

York, Marylisa

From: Burke, Ruth A
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Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Board of Environmental Protection
Commissioner's Office

From: Heidi J Vierthaler <heidijvvv@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov>; Heidi J Vierthaler <heidijvvv@gmail.com>
Subject: 4Ruth.A.Burke:Testimony4:DEP:PublicHearingRe:CMP-NECEC:LicenseSuspension-11-22-2021

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Dear Ruth Ann Burke,

Thank you so much for all of your assistance during last month's hearing.

Please find the attachments for my Oral and Written Testimony for tonight's Hearing, and for my White Paper Report Stop the NECEC for The Cree and ME!!

In my Testimony I asked the Committee to please find my previous written testimony addressed to the DEP.

If I can be of further assistance to help in this process please let me know.

My email address for that correspondence was Heidijv@hotmail.com.

Also please keep my contact information confidential and unlisted within the committee. Thank you.

Please let me know that you received this email. Thanks.

I hope that you find this information useful, and that the DEP suspends the license for the NECEC Project.

Thank you again.

Heidi J Vierthaler

White Paper Report:

Stop The NECEC for

The Cree and ME!

I would like to get a before and after map and Photographs to add here.

**White Paper Report:
Stop The NECEC for The Cree and ME!**

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Call for a Peaceful Clean Green Energy Economy!

Advocate

Send our leaders and utilities the message that we do not want this HQ CMP: NECEC

Cut this section to save the Army Corps of Engineers time

Governor Mills and urge her to help stop the NECEC corridor, and for the development of a state energy plan emphasizing Efficiency and Conservation

Also contact Governor Janet Mills here:

Central Maine Power CMP / Hydro-Quebec:

CMP

1. **SUBMIT YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - a. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) *until April 25th:*
 - b. Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) *until May 27th:*
 - c. Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) *until May 27th:*
 - d. Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU):

2. **WRITE TO STATE LEADERS ASK THEM HOW THEY WILL VOTE ON**
3. **LD271/640/1363/1383/1436:**
Find your Senator: and Representatives

4. **WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
 - a. Bangor Daily News: (250 words or 600-700 words for OpEd)
 - b. Portland Press Herald: (300 word limit)
 - c. Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel: (300 word limit)
 - d. Lewiston Sun Journal: (250 word limit)
 - e. Send it to your local weekly newspaper!

DONATE TO HELP FUND OUR LEGAL EFFORT <https://PayPal.me/SayNOtoNECEC>

Join our Say NO to NECEC Facebook group

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The Issue: The State of Maine is considering, with the Governor’s declaration of support, a project between Maine Central Power (CMP) and Hydro-Quebec (HQ): The New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Transmission Line Corridor. The project according to the Stop The Corridor website: “New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) is Central Maine Power's proposed 145-mile long corridor of thousands of high-voltage megatowers cut through the Maine woods. CMP's corridor would be as wide as the New Jersey Turnpike, and the towers each as large as the Eastland Hotel in Portland. This corridor would be cut through pristine Maine wilderness in order to bring electricity from Canada to Massachusetts, with no stops in between.”

“It will cross the Kennebec River Gorge, three points on “the Appalachian Trail, 263 wetlands, 115 streams, 12 inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat areas - as well as brook trout streams and deer wintering yards.” Please see this short (8:16 min) video *What is The CMP Corridor Project?* as part of the *From Away* series from Barrel Up Productions. <https://youtu.be/ql0cSpGGUws>

Large numbers of Mainers and organizations are vehemently against this NECEC Corridor for these numerous environmental, health, economic, and cultural reasons. The most important for many is the loss of their homes and their rural way of life.

While we all are naturally concerned about what we stand to lose here in Maine, I’m troubled that we’re not also considering our neighbors to the North, the Cree and Inuit in the James Bay Ecosystem where the Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams have already devastated the Cree and Inuit Nations, their people, and their way of life. We have much that we can learn from them. They have even more to lose if we proceed with the Central Maine Power CMP Hydro-Quebec New England Clean Energy Connect NECEC Transmission Line Corridor. They are the canaries in the coalmine for us. We need to listen to them. And our decision the on Corridor will determine how much more of these Nations will go under water. Their fate, as well as our own, is in our hands.

Let me tell you why making this deal is bad for Maine. The way that Hydro-Quebec has committed Genocide and Ecological Ethnic Cleansing, not to mention the company's history of lies, misrepresentations, and failures to honor their agreements with the Cree, points to a problematic situation, in that we can’t trust any agreement that they might make with us.. I am thus asking Governor Mills and any others, to set aside any personal and family involvement and interests, to reject the NECEC Corridor.

A quick personal note: I first heard about the situation with Hydro-Quebec and the Cree, when Will Nicholls spoke in 1991. It changed my life. He was a Spokesperson for the Grand Council of the Cree, I was a Human Ecology student at the Friend’s World College Program at Long Island University (LIU), Southampton, (NY), and a member of the Student Environmental Action Coalition. Afterward I attended the Ban The Dam Jam for James Bay Benefit Concert Series, at the Beacon Theatre, and kickoff events: the March down Broadway from Union Square to the Press Conference at New York City Hall. The picture that Will painted was shocking, the impact that the Hydro-Quebec Mega-dams has had on his people has been devastating. The impression

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deep in my heart, continues to be profound. See my Photo Albums:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10156711435467605&id=690312604

To Begin with – Where is James Bay:

It is located in Northern Quebec Canada. It can be seen on the map as being a pocket in the Southeast corner of Hudson Bay way above America’s Great Lakes. It has been the home for The Cree and Inuit Native Americans for more than five thousand years.

The Interested Parties are:

- **The Cree and Inuit Nations:** The ancient Indigenous Peoples that have been living for over five to six thousand years peacefully as an integral part of the James Bay Ecosystem, which they consider as Sacred and their “Garden,” ensuring that not one species would become extinct during their thousands of years of inhabiting the area, without fighting more than two wars that were imposed upon them. These people have suffered immeasurably at the hands of Hydro-Quebec.
- **Hydro-Quebec:** An energy production company, owned and operated by the Government of Quebec, Canada.
- **Central Maine Power (CMP):** a subsidiary of Avangrid Networks Inc., traded on the New York Stock Exchange with it’s majority owner Spanish energy giant: Iberdrola USA Inc., is Maine’s largest electricity transmission and distribution utility, established in 1899, which serves more than 600,000 electricity customers in central and southern Maine. The NECEC would be spun off to a separate Avangrid subsidiary, NECEC Transmission LLC.
- **Western Mountains and Rivers Corporation:** a fundraising Company for CMP
- **Maine’s People and pristine wilderness in the NECEC Corridor:** the people who live in the rural, sparsely-populated, mostly privately- owned land, who are protecting their virgin forests, and fishing and hunting areas, etc..
- **The Maine State Decision Makers** (see the last pages of this for contact information):
 - **Public Utilities Commission (PUC), - Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**
 - **Public Advocate, - Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC)**
 - **Legislative Government, - Army Corps of Engineers**

What is Hydro-Quebec’s James Bay Project:

It is a massive Hydro-electric power producing project that has flooded vast tracts of land. The building of Phase I of the project was announced by Quebec’s Premier Robert Bourassa as the cornerstone of his province’s economic future in 1971.

Phase I LaGrande (Completed):

Is in the Northern area of James Bay, which diverted the Eastmain, Opinaca, and Caniapiscou Rivers, into the LaGrande River. Phase I has already flooded 10,000 square kilometers.

Phase II Great Whale (shelved for now due to concerns and efforts by the Cree and New England supporters.):

This is located much further North, would flood an additional 5,000 square kilometers, along the Great Whale River; that area in itself equaling the size of Connecticut and would directly adversely affect an ecosystem the size of France. We need to ensure that this never happens!

Phase III (Partially Completed: (Phase III has seen the Rupert River Diversion completed):

This is in the Southern region, and would comprise the Nottaway, Broadback, and [Hydro-Quebec has already built the:] Rupert [Cree name: Waskaganish] Complex. Hydro-Quebec has

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exceeded the agreed upon parameters of the dam. Dikes and water levels and other technical components agreed upon by all parties have been not honored.

An Introduction to Dams and Why they Aren’t A Good Energy Solution for Maine:

In order to understand the significance of the rest of my materials, it is important to understand a little about how Hydro Electricity works, how Hydro-Quebec has implemented it in the James Bay Ecosystem, why it is not a good source of energy, and why we should be looking to support more sustainable renewable energy sources.

To be clear one of the main reasons why so many people are supporting this New England Clean Energy Connect NECEC Transmission Line Corridor is because they say that the energy is clean and that the NECEC will be offsetting carbon emissions to make it an advantageous energy and a good deal for Maine. I want to be clear that the energy that would be flowing through the NECEC would be coming from Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams which are anything but clean, if anything the way that Hydro-Quebec has implemented it’s plans, sadly makes it’s energy one of the dirtiest forms of energy on the planet! I say this because not only is the energy produced not helping to offset the Greenhouse gasses, it is also causing, massive land destruction in its construction, and Genocide and Ecological Ethnic Cleansing of the Cree. What follows is a series of articles and videos that outline these points.

