



November 22, 2021

My name is Sandra Howard and I am the volunteer director of Say NO to NECEC, a grassroots 501c3 non-profit organization, which is an environmental, education and advocacy group opposed to large-scale industrial development in western Maine. Say NO to NECEC was founded in 2018 and is comprised of nearly 10,000 non-partisan members.

Over 80,000 registered Maine voters signed a petition to put the matter of the CMP corridor and other such projects on the November 2021 ballot, and Question 1 passed with a resounding 59-41 percent of Maine voters expressing a unified message across the state to reject the CMP corridor. NECEC is clearly a project of statewide significance.

18 months ago, a group of our grassroots citizen intervenors filed an appeal of the DEP permit, as did Natural Resources Council of Maine, and NextEra but as of yet the DEP has taken no action. Separately, last month, DEP held hearings to consider suspension of the permit due to a change in circumstance of NECEC not having title, right, or interest for the entire corridor route due to the invalidation of the BPL public lands lease issued against proper protocols associated with Article IX, Section 23 in the Maine Constitution. The suspension has not been resolved either, nor has there been a Stay granted to halt construction so unnecessary devastation to a globally significant region can be reduced while the matter is reviewed and resolved.

And, here this evening, the public returns before the DEP to provide comment and reiteration that the majority of Mainers do not want the destructive, for-profit CMP corridor ripping through western Maine or its associated negative environmental impacts.

The results of the November 2021 ballot have been certified and the new law will be enacted on December 19th. Question 1, known as L.D. 1295, an Act To Require Legislative Approval of Certain Transmission Lines and Facilities and Other Projects on Public Reserved Lands and Prohibit the Construction of Certain Transmission Lines in the Upper Kennebec Region has passed by a sweeping majority of Maine voters.

It is unfathomable why the DEP would allow CMP's continued destruction to occur with the pending LD 1295 law that will impact construction of the Project on the permitted route. Why has the DEP allowed construction to continue while the DEP permit appeal has not been resolved or several ongoing court cases that could result in a kill shot to the project and this permit. As part of my submission you'll see drone footage of Segment 1 filmed post-Election day: <https://app.frame.io/presentations/b866b818-4da5-4cb2-b85b-22a229403325>
(* also see NECEC drone footage 11-22-21.pwpt)

VIDEO NOTES:

Time, 1:34 is on the East side of 201, it runs to 3:04. This is the North side of Marshall Yard traveling East down to Cold Stream.

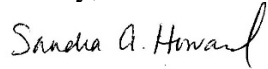
Cold Stream cutting at the Capital Road ROW crossing was minimal. Cold Stream East to the Capital Road was cut. No cutting across the Capital Road towards the public land as of yesterday. The cutting stopped dead at the Capital Road crossing.

Plenty of mats placed in piles along the trail to Little Wilson Hill Pond, road widened but no cutting on the South side of the Capital Road towards the Public land.

At 6:04 we are in the Jack Pine Forest. You can see the piles of pine and the green skidder. There is some White Pine but mostly a hundred + year old Jack.

On behalf of thousands of grassroots activists who oppose the CMP corridor, and hundreds of thousands of Maine voters who voted "Yes to Reject the CMP Corridor", we call on CMP and its parent corporations to cease their arrogance, and we call on the DEP to order a stop to CMP's unnecessary clearcutting of the NECEC corridor route until all related matters have been resolved within Federal and state agencies and in the court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra A. Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing initial 'S'.

Sandra Howard, Ph.D.
Director, Say NO to NECEC
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Caratunk, Maine 04925
stopnecec@gmail.com

Post Election day drone footage

[CLICK HERE: https://app.frame.io/presentations/b866b818-4da5-4cb2-b85b-22a229403325](https://app.frame.io/presentations/b866b818-4da5-4cb2-b85b-22a229403325)

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