

THE STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

APPLICATION FOR SITE LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT ACT PERMIT  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT PERMIT  
FOR THE NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT  
FROM QUÉBEC-MAINE BORDER TO LEWISTON  
AND RELATED NETWORK UPGRADES

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MANDY FARRAR

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

**TESTIMONY OF MANDY FARRAR**

1 **Please state your name and address.**

2 My name is Mandy Farrar and I currently reside at 29 West Road in Solon, Maine,  
3 however, I previously lived in the town of Caratunk for 12 years.

4 **What is the name of your organization and business address?**

5 I am an independent citizen.

6 **What is your current position?**

7 I currently work as a forester and have been in this role for 15 years.

8 **What other occupations have you had in the greater Forks area?**

9 Previously, I worked as a whitewater rafting guide.

10 **Why did you intervene in these proceedings?**

11 I chose to intervene in the proceeding because I spend most of my free time hiking,  
12 rafting, canoeing, and fishing in the nearby Caratunk/Forks area. I have worked and  
13 recreated here as an adult for over 25 years, and I love to share this beautiful area  
14 with visitors from all over the United States and beyond.

15 The NECEC corridor will be visible from the summits of most of the local  
16 mountains, the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway, and much of ITS 89 (a major  
17 snowmobile trail utilized by many of the businesses here). This interruption to the  
18 scenic view is a direct negative impact on recreational tourism, and in turn, to the  
19 businesses that support this community.

20 People can go anywhere in the United States and see industrial powerlines – this is  
21 one of the few places in the eastern United States you can still go and see greenspace  
22 for miles and miles. It is one of the things that makes this area unique, it is why

1 people come to this area and recreate. NECEC cutting through this area will  
2 significantly impact the scenic character and existing uses of this area in a very  
3 negative way.

4 Proponents of NECEC like to refer to the forest that the proposed line will run  
5 through as “cut over” land – as if the impact of the current management that takes  
6 place on this land is no different than the impact of the proposed powerline corridor.

7 As if there is no scenic value. This is false and ignores what is actually there: an  
8 extensive, ever changing, multiple-use working forest, one that is whole, not  
9 fragmented. By contrast, fragmentation from human infrastructure such as power  
10 lines, damages forest health and habitat, most often with lasting, permanent negative  
11 effects. The vegetation management objective for power lines in forested regions is  
12 to reduce, if not eliminate, all tree and shrub vegetation. This is a significant impact  
13 to the scenic character, but also impacts wildlife and fisheries.

14 NECEC would require significant clearing through sensitive habitat, including  
15 habitat for many rare species, as well as ecologically and economically important  
16 species like Brook Trout and White-tailed Deer. The proposal would affect more  
17 than 1,000 acres of wetland, cross 115 streams and scores of vernal pools, and  
18 degrade approximately 20 acres of inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat. The  
19 potential for unreasonable erosion of soil into these sensitive areas is a very real  
20 concern.

21 The reality is, people have traditionally come to this area to experience our greatest  
22 resources – our clean water, our vast forests, our abundant wildlife, our thriving  
23 fisheries, and our vast mountain views where you can see nothing but trees, water,

- 1 and other mountains for miles and miles. This project will negatively impact all of
- 2 those things.
- 3 For the above reasons, I am opposed to this project.

Date: February 21<sup>st</sup> 2019

Respectfully submitted,

By: Amanda Ferrar  
Print Name: Amanda Ferrar

STATE OF Maine  
COUNTY OF Franklin

Personally appeared before me on the above- named Amanda Ferrar, who being duly sworn, did testify that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Before me,

Katie E. Deming

Notary Public/ Attorney at Law

My Commission expires 10/25/19

KATIE E. DEMING  
Notary Public, Maine

My Commission Expires October 25, 2019