This is a simple introductory video, and tells the pro’s and con’s of different types of Dams, the most important being the fact that Hydro Dams have the possibility of being breached, and they are not free of Greenhouse gasses:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8HmRLCgDAI>

This is a simple graphic video explanation of the generation of Hydro-electricity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABv631t1OKI>

In essence the video description says that: “The most common type of hydroelectric power plant uses a dam on a river to store water in a reservoir. Water released from the reservoir flows through a Penstock to the turbine and spin it. A turbine converts the kinetic energy of falling water into mechanical energy, which in turn activates a generator to produce electricity. Then a generator converts the mechanical energy from the turbine into electrical energy.

This is probably the best short video that describes how the Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams were built into the Cree landscape, when they moved the entire village of Fort George on an island to the mainland where it became the Community of Chisasibi. It is heartwrenching to see just how much disrespect to the land and it describes the social services that were established, but to little avail as will be discussed further.

<https://youtu.be/GmGCifYrfzI>

James Bay Cree Hydro this video is about mercury poisoning (5:15 min), it has footage of a devastating mercury poisoning outbreak in Japan, it discusses the problems that it has caused, especially in providing a social services response to this problem, and shows just how negligent the Canadian and Quebec Government have been in responding to

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the Mercury poisoning in their own Provinces. please read to extended info in the below YouTube description <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwD3GyUmPK0>

An Intro. to Dams and Why they Aren’t A Good Energy Solution for Maine (continued):

This is an article from the *Guardian* that explains why Dams are not as simple a solution to our energy problems: <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/nov/06/hydropower-hydroelectricity-methane-clean-climate-change-study>

Will sent me the following article *“Megadams Not Clean or Green, Says Expert Forty years of research show hydro dams create environmental damage, says David Schindler,”*

Professor emeritus at the University of Alberta and internationally renowned for his expertise on lakes and rivers, who has been outspoken against the Alberta tar sands, says: “the greenhouse gas production from hydro is expected to be about the same as from burning natural gas.”

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2018/01/24/Megadams-Not-Clean-Green/>

In November of 2019 the North American Megadam Resistance Alliance – NAMRA (<http://northeastmegadamresistance.org/>) held the third annual "MegaDams = MegaDamage" Speaking Tour. During the Tour they issued the following scathing statement: (see their Facebook post here:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=158993922166165&id=117032699695621

In regards to the Greenwashed support from so-called Green Non-profits, [and I should add several reputable New England Newspapers], for the NECEC / Hydro-Quebec Corridor makes them complicit in the Genocide and Environmental destruction on a massive scale, and how new science is proving that hydro power can be worse than coal, that it’s not a solution to the Climate Crisis. “Our calculations, as yet unrefuted, show that CMP will increase Massachusetts’ GHG emissions by 2%.

These organizations supporting CMP/NECEC should be ashamed.

They need to check out Hudson Riverkeeper's 11/19/19 announcement withdrawing support for the New York hydro transmission corridor. #energyjustice #nomegadams #TheDamTruth

<https://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news/energy/riverkeeper-statement-regarding-the-champlain-hudson-power-express/> "

While I am not an expert energy Scientist, we all need to establish a true Peaceful Clean Green Energy Economy one in which all are able to earn a living wage. We need to be investing in new renewable energy resources. While I am not sure of the proposed types of energy sources in this video, except for the solar gathering windows, and human generation. This video (13 minutes) gives 10 new energy alternatives and look in the YouTube description below for a list with links.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uStFvcz9Or4>

Please see my post, which will grow as I find further links to add, to this section of this "White Paper Report Stop The NECEC for the Cree and ME!*" It has some great

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additions! Thank you to everyone from our Say NO to NECEC Facebook for their contributions: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10157385502972605&id=690312604

How the NECEC further threatens the Cree and their Sacred Way of Life:

To understand the link between what we are doing here in Maine in our decision to allow the Spanish based Central Maine Power CMP Hydro-Quebec NECEC Transmission Line Corridor, we need to know about the basis of the Cree People and their Culture. So let me introduce you to the people who I am honored to be able to call my friends. After meeting Cree Spokespeople Will Nicholls, Matthew Mukash, and their Grand Council of the Cree Chief Matthew Coon Come at the Ban The Dam Jam for James Bay, in New York, I invested much of my academic career in the process of earning my BA in Geography and Anthropology from the University of Southern Maine in 1994, to the Cree, and the survival of their Culture. After the Ban The Dam Jam, I found Boyce Richardson’s book *Strangers Devour The Land*, and the journey into the Cree way of life within was all encompassing. Let me share some of the wisdom that I learned from this incredible page turner.

I also have to say that especially after the fire in the Catholic Church Cathedral of Notre Dame, and arsons in the Churches in the South, as well as the bombings in the Mosques in the Middle East, that what is happening with the Cree is eerily similar to the situation in which the Cree find themselves.

In the process of defending their home, *Eeyou Itschee* [As my Cree friend Margaret Sam-Cromarty calls: Eee-you, (People), of *Itschee* (Land)], the Cree who grew up in the bush and knew little of Western Society found themselves in the big city, and in court. They really were strangers in a strange land. “The older men regarded the building with dignified incomprehension, for they had never seen such huge enclosed spaces before, and they waited patiently to be told what to do, whether to go into the strange room which moves up and down and which was causing the much trouble at their hotel, or whether to go on the other side of the lobby and try to mount that moving staircase as many other people were doing and to be carried upstairs in the strange manner of the white manner of the white man, without having to bother to walk a step.” (18)

The story told by the Indian and Inuit witnesses, and their manner of telling it, made a considerable impression on at least a section of the Canadian public in the next two months. Their experience of the sophisticated world of the white man was limited; their experience of Court procedure was nil. But their experience of the forests of the north was vast; and their knowledge of the animals, fish, and plants with which they lived in symbiotic relationship was immense. They spoke of what they knew and nothing else. For many thousands of years their ancestors had been organized in groups of families, no more. So there was no great scope in their daily lives for to see, which would have been too easily found out. It seemed to come naturally to them to speak simply and

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truthfully, and this perhaps more than anything else was what impressed both the judge and those people who sat in the court watching the drama unfold. (33)

How the NECEC further threatens the Cree and their Sacred Way of Life (Continued):

Every concept of the meaning of life held by these people arose from their relationship with the animals, from their life as subsistence hunters in the bush, and most of the concepts being put to them by the lawyers were either difficult for them to comprehend or quite meaningless.” (40)

Elder William Matoush “opened up and began to talk about of the respect which the Indians had for the animals, their responsibility to respect the animals they killed...They had to keep the dogs away from the bones of otter and beaver, from the head of the moose and rabbits. Sometimes they would tie a little cloth on part of the skeleton and put some tobacco in it: “in return he knows what you are doing to him. If you show respect to him, you will get something from him. But you if you allow a dog to get a hold of those bones, then you will have a hard time to kill that animal in the future, because he makes himself scarce.”

In Court: O’Riley asked: “is there any religious content in respect to animals?”

Anthropologist Adrian Tanner said: “All killing of animals has a strong religious significance, governed by religious beliefs and values. Usually whenever a beaver is brought in, it will be drawn by a ceremonial string. When eating, particular parts of the animal are put into the fire for the spirits, the bones are carefully preserved so the dogs will not eat them; particular bones are put into a tree, others are put into a platform or thrown back onto the lake. The Caribou antlers are erected on a tree facing east, and decorated with streamers for religious reasons. That was the major part of my study.”

O’Reilly: “In a nutshell what is the significance?”

Tanner: “The animals are seen as persons, or as being controlled by spiritual persons and the hunter is engaged in a religious occupation when he hunts and is exercising spiritual powers by hunting. The older a man gets the more animals he kills the greater he achieves this spiritual power. (88)

“As for the damming of the rivers that was proposed, that sure as hell would not help the hunters. The money from the development would go to other people’s pockets. But there were many things the white man could learn from the Indians if he wished. “The white man is going to come and flood the land. That’s teaching Indians how to flood land and build dams. But the Indians can teach the white man about nature. We have lived with nature. We were born with it, we have got to look after it, not to destroy it, it’s. It’s like our mother. To us it’s like putting something in the bank when we do not kill all the beaver we could. We leave the beaver to allow them to multiply.

