

**Testimony of John R. Nicholas on October 19, 2021 in Support of  
License Suspension for the New England Clean Energy Connect Project.**

I reached by phone the DEP contact in 2017 to inquire about the status of the application from the Central Maine Power Company (CMP) to construct the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) project, also known as the Central Maine Power (CMP) Transmission Line. I was advised that the application was being processed, including verification that CMP had sufficient title and real property interest for the land over which the CMP Transmission Line would be constructed. The application could not proceed until complete with respect to meeting all requirements, including proof of title and real property interest for the land on which would be constructed the CMP Transmission Line. The information regarding proof of title and real property interest was available on the DEP website

I informed the DEP contact that I did not think the proposed CMP Transmission Line could reach the Kennebec Gorge in Segment I without passing through public reserved land. The DEP contact informed me that on the DEP website was a copy of a lease agreement between CMP and the Bureau of Parks and Lands to use one mile of public reserved land in Johnson Mountain Township and West Forks Plantation. I found the lease agreement on the DEP website and downloaded a copy.

Superior Court Judge Michaela Murphy has since ruled that the lease agreement for the use of public reserved land for the CMP Transmission Line in Segment 1 is illegal and a violation of the Maine Constitution. That decision from Judge Murphy has rendered the application from CMP incomplete with respect to the requirements for processing. Therefore, the license authorizing construction of the CMP Transmission Line should be suspended.

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