



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

October 13, 2022

Gerry Mirabile
NECEC Transmission LLC
83 Edison Drive
Augusta, ME 04336

RE: Crane Mat and Previously Cut Tree Removal on the NECEC Corridor

Dear Mr. Mirabile,

This is to follow up several phone conversations over the past several weeks and to memorialize the requirements for removal of temporary crane mats and trees cut prior to the suspension of the permit for the New England Clean Energy Connect project.

Standard Condition #A of Department Order # 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 states in part, “The granting of this approval is dependent upon and limited to the proposals and plans contained in the application and supporting documents submitted and affirmed to by the applicant. Any variation from these plans, proposals, and supporting documents is subject to review and approval prior to implementation.” The Natural Resources Protection Act permit application filed by CMP specifies in three different places that, to be considered “temporary,” crane mats will be in place no more than 18 months. Many of the crane mats that remain on the corridor have been in place for at least a year and it is uncertain when construction may resume. In response to your inquiry about the possibility of leaving the crane mats in place longer due to the current permit suspension, an application to amend the permit to allow a longer time period would not be likely to be approved due to the environmental impacts of a longer period. Therefore, in order to remain in compliance with the permit and to minimize environmental impacts, I am advising the licensees to begin removing crane mats from the corridor prior to the ground freezing. While mats can be removed once the ground is frozen, greater environmental impacts may occur as a result. In addition, soil stabilization is more challenging in frozen conditions.

Crane mats may be stockpiled in off-site laydown areas or adjacent to roads which access the corridor from off site. Crane mats may not be stockpiled along the corridor, except in areas immediately adjacent to a road that accesses the corridor from off site. Any disturbed soil must be temporarily stabilized utilizing erosion control BMPs as approved by the Department. You provided the Department with a tentative schedule for undertaking the removal of the crane mats which I have summarized below. Notwithstanding the proposed removal dates, all crane mats must be removed within 18 months from placement.

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
207-941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

Letter to Gerry Mirabile regarding crane mat removal
October 13, 2022

Segment Number	Approximate Start date	Approximate End date	Approximate Number of Crane Mats to be removed	Approximate miles of tree pick up
Segment 1	10/3/2022	11/20/2022	11,800	14.67
Segment 2	10/26/2022	11/29/2022	17,600	0
Segment 3	11/29/2022	12/14/2022	7,175	7.25

The removal of already cut trees is specifically allowed by the Suspension Order and is also a requirement of the Maine Forest Service. Removal of these trees needs to occur prior to the removal of the crane mats because those mats are required to access some of that wood.

The Department's Third Party Inspectors will be conducting routine inspections of the removal activities at least once per week to ensure compliance with the permit requirements. In addition, I plan on inspecting the activities in the next several weeks. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,



James R. Beyer
Regional Licensing and Compliance Manager
Bureau of Land Resources

Cc NECEC Service List