How the NECEC further threatens the Cree and their Sacred Way of Life (Continued):

If they are going to flood the land, they are taking all our savings away” (89) Pihiiip Petawabano, who Richardson described as “a smaller man with white hair. It was one of those ironies to which I had never become accustomed that this extremely private and spiritual old hunter had a son, Buckley, who was a television star with a considerable following among the young girls of West Germany.” (96)... Tells what he knows: “I am an old man. I caught a last glimpse of what it was like before the coming of the white man. My father raised me, and when I was still young, seventeen, he died and I was on my own.” ...He described what it was like to survive in the bush, saying: “life was good and hard. I don’t think too many people are still living here now who saw those times when life was very hard.

Here is what I think about the bush. The Wilderness is just like a store where you can get all of what you need. Everything I needed to survive on came from the land. Of course, I could never part with my land. If somebody lost his land it, it would be just like shooting him. All the animals on this land, the moose, the deer, the beaver, the links, the fish, all these animals have gone down in the past few years. I hope this doesn’t go too far, for this is the only way we know to survive, this store that is put before us to feed our children from. All this that I’ve been talking about will be gone soon when it’s flooded. When I first heard about this James Bay proposal, I wondered about it for a very long time. It almost came to the point where I could not really relate to what the other society has done. I don’t know what will happen to our land. I couldn’t really tell you.” (97)

Especially after all of my endeavors producing the Maine Earthday Alert for James Bay – North America’s Own Amazon, in my Junior year of College, in 1993, I certainly hope that we here in the State of Maine can tell him that we did the best to preserve the part of his land that has not yet been touched by the hands of the Hydro-Quebec Colonizers.

How Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams have Devastated the James Bay Ecosystem:

The beautiful sustenance way of life for the Cree and Inuit has been destroyed by Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams and their resulting reservoirs called power pools, which has devastated their sacred, sustainable way of life, and exacerbating Climate Change.

- **Ecological Devastation:**
 - Methyl Mercury Poisoning: since the building of Phase I began in 1973, the power pools have caused Methyl-Mercury poisoning through the process where the naturally occurring Mercury in the soil and land is fed upon by the bacteria in the water. It is turned into a highly toxic form of Methyl Mercury, when the fish eat this bacteria, the Methyl Mercury levels are raised exponentially so that they are off of the charts of what is considered safe by the World Health Organization. This has resulted in Mercury poisoning in not just the fish but up the food chain, into people.
 - Greenhouse Gasses: Also the power pools produce greenhouse gasses that will contribute to global warming via the destruction of the environmental ozone of our Earth.
 - Deforestation: is one side effect of the creation of the power pools, etc..
 - Loss of Wildlife: one example, 10,000 Caribou that were in the middle of their seasonal migration pattern, were met by a flood of on-coming water released by the personnel of the dams that the Caribou were not expecting, and were killed.
- **Health Effects and Epidemics:**
 - Mercury Poisoning: Two-thirds of all of the children, and adults, in one Cree Village have methyl-mercury poisoning, which has had adverse affects on their neurobiological systems.
 - Gastroenteritis: Because Government housing in Waskagansish didn’t have proper plumbing and running water many Cree succumbed to a major outbreak and sadly many died. This is inexcusable, it was 1980j
 - Food Insecurity: Fish, their major food sources are inedible.
 - Suicide: Many Cree feel that they are caught between two worlds in which they really don’t belong. The CommUnity lived in by those who once lived a sustenance existence, and the so-called new lifestyle, which is not home. It thus breaks my heart that a Culture that probably didn’t have a word for suicide, has people who have fallen into this abyss of despair, and taken their own lives.
- **Sacred Burial and Ceremonial Sites:**
 - Many Sacred Sites: were recklessly bulldozed and flooded underwater.
- **Economic Disaster:**
 - Forced Transition from Sustenance to Consumer Oriented Economy:

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from living in harmony with the land, when their primary food source the fish, is now toxic and inedible, so they can’t eat as much, they have become dependent on the Western Consumer Oriented Economy, one to which most have had a difficult, if not impossible, time adapting.

Learning from the Cree: Why We and our Legislators Should Reject the NECEC Corridor!

- In case you aren’t aware, Hydro-Quebec, on top of all of the Environmental damage their dams have caused, it has not been as economically responsible in their deals etc.. Here is one major example, from an Oral Report that I gave in 1991:
“Quebec is currently 27 billion dollars in debt due to Phase I of the project and wants to base it’s economy on aluminum, which necessitates the need to build aluminum smelting plants that will consume most of the electricity that the proposed Phase II plants will produce. I want to make the point here; that not only is aluminum speculated as causing early Alzheimer’s disease, but the production is equally as bad. The first of these aluminum plants has been built along the banks of the Saint Lawrence Seaway. Along the shore near this plant two Beluga Whales were found dead; an autopsy was performed on them and due to the discoveries made during the study, these Whales had to be incinerated as toxic waste. To finance this whole ecological monstrosity Hydro-Quebec wants New York State to buy 27,000 megawatts of energy for 19.5 billion dollars. The contracts lasting twenty years, have been signed already by the Governor of New York, The New York Power Authority, Consolidated Edison, The Long Island Power Authority, and the Long Island Lighting Company. These contracts had a clause in them that would allow for their cancellation without penalty by November 30, 1991, [but an extension: (due to the efforts of The Cree and The Inuit who encouraged the citizens of New York to take action to save James Bay), has been given to allow the state of New York to decide on their role in the fate of James Bay, until November 30, 1992]; but the sooner these contracts are canceled the better.” This seems like convoluted planning.

More importantly “New York does not need this energy, because a research firm The Goodman Group based in Boston has assessed that New York can sustain itself through energy conservation and the eventual adoption of alternative sources of energy. Additionally, energy efficiency expenditures create jobs at a rate of 3 to 5 times as many as a similar expenditure for out of state power, and keep those jobs in New York. Therefore in order to assist not only the ecosystem of James Bay, but also the economic future of New York, real action must be made to help in the process of Hydro-Quebec contract cancellation.”

1992 - Update: Hydro-Quebec is notorious for constantly begging for more money to do further Ecological damage. In the spring of 1992 New York State cancelled their contracts with Hydro-Quebec. However after having studied the history of the project in Boyce Richardson’s book: Strangers Devour the Land, I know that Hydro-Quebec will always be back with a vengeance. In Christmas of ’92, a US imposed governmentally mandated environmental assessment was

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underway. According to a Cree displaced by Phase I, Hydro-Quebec managed to manipulate the results of the assessment and proceeded as usual with Phase II, [they did]. They also targeted Detroit, and were back in 1993 and 1997.

Please Listen to the Cree in Sharing their Experiences and Wisdom with us:

- It is important to consider that the Cree and Inuit want to stop the further harmful development of their sacred land, but have been facing an opposition that sees James Bay as a desolate wasteland to conquer sometimes with reckless abandon and claims that legal land rights are in the favor of Hydro-Quebec. It is out of their sense of responsibility to their precious land, and utter outrage that The Cree consider this fight to be their third war.
- **This is from my Friend Will Nicholls**, Former Grand Council of The Cree Spokesperson, who now runs a Cree Publication *The Nation* in Montreal (see the Montreal Gazette article celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the glossy Publication: <https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/alive-and-thriving-cree-newsmagazine-the-nation-celebrates-25-years>), and who was featured in part 4 (35 minutes in) of the film by the Grand Council of The Cree *The Eeyouch of Eeyou Itschee*:

“You might check out The Nation's website is nationnews.ca. All of our issues are online and are free to download. You can find the last few years in the Recent Issues section and the older ones are in the archive. They are searchable. You might want to look at the Paix des braves and New Relationship stories.”

*More importantly: “Hydro-Quebec has never given the Cree any royalties and has never made good on their promises of 360 permanent jobs for Crees. As I said the changes in salinity have affected eelgrass which geese and other migratory birds depend upon. Also the changing water levels of the dams (because of differing power demands) create dead zones that affect the wellness of the environment as these are the most productive areas for Cree and animals are around the waterways. Mercury is still a problem even though Hydro-Quebec has hired Crees to cut down trees. There are still a lot of boggy areas that help to create and introduce the methyl mercury into the environment. Caribou * herds in the eastern James Bay area are all threatened. While the Cree have made deals a majority have been made under duress. The increased purchase of power from Hydro-Quebec will be used to create more dams and diversions as it will be seen as something that is needed.*

A concern that Maine and New England should consider is that such a large part of their power is through a dedicated transmission line. It is vulnerable to a terrorist attack. Not one by the Cree but looking at export levels to the US is

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something to consider. Putting so many eggs in one basket may be problematic given the current world situation.”

