

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

CHRIS RUSSELL

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

TESTIMONY OF CHRIS RUSSELL

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

2 My name is Chris Russell and I live at 111 Main Street in Caratunk, Maine.

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

4 The name of my business is Kennebec River Angler Guide Service, PO Box 59,
5 Caratunk, ME 04925.

6 **What is your current position?**

7 I am the owner and head fishing guide for Kennebec River Angler.

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

9 I have been a registered Maine whitewater guide since 1986 and guided rafters on the
10 Kennebec River full time from 1991 to 2009. In 1997 I helped co-found Adventure
11 Bound, a rafting company based in Caratunk, ME and was the General Manager until
12 2009 when I started Kennebec River Angler. As a Master Maine Guide I continue to
13 also guide trips with snowmobiles, ATVs, kayaking, hiking, canoeing, photography
14 and a variety of hunting trips. I have many years of teaching outdoor education
15 classes to both children and adults in the Somerset County community as well.

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

17 I have made a living utilizing the outdoor resources in this area since 1986 and feel
18 this current project will severely affect my livelihood in a negative manner. As a
19 fishing guide service that focuses on guiding our clients to catching native brook
20 trout, we are seriously concerned with the cumulative effects that this project will
21 have on this fragile and valuable species and its habitat within northern Somerset

1 County. Spawning, rearing, feeding and refuge habitat all will be altered in some
2 manner with the results of this project.

3 A proposed three-hundred-foot-wide canopy removal over small, low volume brooks
4 will undoubtedly increase water temperatures and lower dissolved oxygen levels.
5 Brook trout are very temperature sensitive and begin to be stressed when water
6 temperatures exceed 74 degrees Fahrenheit for extended periods of time.

7 Removing the canopy to accommodate this powerline corridor will expose, at the
8 very least, 300 feet of streambed to sunlight and conductive heating at each crossing.

9 In most cases, the length of 300 feet would only be seen in direct, straight line
10 perpendicular crossing. The majority of exposure will exceed 300 feet of streambed
11 at each crossing due to the route of the stream not being exactly perpendicular to the
12 corridor nor in a straight line. Each exposure to sunlight will increase the water
13 temperature. In some cases, one stream could undergo several passes under this line,
14 multiplying the temp increase with each exposure. We would like to see more
15 studies done to show how much water temperature will be changed from headwater
16 brooks such as Tomhegan Stream, Mountain Brook and other key tributaries to the
17 lower reaches of Cold Stream, a proven spawning, rearing and refuge area for our
18 native brook trout.

19 We are also concerned about the long term, cumulative effects of increased
20 sedimentation into all stream habitat that could be detrimental to brook trout habitat. To
21 build this corridor, wider roads, roadside ditching, larger culverts, clearings, skid
22 trails and gravel fill will likely be used for a variety of construction purposes. We

1 feel this will cause increased sedimentation into these brooks and streams over years
2 and years, potentially choking out key spawning gravel and rearing habitat.

3 Increased sedimentation to streambeds could also change the nature of certain insect
4 life which is a key food source for these fish, but I'll defer that testimony to the
5 invertebrate experts.

6 At the very minimum, we would like to see water quality monitoring along these
7 watersheds to begin this spring. A yearlong baseline temperature profile as well as a
8 complete water quality workup should be established and monitored prior to the start
9 of any construction on the NECEC project in key streams and tributaries.

Date: 2/26/19

Respectfully submitted,

By: *Chris Russell*
Print Name: Christopher C. Russell

STATE OF Maine
COUNTY OF Somerset

Personally appeared before me on the above- named Chris Russell, 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,

Holly R. Towle

Notary Public/ Attorney at Law

My Commission expires _____ HOLLY R. TOWLE

Notary Public Maine

My Commission Expires November 9, 2022

