

**York, Marylisa**

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**From:** Maine Youth for Climate Justice <meyouth4climatejustice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:11 PM  
**To:** DEP, NECEC  
**Subject:** Written comments for  
**Attachments:** Julia St.Clair Maine Youth for Climate Justice - DEP Hearing - CMP Corridor.pdf

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Attached are the written comments for the record on the licensing for the CMP corridor and NECEC project.

Thank you,  
Julia St.Clair and Maine Youth for Climate Justice

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October 19, 2021

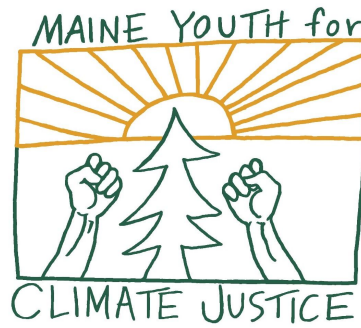
Comments for the Maine DEP Hearing on the CMP Corridor and NECEC Project

My name is Julia St.Clair, I am a resident of South Portland, and I am submitting comment on behalf of Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ). We are a coalition of over 300 young folks and more than 20 youth led groups from across the state fighting for bold climate action, a just transition, and a livable future in Maine. We stand in opposition to the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Project and CMP corridor, support the court's rejection of the license being reconsidered here today, and strongly urge the Department of Environmental Protection to revoke the license pertaining to the NECEC project.

Youth have a clear stake in the future of Maine. Public lands are a clear part of that future. Public lands are protected from development and designated to benefit Maine's people and environment. Because of this, Maine's constitution states that anything significantly changing the purpose of public lands must pass a two-thirds majority vote in the Legislature. In this instance, this process was illegally circumvented, avoiding a key, democratic check on the state's executive power.

The Maine Superior Court has made clear that this license constitutes such a significant change in the purpose of public land and that CMP does not have the full right or title to the public land along the corridor route. The construction of an aboveground direct current electricity corridor is clearly an alteration of public lands, requiring the permanent removal of trees and clearing of forest, the use of herbicides, and continued maintenance of a corridor which would fragment wildlife habitat and limit recreation opportunities, thus undermining the very purposes that the state has protected this land for. This project also sets a concerning precedent of offering up public lands for infrastructure projects that permanently alter land in exchange for negligible public benefit, a precedent that we, as young Mainers, cannot afford to live with the consequences of setting.

The members of Maine Youth for Climate Justice imagine the clean energy future that we want to build in this state. How will we build this clean energy future for our future generations? What are the sources of that energy? What will the impacts be of developing it? The costs? In this case, we weigh vocal opposition of Indigenous communities and nations heavily, consider damage at the source of mega-dam-produced hydro, and the carbon sink lost by permanently removing trees from a forest. And while, with this project, only a mile of the project is on public



lands, this decision impacts the integrity of thousands of acres across the state. What the DEP must decide is if a corporation has the right to develop protected lands that were set aside for the public. In the best interest of the public, and for future generations of Mainers, we call on the DEP to revoke the licensing for this project.

Thank you for inviting public comment on this decision, and for reconsidering what may be one of the most important licensing decisions in Maine's environmental history. We urge you to take immediate action and revoke the license for the NECEC project and CMP corridor.