Will”

* Caribou are endangered see: <https://defenders.org/woodland-caribou/basic-facts>

Please Listen to the Cree in Sharing their Experiences and Wisdom with us (continued):

- **My Cree Poet Friend Margaret Sam-Cromarty**, is a hero I met while she was giving Testimony at the Massachusetts Congressional Energy Committee Hearing at their State House and at a Tufts University Environmental Conference, in the Boston area in the winter of 1992. She and her Daughter Jane Sam Cromarty sent the following correspondence that they wanted me to share with you. Jane Sam Cromarty is a community member of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, Quebec. After thirty years with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, Jane is now leaving her position within the agency having managed under Health and Social Services, and she is quickly becoming a Budding Climate Action Advocate. Please see Margaret Sam-Cromarty’s poetry here: <https://zocalopoets.com/category/poets-poetas/margaret-sam-cromarty/>

March 21, 2019

“After many years of being dormant the issue of Hydro-Quebec is back again. The signing of the founding fathers of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) in 1972 did give the Crees some control over their vast lands. Today it is Our Reserves members possess the right to live on reserve lands.

Of course, Hydro Quebec with never tell that northern Quebec had suffered a severe drought in the past years. The giant reservoirs along the Chisasibi river (in french) La Grande vaporize into thin air every hot summer and in winter it crystalizes into ice because of the brutal cold winter weathers. Their giant dams did do a lot of damage to the Cree and Inuit way of life, but the huge investment of southern Quebecers came first. Now there is such a thing called environmental crimes and who is held responsible pays.

We in Chisasibi must prove our capabilities without any outside help or control. We in Chisasibi must govern our own community. Our personal health both mental and physical is our most valued asset and deserves to be carefully guarded. Make no mistake this billion tons of kilowatt energy goes past our doorsteps, our reserve.

The giant gates have to be open to make electricity, electric currents flow past our reserve it kills everything in its path. Anyone who infringes without our permission and use our reserve for gain is prejudice.

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Hydro Quebec cannot make power (water power) without getting rid of water from their reservoirs this water goes pass our reserve Chisasibi who say it's clean power for years the people of Chisasibi had suffered. There is always the fear of the Mega dams to break at any time."

By [© 2019] Margaret Sam-Cromarty

Please Listen to the Cree in Sharing their Experiences and Wisdom with us (continued):

This is from Jane Sam Cromarty, these were inspired by our first phone call on March 24, 2019. It is also helpful to understand that according to scholar Luis Eguren, "Hydrogen is created by electrolysis, the running of an electrical current through water."

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Climate Change

The warming temperatures due to climate change in the north has had devastating impacts on the entire James Bay Ecosystem. One of the most extreme effects is that the dry weather conditions have created forest fires. The Eastmain community lived through such a tragic fire event. It was evacuated because the fire spread so fast, that the people were caught unaware of the impending danger. These dry conditions were created when there is hardly any rain.

The former village that the people called Fort George Island, is now the new reserve of Chisasibi relocated in 1980 about 5 kilometers to the mainland near the river of Chisasibi, this is where the new town was built. It has a population of 5,000 both Crees and other non-Native Worker Minorities. During this relocation of the village the Cree's of Fort George were told that the island was too small for the growing population therefore a new community needed to be built on the mainland. When this move took place, the dam's upriver at LG-2, LG-3, LG-4 and Brisay would create more water to be released down river to create electricity for the south. Since LG-1 dam was built in the early 1990's the body of water has increased along with the Rupert's River diversion of water to LG-1 dam.

It's important to understand that when the water goes through the turbines in the dams, the water picks up an electrical charge. Since the release of the fast flowing water into the river near the reserve of Chisasibi, it created massive erosion on Fort George Island making the sandbars, and beaches that were part of the landscape of the former community along the river, disappear. These sandbars and beaches, which show the destruction of the river were part of the landscape of the former village of Fort George Island.

Today it's just water flowing all around the island creating erosions as there are hardly any trees along the north side of Fort George to uphold the banks from eroding into the river. We live right on the tree line of the boreal forest of northern Quebec. We know the fast flowing water creates an electrical current we see it with our own eyes, the water flows fast, any water that flows fast creates an electrical current the electricity is not seen by the eye, it's more like static electricity, the proof is in the solid objects that are near the water. As one community member pointed out how the electrical current creates electricity through observation of a solid square cement block in the water in which this cement block became round thus proving that the fast flow of the water

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creates an electrical current. In many ways this shows how the climate has affected the river. We experience long winters that affects the high water levels that are constantly high when we go to the LG-1 dam reservoir. Also when we go to the LG-1 dam reservoir the water is always at highest level indicators on the turbines where the water flows into the turbines. Also there is always debris of logs jammed along the shore on the side of the reservoir during early spring thaw.

Please Listen to the Cree in Sharing their Experiences and Wisdom with us (continued):

Jane Sam Cromarty (continued):

Because of Climate Change the river hardly freezes creating mist that hovers over the river giving it a crystal glow. It looks like a magical winter wonderland scene where all of the trees and the town looks like its covered in crystals sparkling like diamonds. The fog like mist hangs heavy in the early mornings on very cold winter days. These seemingly beautiful sceneries can be deceptive, a danger lies beneath. This constant cold mist creates moisture that seeps into the ground spreading underneath reaching far into the ground that it makes an electric current underneath the solid surface of the Earth. In the Wikipedia the meaning of GROUND (electricity) in electrical engineering, ground or earth is the reference point in an electrical circuit from which voltages are measured, a common return path of electric current, or a direct physical connection to the Earth. Electrical circuits may be connected to ground(earth) for several reasons. This is the point in which my mother is trying to convey of the electric current from the LG-1 dam that is creating this electric current from the river that affects the climate and changes to the weather and land.

It will affect your land, in Maine. What will happen if the transmission lines go up in your country side? It will take away the natural way of life that has sustained Maine for generations. What has affected our Land on the East Coast of Northern James Bay will affect the Land in Maine the same way. You can just go and stand under the High Transmission Lines and hear the crackling of the electricity coursing through the wires. One elder said that the blueberries growing under the power lines are very huge. You know that there’s nothing that covers those electrical lines, this will affect you in a same way. Those power lines how many electrical electrons are passing its something you know you can hear it the electricity going through and anything under that powerline they will grow huge and flow out in the air as the wind carries it over many miles. You know where as in Mexico power there is nothing that covers those electrical wires and in the electricity flowing out into the land it emits those electrons and to the unseen eye the electrical radiation is always a threat to the well being of any creature whether it is the land, forest, and all living creatures that live in this planet. Maine will be affected in this similar way as the Cree’s of James Bay. All of this didn’t exist before the dams.

As can be seen in the damming of the Chisasibi river, in the damming of the Rupert’s river we call Waskaganish, a Cree community, one of five coastal communities in James Bay. We feel the impacts and the local people know what has happened and overlook the problem of climate change and how it affected us in the Rupert’s river diversion the causes of these massive erosions as more water comes in, it will seep under the ground and further more it does not show until it collapses, just like on Fort George Island it seeps under the ground, this electric current generated by the water, and we are going

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to hear those booms again. This is what creates this phenomena when the land is too cold, it can get to be -30 Celsius without the wind-chill but with the wind-chill it can be below minus -40 to minus -50 Celsius, the moisture from the water expands and when it expands too quickly, it makes a big boom sound when the ground is too cold like an earthquake. The waste or excess is what we call the electricity that is not used, it is invisible to see, but it is there in the air generated by the overflow of the electric current

Please Listen to the Cree in Sharing their Experiences and Wisdom with us (continued):

Jane Sam Cromarty (continued):

that is coming from the dams upriver because it cannot go anywhere but towards the land. This is the waste in which this electric current needs to go somewhere. It is not going to an electric transmission line it is just the electricity that is there which is going towards the community creating these vapors in the atmosphere affecting the community . The LaGrange River, which flows through Chisasibi is one of the few tidal Rivers in Quebec, and Hydro Quebec with the construction of the LG-1 dam has damaged the tidal river creating very low tides and dry muddy shorelines.

In our struggle to preserve our way of life we know there is damage done to the environment and you know because it passes through our reserve. As Hydro Quebec continues to sell this electricity to destroy another peaceful and beautiful land in another far away place, it will be destroyed forever. We are proof of that destruction, we live it daily, we have been through many traumas by many strangers who come to devour our most scared inherited right: the land. The 1972 agreement continues to affect us after forty-seven years of Hydro-Quebec's action to sell electricity at any cost.

Cultural Impacts:

The loss of land is one of the major catastrophes, the shrinking hunting traplines of the trappers, the continued disruption of wildlife of migrating birds and the damage to the shorelines where birds breed and feed their young. This change affects the water ecosystem and changes in landscape and familiar land spots of the migratory birds breeding areas. The impacts of poaching due to lack of wild game the and there is a decline of caribou and moose. These cultural impacts affect the way of a hunter hunts to survive from the land.

This change in the life of the hunters, has had major changes in our lifestyle. We have changed to main stream in that we live more like town people. Where once our people spent time in the bush year round, now I normally go into the bush only seasonally. Influences of abuses: Sexual, Alcohol, Drugs, Child and Elder Abuse, lack of Housing and Homelessness are on the increase.

