt from regulation under the Site Law (38 MRSA § 484(3)(A)). A discussion of noise expected to be associated with construction of the transmission line is provided below for informational purposes.

At property boundaries, construction noise impacts resulting from clearing and construction vehicles and equipment are estimated to range between 50 and 60 decibels on the A-weighted scale (dBA), depending on the phase of construction. Given the short period of time in which transmission line construction occurs in a particular area, the noise any potential receptor is subject to will be short-term and limited in nature.

Much of the transmission line corridor will travel within the right-of-way (ROW). Portions of the transmission line corridor that will require tree clearing, loading, and heavy trucking occur in places where ongoing forest harvesting operations are common. These construction activities are consistent with such ongoing forest harvesting operations.

The project's transmission line terminates at the electrical substation located on Keene Road in Chester, Maine. This substation will require some upgrading to handle the power provided by the generator lead project. Construction noise impacts resulting from these upgrades are not expected to exceed 60 dBA at the property boundaries.

If blasting is required during construction, blasting will occur in the period between sunrise and sundown or in the period between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., whichever is longer. In addition, no routine production blasting will be allowed in the daytime on Sundays. Blasting at any specific location will not occur more frequently than four times per day, and sound from blasting will not exceed the following limits at any protected location:

Number of Blasts Per Day	Sound Level Limit
1	129 dBL
2	126 dBL
3	124 dBL
4	123 dBL

The blast sound will be measured as peak linear sound level (dBL) with linear response down to 5 Hertz (Hz). See Section 20 of this application for more information with respect to blasting.

1.2 ROUTINE OPERATION NOISE IMPACT

Any audible long-term noise associated with the operation of the transmission line will not adversely impact humans or wildlife. More than 60 percent of the transmission line is located adjacent to existing transmission line corridors. Where the transmission line will need to travel through a new ROW, the transmission line corridor has been sited so as to avoid, to the extent possible, any residential areas, environmentally sensitive areas, and high public use areas.

During fair weather, the noise generated by the transmission line typically will be inaudible to a person with normal hearing standing under or near the line. High voltage transmission lines can generate corona audible noise during periods of high humidity, but this is rarely present at the voltage at which the project transmission line will operate. There will be no significant additional noise from the operation of the transmission line beyond the edge of the ROW or in proximity to the Keene Road substation.