

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	LICENSE SUSPENSION HEARING
CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY)	
NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT)	
)	
L-27625-26-A-N)	REBUTTAL TESTIMONY
L-27625-TG-B-N)	OF ELIZABETH CARUSO, TOWN OF
L-27625-2C-C-N)	CARATUNK
L-27625-VP-D-N)	
L-27625-IW-E-N)	

**ELIZABETH CARUSO, TOWN OF CARATUNK REBUTTAL TESTIMONY ON
BEHALF OF INTERVENORS WEST FORKS, ET AL.**

My name is Elizabeth Caruso and I am First Selectman for the Town of Caratunk. I submit this testimony in rebuttal to the pre-filed direct testimony filed by Central Maine Power Company and NECEC Transmission LLC witness Thorn Dickinson.

Contrary to Mr. Dickinson’s pleas, delays in NECEC’s project construction timeline are not the DEP’s concern and are not responsive to the question posed in the First Procedural Order: “...status of construction activities... and construction plans for the upcoming months.” First Procedural Order, paragraph 15 b.). Nor is applicant’s timeline the concern of the citizens of Maine, whom this agency is supposed to be advocating on behalf of. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

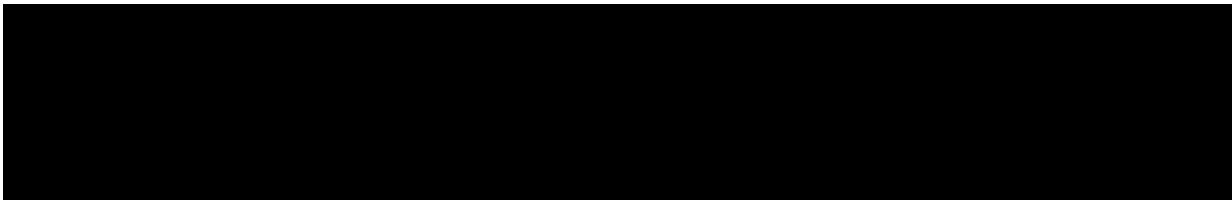
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This project needs to be held to the same high standard as every other infrastructure project. Certainly, permit applications from private citizens are held to high standards and are, at times, oppressively critiqued for environmental impact (i.e. cutting too many trees).

Unquestionably, ownership rights are the most basic of standards. At the start of the agency's regulatory process, Title, Right and Interest were heavily contested by intervenors, and the DEP disregarded intervenors' arguments. The DEP owes the intervenors and those they represent – even the citizens of Maine – a fully vetted, due regulatory process including full analysis and approval of alternative route(s) and the halt of all construction until the corridor's Title, Right and Interest is intact.



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lease illegality was then established by the law court when Justice Murphy confirmed that “Director Cutko therefore exceeded his authority, and his decision is therefore reversed.”

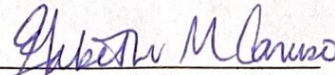
The DEP has no other rightful and legitimate conclusion than to suspend NECEC's permit because CMP/NECEC no longer has Title, Right and Interest for the entire corridor. Until there is a viable, vetted and assured corridor route, all construction efforts must cease and desist to halt destruction of Maine's environment, wildlife habitat and scenic character, as well as to ensure integrity in the regulatory process.

I, Elizabeth Caruso, being first duly sworn, affirm that the above testimony is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Respectfully Submitted,

Town of Caratunk

Dated: October 12, 2021


By: Elizabeth Caruso, First Selectman