Ecological Impacts:

One of the most devastating situations is the disruption of the ecosystem which has affected the migration of Geese in their feeding sanctuaries disappearing due to the weather, salt water flow into river bringing more salt water from the bay towards the inland of the river. This is affecting Cree hunters who now hunt South in Quebecois farmers fields.

Please Listen to the Cree in Sharing their Experiences and Wisdom with us (continued):

Jane Sam Cromarty (continued):

Jane sent to me some excerpts from their fact sheet **Contaminants in the environment, which shows that the Cree are examining the effects of** mercury, lead or other contaminants, providing this information to the provincial database, and informing people about how to prevent these contaminants from building up in their bodies. To this end they provide the following information on:

Eating fish safely (<http://www.creehealth.org/eating-fish>):

- High-mercury fish are usually:
 - Fish from reservoirs or directly downstream from hydroelectric power plants
 - Predatory fish - ones that eat other fish
 - Large fish – more than 1 ½ feet (50 cm).
- lead ammunition - impacts on health (<http://www.creehealth.org/leadfree>)

Indoor air quality (see also: [Fact Sheet](#)) ever since the Cree were forced from their traditional sustenance way of life when the dams caused the mercury poisoning in their food: indoor air quality, including mold, radon, which can cause cancer ([read more about radon](#)), and carbon monoxide, have become a major concern for Public Health in the Cree CommUnity. Jane told me that these problems are made worse by the fact that the housing stock in their CommUnities are poorly constructed, drafty, and allows these indoor air issues to become major problems in their homes.

I have to ask: that with all of the booming that is occurring, might that cause an earthquake and a breach in the dams? Also what might we not know, if there might be fracking going on in the area, what might those implications be? Also is there any Emergency Management preparation for any kind of emergency for a dam breach and is there a way that Hydro-Quebec could be forced to pay for this? What would Maine's responsibility be if such a disaster were to occur?

Margaret Sam-Cromarty brought home to Jane Sam Cromarty a Climate Change article on page 34 from the Cree Hunters and Trappers Magazine from the November 25 Part 1 in this the link to the Magazine:

<http://www.chtsb.ca/publications-en/the-cree-hunter-and-trapper-magazine>

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“There are powerlines all over the James Bay area it is a familiar sight to see these rocket-like shaped towers standing out on the land in rows and rows of powerline towers looming as if to blast off into space dotting the countryside.”

– Jane Sam Cromarty

Please Listen to the Cree in Sharing their Experiences and Wisdom with us (continued):

Some final observations from Will Nicholls: He really wants us to know that what happens in James Bay also affects us here in Maine.

“Impacts upon the James Bay and Hudson Bay aquatic ecosystem will in turn affect the Atlantic Ocean, less nutrients and changing temperatures, etc. Effects on migratory birds such as geese and ducks to name a few. Greenhouse gases.

He further emphasizes that any *“Study should include the Greenhouse gas emissions created by the dams in Quebec where the power originates. Exporting pollution will affect Maine. Changes in the ecosystem in James Bay and Hudson Bay will reach Maine.”*

In relation to Jane Sam Cromarty’s submission, Will said that: *“climate change can be attributed to Hydro-Quebec (HQ) dams- methane gases released and the reflection of the water from the dams increases heat for the area. Also forest fires are allowed to continue without fighting them in Eeyou Istchee unless they endanger communities of resource extraction sites- ie mines, forestry camps, HQ camps. Increased water flow is eroding areas after the dams because now instead of three rivers and all the creeks they are centered on the La Grande river [where Chisasibi is located]. Erosion is also added too as around the dams there are huge areas that are dead zones- trees and other plants hold back the effects of erosion by water- now it is mud flats that change drastically with increased or decreased electrical demands both in Quebec and the US. The increased water flow from the La Grande complex was and is expected to erode the island where the original community was situated. This increase in water flow from the dams ensures that the river does not freeze over in certain areas. It also means a thinner ice which allows it to break up earlier than in the past.*

The electrical radiation from power lines has been known to cause cancer and other problems to people living near them. Another concern is what type of defoliants are being used to keep the vegetation down. Until the Nation exposed it Hydro-Quebec was using Agent Purple, a cousin of Agent Orange to do this from the La Grande complex from Radisson to Chibougamau. We saw animals with damaged livers and other problems. So this must be examined by Maine to see what type of environmental problems could arise from whatever method they will adopt.

Tidal rivers are ones that run into the sea, ocean or huge bays such as James Bay or Hudson Bay. Connected to the ocean and subject to the gravitational effects of the moon.

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The effects in Waskaganish are evident- the spawning of the white fish has been affected. I used to get some smoked fish from them but they say with the Rupert's river and Eastmain river diversion it is not the same. There are not as many fish as in the past. The beaches and such disappearing are an effect of this as well as the eel grass disappearing, which is a major food source for geese nesting in Eeyou Istchee. Something Ducks Unlimited should be made aware of as two of the major migration route destinations for geese and ducks is in Eeyou Istchee. Expect to see less of the waterfowl population in the future."

Please Listen to the Cree in Sharing their Experiences and Wisdom with us (continued):**Some final observations from Will Nicholls (Continued):**

These are a few final observations that Will shared:

I think that the following paragraph is taken/adapted from the following academic website <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1029/95GB02202> :
 "The James Bay Reservoirs (Canada) In indigenous hunting and trapping societies such as the James Bay Cree in Northern Québec, increased government transfers and financial compensations obtained within the scope of the James Bay hydropower projects have led to the development of modern well-equipped communities. The creation of new public services within these communities has led in turn to numerous relatively well paid clerical jobs for local residents. Consequently, a few social scientists have evoked the possibility that the social differentiation brought about by the emergence of indigenous white-collar elite in such communities could eventually threaten the status of traditional master trappers or tallymen.
 Sources: Berkes and Cuciurean (1987), Proulx (1992) and Simard, et al. (1996)"

Finally, again I want to reiterate the importance of the article that Will sent to me:

"Megadams Not Clean or Green, Says Expert Forty years of research show hydro dams create environmental damage, says David Schindler,"
 professor emeritus at the University of Alberta and internationally renowned for his expertise on lakes and rivers, who has been outspoken against the Alberta tar sands, says: "the greenhouse gas production from hydro is expected to be about the same as from burning natural gas."

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2018/01/24/Megadams-Not-Clean-Green/>

[For more proof of the Methylmercury on Cree health, see this article about the Harvard Study: "Human health risks from hydroelectric projects: Ninety-percent of proposed Canadian hydroelectric projects may expose local indigenous communities to methylmercury" by Leah Burrows, November 9, 2016:

<https://www.seas.harvard.edu/news/2016/11/human-health-risks-hydroelectric-projects>]

I also highly recommend watching the film: *Heavy Metal: A Mining Disaster In Northern Quebec*, about Will Nicholls' Friend Chris Covel, a long time Maine Resident who has worked so hard to remediate a Cree Community from the destructive health effects from Mining, only to have his considerable academic scientific research credentials called into question and cast aside by the Quebec and Grand Council of the Cree Authorities. If you follow the sequence of films in the following Multi-media section you

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will see that some Cree, who aren’t always aware of the developments and how they are affected, still follow their sustenance existence to an extent, and some have given up on their sacred values, and taken Hydro-Quebec’s money at the expense of their ecosystem. Do we really want to do business with such entities? <https://youtu.be/gHs3akgqnis>

Inspired by a Maine Radio Call in Program with Hydro-Quebec's President and CEO Eric Martel, Will wrote an poignant Editorial about this called *Drowning Our Values* 11/21/2019: <http://nationnews.ca/voices/drowning-our-values/>

Learning from the Cree: Why We and our Legislators Should Reject the NECEC Corridor!**Genocide and Ecological Ethnic Cleansing, why we should reject the NECEC:**

- While the energy produced by Hydro-Quebec’s dams is deceptively being billed as “clean”, the method of production is devastating the James Bay Ecosystem.
- “the greenhouse gas production from hydro is expected to be about the same as from burning natural gas.” David Shindler
- (And we still have greenhouse gasses.)
- The NECEC Corridor is heralding the further demise of the Cree and Inuit and their sacred way of life.

The Definition of Genocide:

The [Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide](#)(CPPCG) was adopted by the [UN General Assembly](#) on 9 December 1948 and came into effect on 12 January 1951 (Resolution 260 (III)). Article 2: “Any of the following acts committed with [intent to destroy, in whole or in part](#), a [national](#), [ethnic](#), [racial](#) or [religious](#) group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life, calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; [and] forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. (Article 2 CPPCG)”

1987: From Isidor Wallimann and Michael N. Dobkowski:

“Genocide is the deliberate, organized destruction, in whole or in large part, of racial or ethnic groups by a government or its agents. It can involve not only mass murder, but also forced deportation (ethnic cleansing), systematic rape, and economic and biological subjugation. (*Genocide and the Modern Age: Etiology and Case Studies of Mass Death*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2000. Reissue of an early work.)[\[21\]](#)”

- **How The Cree and Inuit have suffered from such a tragedy:**
 - Hydro-Quebec, especially since they learned about the devastation of their Mega Dams from Phase I, deliberately inflicted on the Cree and Inuit, conditions of life, calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

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- With the establishment of the Residential Schools, Hydro-Quebec imposed **measures intended to prevent births within the group**; [and] forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. (Article 2 CPPCG)”
- With the forced deliberate deportation to make way for the dams, the Cree and Inuit were subject to ethnic cleansing. [1987]

Learning from the Cree: Why We and our Legislators Should Reject the NECEC Corridor!

•Nevertheless, this Hydro-Quebec scheme to sell it’s costly electricity to Massachusetts means that Hydro-Quebec will want to build more dams. More dams will bring further destruction to the James Bay Ecosystem, further harm and demise to its indigenous inhabitants, our Cree and Inuit neighbors, and create an increase in Global Warming.

•Every time a new dam is built, water levels rise and new “power pools” are created, discharging more greenhouse gasses into the air. The Cree and Inuit lose even more of their land, they lose more of their homes, their food sources are further compromised, and more of their sacred and ceremonial sites get submerged.

•Hydro-Quebec would use the NECEC Corridor to justify building more dams in the James Bay area, further threatening the Cree People and their sacred home, thus exacerbating the existing Genocide and ethnic cleansing.

• **Important Questions we need to consider before making a decision on the NCECE:**

- While the energy produced by the dams is “clean”, the method of production is extremely destructive.
- How can we trust Hydro-Quebec? – they’ve repeatedly reneged on their agreements with the Cree and Inuit Nations. Thus if Hydro-Quebec and Quebec, and Canada, have not honored their treaties and agreements with not just the Cree in Quebec, but also with those dealing with the tar sands extraction zones in Alberta; how can we, the PUC, Janet Mills, and the other Interested Parties here in Maine trust that Hydro-Quebec will honor the agreements that they have made with Maine's CMP, PUC and Janet Mills, when they haven't even Honored those that they have already made with their own Citizens?
- It is thus clear that HQ has Committed Genocide and Ecological Ethnic Cleansing.
- Knowing the consequences, and consciously choosing to build the NECEC and any new dams anyway, constitutes Genocide and Ecological ethnic cleansing of the Cree and Inuit people.
- Is the State of Maine going to consciously choose to participate in a project that results in Genocide, ecological ethnic cleansing, and an increase in global warming?

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- Maine would be losing acres of pristine beauty and gaining a huge scar of ugliness, but for what?
- VT rejected a similar proposal from Hydro-Quebec, The NECEC Corridor is Hydro-Quebec’s scheme for financing their costly Mega-dam system, at the expense of the Cree and Inuit and their sacred way of life.

For Additional Reasons Why Our Legislators Should Reject the NECEC Corridor:**Learn More:****From Maine / Environmental Organizations, and sign their petitions too!**

1. See this from the Stop The Corridor site:
https://www.corridorno.com/just_the_facts/ / contact@corridorno.com
2. Also see the Natural Resources Council of Maine site for up to date information on this project, and to sign their petition:
<https://www.nrcm.org/projects/climate/proposed-cmp-transmission-line-bad-deal-maine/>
207 – 622 – 3101 Toll Free: 1 – 800 – 287 – 2345
3. See Patagonia's Action: <https://www.pressherald.com/2018/06/06/patagonia-takes-aim-at-cmp-transmission-project/>

See The Video of Maine Guides describing the Fate of Our Pristine Maine Wilderness:

<https://youtu.be/c3pZrKwGEeA>

Find Books, Films, and other Muti-Media: re the Cree and James Bay: Hydro-Quebec's devastation, and those affected by the NECEC Corridor, including:

For the Cree way of life:

1. ***Flooding Jobs Garden***, part of the series *As Long As The Rivers Flow*, from Journalist Boyce Richardson: a sequel 15 years after the JBNQA <https://youtu.be/DfsD6rrVv6l>

Concerns to consider: The Cree feel helpless, as we in Maine do with CMP and Hydro-Quebec weaseling their way into our woods, over the demise that has happened to their sacred land due to the Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams and all of their Transmission Lines. We in Maine are also in a David vs Goliath situation with Hydro-Quebec strong-arming their way into convincing Central Maine Power CMP, etc., that it is in their best interests to go along with their New England Clean Energy Connect NECEC Transmission Line Corridor, and we fortunately are in a slightly different situation in that we here in Maine have not yet had our fate sealed by Hydro-Quebec, and that we must endeavor together to stop the same fate that has befallen the Cree from Hydro-Quebec, from befalling us here in Maine.

Since the Cree experienced so much clear-cutting after the Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams along with all of the other infrastructure including Transmission Lines, etc., could that be the next plan for the Western Mountains and Rivers Corporation,

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once the NECEC Transmission Line Corridor has been put in? Do we really want to risk our pristine forests here in Maine with this NECEC Transmission Line?

The Government of Quebec and Hydro-Quebec look down on the Cree Indigenous Wisdom as not being scientific enough, much in the same way that Central Maine Power CMP and those who want to build this CMP Hydro-Quebec NECEC Transmission Line Corridor look down on those most attuned to the wilderness who want to save it here in Maine. Do we really want to accept similar treatment to us here in Maine, and also accept a similar fate happening to us here in Maine?

For Additional Reasons Why Our Legislators Should Reject the NECEC Corridor:**Learn More:**

Find Books, Films, and other Multi-Media: re the Cree and James Bay: Hydro-Quebec's devastation, and those affected by the NECEC Corridor, including:

For the Cree way of Life (Continued):

2. ***One More River***, by Rezolution Pictures:

<https://youtu.be/gUlZejarull>

This film gives a compelling reason why we should not trust anything that Hydro-Quebec tells us. Filmmakers Neil Diamond and Tracey Deer travel deep into James Bay to follow Cree Filmmaker Earnest Webb, in an emotional behind the scenes process up to the signing of the *Paix des Braves Agreement* of 2002, and how the Native Cree Tallymen hunters raced to stop it’s implementation in which Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams would divert the Rupert River, and how the Grand Council of the Cree Government were swayed to sign onto to it. It also features Cree Advocate Roger Orr, and my Cree Friends Matthew Mukash and Larry House who truly stood up for their People and Ecosystem. Do we really want to make the same mistakes that the Cree made in signing onto something with Hydro-Quebec?

3. ***Down The Mighty River: The Deal That Split The Cree*** (unfortunately I can only provide the site to the trailer): http://rezolutionpictures.com/portfolio_page/down-the-mighty-river/

A sequel to *One More River*, a six part Television documentary series, which follows Earnest Webb in the summer of 2009, as he checks in on “The Legacy Paddlers” a group of canoe paddlers who are the last to travel the length of the Rupert River before it was diverted. It is a chilling look at how the culture has been devastated due to the horrific transition from a sustinance existence to being dependent upon a Western Consumer Oriented Economy, incl. drug addiction, depression, and suicide.

4. ***Heavy Metal, A Mining Disaster In Northern Quebec,***

<https://youtu.be/gHs3akgqnis>

This is about Will Nicholls' Friend Chris Covell, a long time Maine Resident who has worked so hard to remediate a Cree CommUnity from the destructive health

Tragic History with Hydro-Quebec – Before it’s too late!

effects from Mining, only to have his considerable academic scientific research credentials called into question and cast aside by the Quebec, and Grand Council of the Cree Authorities. If you follow the sequence of films in this Multi-media section of my Report you will see that some Cree, who aren’t always aware of the developments, and how they are affected, still follow their sustenance existence to an extent, and some have given up on their sacred values, and taken Hydro-Quebec’s money at the expense of their ecosystem. Do we really want to do business with such entities?

For Additional Reasons Why Our Legislators Should Reject the NECEC Corridor:**Learn More:**

Find Books, Films, and other Muti-Media: re the Cree and James Bay: Hydro-Quebec's devastation, and those affected by the NECEC Corridor, including:

For the Cree way of Life (Continued):

5. **Boyce Richardson’s Films:** intimate Journeys with the James Bay Tallyman before the Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams besieged their CommUnities ***Job’s Garden:***
<https://youtu.be/AgHvzm9ROHE>
6. **Boyce Richardson’s Cree Hunters of Mistassini:**
<https://youtu.be/hhSxzBPAYXA>
7. **See the Rezolution Pictures website for their Cree Documentaries, especially the "Dab liyyuu" series (Series 3 here:**
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXssjYeUyJVFhE6TmYzIIxcVsqw10TkzU>
and clips here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE61AD6788D9D0FF1>) ,
and ***Charlie Makes A Drum*** under the documentary section:
* <http://rezolutionpictures.com/our-work/>
8. This *Star* article, below, further illustrates the kind of problems that would not exist if the dams did not destroy their, as someone in the *The Eeyouch of Eeyou Itschee* film described as akin to someone going in and robbing and invading “your” home, their land: <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/05/02/cree-nation-on-quebec-side-of-james-bay-thriving-while-first-nations-on-ontario-side-languish.html>
9. ***Eeyouch of Eeyou itschee*** Cree page, on the Grand Council of The Cree site, please understand that this is from the Grand Council of Cree which offers it’s Political perspective, and not necessarily that of the Tallymen of James Bay:
<https://www.cngov.ca/resources/the-eeyouch-of-eeyou-istchee/>
(Make sure to click through to the Vimeo video player site to ensure that you can scroll to watch this four part series).
10. I also am encouraging Maine Governor Janet Mills to reach out to our friend Hannah Pingree in her new position as Leader of The Office of Innovation and The Future, (again thank you Governor Mills, for your nice nod to Kurt Vonnegut), to

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consider a new cooperation with the Cree Tallymen and the Cree Youth who are grappling to find their way to a future worth living, as the Youth of Maine, to follow the example of the Grand Council of the Cree in their work to solve Climate Change. See this link for the video about how the Cree Nation of Waskaganish has developed a call to action for it’s people to tackle climate change

<https://www.cngov.ca/news-issues/current-issues/waskaganish-call-to-action-climate-change-adaptation/> or this YouTube video, which needs the captions turned on to English: and this from the Cree Community of Mistissini: https://youtu.be/CBvu1jU_ySg

For Additional Reasons Why Our Legislators Should Reject the NECEC Corridor:

Learn More:

For the area in Maine that would be affected by the NECEC Corridor:

Maine Public Special Series: “Power Struggle In The Maine Woods”: Produced by Fred Bever, a Multi-media weeklong news series:

<https://www.mainepublic.org/programs/power-struggle-maine-woods>

Furthermore see this article in The Sun Journal to see that New York City wants to Base it’s Green New Deal on this Genocidal Hydro-Quebec electricity:

<https://www.sunjournal.com/2019/04/24/new-york-city-eyes-quebec-hydropower-in-bid-to-go-green/>

Some Final Thoughts:

What Are We Doing Unto Others?

If we thought that the CMP Corridor (NECEC) would put our homes underwater, turn our food supply toxic, or Doom our families to a lifetime of cancer, would we vote for it?

Of course not!

Would we want to impose that on our neighbors to the north?

Of course not!

But that’s exactly what happens to the Cree and Inuit people in the James Bay area of Canada every time Hydro-Quebec builds another dam(n) in their tribal territory. The waters rise, and their ancient way of life goes further under.

But build more dams is exactly what Hydro-Quebec wants to do. They’ll finance their dams by selling electricity to Massachusetts... and CMP will do their bidding by running it right through our backyard!

If we vote to allow Hydro-Quebec to destroy our pristine Maine Forests, we’re also voting to slowly exterminate an entire indigenous culture, little by little, one dam(n) at a time.

So we’re not just voting on the fate of our Maine Wilderness; we’re choosing whether or not we’re going to engage in the ethnic cleansing and Genocide of the Cree and Inuit

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people. We’re giving Hydro-Quebec the green light to putting the Cree and Inuit Nation further underwater.

Let's do unto our Cree and Inuit neighbors as we would do unto ourselves...

Let’s say no to Hydro-Quebec, their dams, and their Corridor.

Let’s say Yes to Love, Life, and Beauty!

"He who stands to benefit, must also bear the loss"

- Walter Eucken, German Economist of the "Mount Pelerin Society"

Some Final Thoughts:

Seeking a Wise Alternative!

Old-time Mainers are known for their ingenuity; Millennials are solving problems that we never even dreamed of. Can’t we all put our heads together to create a win/win alternative to Maine’s NECEC corridor? Can't we boost our economy, address our energy needs, and solve the climate crisis by creating instead of destroying?

I know that there are a privileged few who would like to profit from Maine’s proposed NECEC. Can’t we help them profit from something else? Something that wouldn’t put another scar on Mother Earth?

I’d like to propose that we, on all sides of the Maine Corridor issue, join our Hearts together in a nonpartisan, non-denominational event; in the spirit of a prayer circle, a ring of protection of love around our Sacred Maine wilderness; to address these issues by focusing our highest energies on creating the best possible outcome for the Future of Maine... our wilderness, our water, our air, our Earth, we the people of Maine, and the innocent wild creatures who count on our wisdom for their well-being... Not to mention our Cree and Inuit neighbors to the North.

I would like to look at Archbishop Desmond Tutu's method of negotiation, as a model for finding this Wise Alternative!

Let it be even better than we can ever imagine...

Please send your solutions to (will edit when I figure this out!)

Help us STOP the Hydro-Quebec (HQ) and CMP: NECEC!

Call for a Peaceful Clean Green Energy Economy!

Advocate: We can take further actions, save energy, show up to Town Hall Meetings, call your Representatives, tell your friends, etc., to force the following entities etc., to not approve this Dirty Energy NECEC project! As consumers and voters we have the power to make the policies! We need to urgently establish a new Peaceful Clean Green Energy Economy one in which all are paid a Living Wage! Do this, so that we all can Save Our Maine Woods and James Bay Today!!!!

Tragic History with Hydro-Quebec – Before it’s too late!

This is my link to my Facebook Live Stream of the Army Corp of Engineers Hearing in Lewiston, 12/5/2019, in the description. In it I include links to some of the relevant websites of those who gave their testimony, the relevant books and articles about James Bay, including Hans Carlson’s book.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10157353166917605&id=690312604

Please: - sign this petition: <https://nrcm.salsalabs.org/opposenecec/index.html> , and
- Sign up to collect signatures for our Say NO to NECEC / No Corridor Referendum to stop the NECEC here: For info: <https://www.nocmpcorridor.com/> To sign up: https://www.nocmpcorridor.com/get_involved

**Help us STOP the Hydro-Quebec (HQ) and CMP: NECEC!
Call for a Peaceful Clean Green Energy Economy! (Continued)**

My Cree Poet Friend Margaret Sam-Cromarty, is a hero I met while she was giving Testimony at the Massachusetts Congressional Energy Committee Hearing at their State House and at a Tufts University Environmental Conference, in the Boston area in the winter of 1992. Please see more of Margaret Sam-Cromarty’s poetry here: <https://zocalopoets.com/category/poets-poetas/margaret-sam-cromarty/>

“Steel Towers”

One cold day
I stood on the shores of James Bay.
The sun shone bright, the sky blue.
I wanted to find a clue.

Why, among the spruce and pine
rows of steel towers stood in line.
They were out of place,
near an Indian camp.

Looking for white birds’ tracks,
instead as I turn my back
Tracks of bulldozers meet my sight –
Ruining the landscape in the fading light.

Against the sky and beyond
stand stark steel towers.
In this harsh land of ice and snow
these steel towers are colder than forty below.

We Cree live in harmony
on this beautiful land.
In a land where no man had trod,

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in the fresh snow I read

Signs of upheaval of black earth.
Bulldozers making roads
and steel towers standing tall.

© 1980 Margaret Sam-Cromarty

Help us STOP the Hydro-Quebec (HQ) and CMP: NECEC!

Our Cree Poet Friend Margaret Sam-Cromarty, is a hero, see more of her poetry here:

<https://zocalopoets.com/category/poets-poetas/margaret-sam-cromarty/>

“James Bay”

James Bay, my home,
is closer than the moon,
its regions so bare,
aloof and remote.

Hudson Bay flows
to James Bay,
both beautiful,
wild and free.

The rugged coasts
of James Bay and Hudson Bay,
their charm
meets my eyes.

The sights and sounds
of James Bay.
They wrap around me,
giving me peace.

© 1980 Margaret Sam-Cromarty

My Prayer for the Inuit and the Cree

Dearest my beloved Inuit and the Cree,
I pray
From the heart deep within me,
That your People
Won’t be written-off
In the pages of
Long-oppressions-history
I pray
Great Spirit
Let the Inuit and Cree
On their land stay
So one more Sacred Native Culture,

Tragic History with Hydro-Quebec – Before it’s too late!

We the world do not slay;

United States Native Americans,

The Sandinistas

The Jews

The Kurds

If the government of Quebec

Delivers its approval of the Dam(n) on James Bay,

The fragile safety net around the world would end up torn in fray,*

The Inuit and the Cree would be forced to flee

And many will flood

Like James Green plains

Tears of misery.

But now we can’t allow our dismay,

We have something important to say:

Hydro-Quebec Get Out of James Bay

Get (the hell) Out Without Delay!

© 1991 Heidi Johanna Vierthaler

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Submitted by Zoom Meeting and Email to Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov on 11/22/2021

Date: November 22, 2021
To: Commissioner Melanie Loyzim, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
From: Heidi J Vierthaler, Southern Maine in Wabanaki Territory near Brunswick
Re: Permanent License Suspension for the CMP/ Hydro Quebec NECEC Corridor Project

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Commissioner Loyzim, and distinguished Members of the Department of Environmental Protection Committee; I am Heidi J Vierthaler, a Social and Environmental Advocate from Southern Maine in Wabanaki Territory, near Brunswick.

I rise to support the permanent suspension of the license of the NECEC Project.

This suspension is dictated by Justice Michaela Murphy's ruling in the Superior Court decision, Black v. Cutko.

The people spoke with nearly 60% voting Yes to stop the NECEC Corridor! The construction should never have happened.

CMP began their construction:

- Without permits,
and
- Before the results of the Referendum Question 1.

By doing so, they are defying the will of the people.

I call on the Committee to demand that CMP pay restitution for all damage incurred by constructing the NECEC.

Furthermore, we must not allow CMP to raise our electric bills to compensate for the necessary rewilding.

DEP, you must exercise your power, now to protect Maine's environment from unnecessary damage for a project that is likely be halted by the courts!

These legal reasons alone should be more than enough to suspend the license for the NECEC Project.

Would a parent tolerate this, if CMP was a child cutting down trees in their backyard!?!

My conscience continues to call me to listen to my heart to beseech “our” Committee to Consult with the Cree Trappers, and our other Indigenous Neighbors, their lives and culture have already been upended by the Hydro Quebec and their Mega Dams, to ensure that their voices are also considered in this process.

We will be complicit in their further Genocide and Ecological Ethnic Cleansing, if we license the NECEC Project.

We must learn from them that Hydro Quebec can’t be trusted. Neither can CMP.

According to British Columbia Professor Suzanne Simard’s scientific research “forests are so important globally ...[they] are absolutely fundamental to our life support systems, and so saving these old growth forests now is the number one thing that we need to do”. See my written testimony.

It is thus in our States’ best interest to permanently suspend the NECEC License, for human rights and climate related issues.

Please find my previous written testimony addressed to the DEP.

I urge you to suspend the license for the NECEC Project.

Again please, keep the Cree and the future of our planet, in your heart as you cast your votes. Their lives, and our entire Global ecosystem, are in your hands. Thank you for your time, I would appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions.

Heidi J Vierthaler

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: Submitted 11/22/2021

Commissioner Melanie Loyzim, and distinguished Members of the Department of Environmental Protection Committee; I am Heidi J Vierthaler, a Social and Environmental Advocate from Southern Maine in Wabanaki Territory, near Brunswick.

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- This suspension is dictated by Justice Michaela Murphy's ruling in the Superior Court decision, Black v. Cutko.
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Furthermore, we must not allow CMP to raise our electric bills to compensate for the necessary rewilding.

DEP, you must exercise your power now to protect Maine's environment from unnecessary damage for a project that is likely be halted by the courts!

Again, these legal reasons alone should be more than enough to suspend the license for the NECEC Project.

Would a parent tolerate this, if CMP was a child cutting down trees in their backyard!?!

THE CREE: A CALL TO CONSCIENCE FOR THE INDIGENOUS LIVES AND CULTURES, THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN UPENDED BY HYDRO-QUEBEC AND THEIR MEGA DAMS

[FYI: I first learned about the Cree and their threat from Hydro-Quebec in 1991 when I was a student at LIU. I was moved by their “Ban the Dam Jam for James Bay” benefit concert series to save these indigenous people and their culture in the James Bay ecosystem*, from the devastation caused by the Hydro Quebec Mega-Dams. I was thus moved to produce the “Maine Earth Day Alert For James Bay – North America’s Own Amazon” (Rainforest) as part of our Earth Day in Portland in 1993, and as part of earning my degree in Geography and Anthropology at the University of southern Maine.

*South of Hudson Bay.]

My conscience continues to call me to listen to my heart to beseech “our” Committee to Consult with the Cree Trappers, and our other Indigenous Neighbors, their lives and culture have already been upended by the Hydro Quebec and their Mega Dams, to ensure that their voices are also considered in this process.

The following passage is taken from my “Be a Climate Change Hero: Maine, New England and the World: Stop The New England Clean Energy Connect NECEC” Fact Sheet:

Stand up for our Indigenous Cree and Inuit Neighbors to our North who since the 70’s have Been Suffering from Hydro-Quebec Development:

Mercury poisoning at the source of the Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams has caused the Cree much death, suicide, destruction, and devastation in their CommUnities. The Cree, in their James Bay Ecosystem South of Hudson Bay, had lived a sustenance existence, and have now been forced to become dependent on a toxic Western Consumer-Oriented Economy.

Throughout the Maine governmental decision-making process re the NECEC, the Human Rights of our Indigenous Neighbors, have been ignored. We need to ensure that the Human Rights of all concerned in any infrastructure projects, anywhere, are taken into consideration. See Footnote 1.

Footnote 1 is the attachment for my “White Paper Report: Stop the NECEC for the Cree and ME”

Please see Teagan Wright 's Video about the impact of the Mega Dams on the Indigenous People:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/SayNOtoNECEC/permalink/704168190339520/>

We will be complicit in their further Genocide and Ecological Ethnic Cleansing, if we license the NECEC Project.

We must learn from them that Hydro Quebec can't be trusted. Neither can CMP.
OUR TREES: A CALL TO SAVE THE PLANET FROM CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

According to British Columbia Professor Suzanne Simard's scientific research (Paraphrased from a speech that I heard recently):

“Forests are so important globally. They provide:

- 70 to 80% of the carbon in the terrestrial systems, ...
- 80% of our clean water,
- They provide the oxygen we breathe
- Are absolutely fundamental to our life support systems, and so **saving these old growth forests now is the number one thing that we need to do”**.
- The **second thing for forests that we need to do is to restore the forests that we've degraded** so that means going back to you know simplify plantings going back to under recovered forests and helping them to come back to you know these resilient vibrant forests that they once were and then
- The **third thing that we need to do is** of course and people are talking about this all over the world of **replanting forests that that are completely deforested** and we do need to do this with a great deal of care. We need to know what we're doing because if we make mistakes, for example planting monocultures, where diverse stands are required, or planting the wrong species we can actually increase the vulnerability of our landscape to more death more die backs, more fire, so we have to know what we're doing.
- We need to **work with the best knowledge, and that includes scientists, and indigenous People**. They have lived on the land for thousands of years, include anybody who is a knowledge keeper about the land.

Please see her work on “The Mother Tree Project” here:

<https://mothertreeproject.org/about-mother-trees/> Q

Again, the following passage is taken from my “Be a Climate Change Hero: Maine, New England and the World: Stop The New England Clean Energy Connect NECEC” Fact Sheet:

As the Amazon Burns, and the Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams generate Greenhouse Gasses, Our Pristine Maine Wilderness Becomes A Major Climate Resource: We Need to Keep Our Trees!!

Maine, as the most forested state in the nation, has the potential to make a significant contribution to mitigating global warming (Climate Change). (2). It is critical to preserve all of our forests, in order to increase the carbon sequestration in our world.

[Furthermore the Corridor would be a grave mistake in such a sparsely populated region with scarce emergency management personnel and resources, especially with all of the forest fires that we are seeing around the world, but most especially in Australia, the Arctic, Brazil, Borneo, and on the West Coast of the United States of America. We need to protect what is left of the carbon sequestering resource that is our pristine Maine forest, for sake of the lives of all living in the area, and the Climate Change Catastrophe globally.]

For more about what is at stake, see this 20 minute video with Maine Guides describing the path of the NECEC and it's further destruction: <https://youtu.be/c3pZrKwGEeA>

Please note that the greenhouse gasses produced by Mega Dams is about the same as burning natural gas. See [the Article in the Dams section of] my Facebook Post in my White Paper Report Stop the NECEC for The Cree and ME”!

Footnote 2:

http://www.forestecologynetwork.org/climate_change/maine_forests_%26_carbon.html

It is thus in our States’ best interest to permanently suspend the NECEC License, for human rights and climate related issues.

Please find my previous written testimony addressed to the DEP.

I urge you to suspend the license for the NECEC Project.

Again please, keep the Cree, and the future of our planet, in your heart as you cast your votes. Their lives, and our entire Global ecosystem, are in your hands. Thank you for your time, I would appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions.

Heidi J Vierthaler

This is a part of the James Bay ecosystem at the heart of Hydro Quebec's Mega Dams electricity. This is a screenshot of Boyce Richardson's "Flooding Job's Garden", notice one of the many Hydro-Quebec Mega Dams in the background.

Thanks to CMP part of Maine already looks like this:



You the Distinguished Members of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Have the Power to Stop This -

Permanently suspend the license of the NECEC!!!!

**Do we really want to trust Hydro-Quebec or CMP with our pristine
Maine wilderness!?! I don't think so!!!!"**

Thank you!