

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

KIMBERLY LYMAN

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

TESTIMONY OF KIMBERLY LYMAN

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

2 My name is Kimberly Lyman. My address is 30 River Road in Caratunk, Maine.

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

4 I am an individual citizen.

5 **What is your current position?**

6 I am an owner of guest rental cabins in Caratunk.

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

8 Other occupations I have had in the Forks area include working as a Registered
9 Maine Whitewater guide, shuttle driver for Kennebec River Angler, and previous
10 bartender and waitress at Northern Outdoors.

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

12 As a 21-year guide, and resident of the Forks area, (Caratunk), I consider myself an
13 expert on the area. This means this is not just 'emotional testimony'. For both
14 personal recreation and professional, shared with friends and families through the
15 years, hundreds of people: we've hiked, biked, fished, explored, hunted, canoed,
16 kayaked, utilizing the wilderness in this region, from Caratunk north to Jackman.
17 Its very attraction is it's wild nature and scenery. It is what brings people here. We
18 roam far from the main road, Rt. 201 to seek out places where you cannot hear
19 traffic, or see industrialization. We use the vast network of logging roads to access
20 these wild, special places. Ice caves, mountain tops, 'secret' streams and ponds up
21 high in the mountains. This project would so degrade the character and scenery that
22 it would never, ever have the same feel of wilderness and peace, the same clean

1 water, and streams full of trout. I would never go to these places if this line was
2 there. We seek out places like this area for its pure natural beauty, which contrary to
3 the testimony of CMP, does include the logged areas. Picking raspberries in an area
4 that was logged a couple of years prior has a smell in the sunshine you can never
5 forget once experienced. Picking berries on a poison sprayed power line would not
6 be something I could do or would recommend.

7 From the guide perspective: my husband is a master guide/fishing guide. His summer
8 income relies on the protected trout spawning streams, which are extremely sensitive and
9 unique. His customers exclaim in wonder over how wild it feels to be on the very stretch of
10 the Kennebec River that would be very affected once 100+ streams that feed into it are
11 compromised and the fish killed with silt, not to mention the cleared land and easier access
12 more people would have to the lower river if this line were to go there, either above OR
13 below. It's the 50 miles of damage north of The Forks that will cause ripple effects that will
14 not heal for generations.

15 Another perspective I bring is as a host with two rental accommodations. I have reviews
16 from our guests from all over the country, as well as from around the world,
17 exclaiming at how special and pure our area remains and how they feel so lucky to
18 have found it. They can't believe what they see when they go to the Attean Overlook
19 just south of Jackman, or when they hike # 5 Mountain, and Coburn Mountain, and
20 Pleasant Pond and Mosquito Mountains, all with unparalleled views, views that
22 make you feel free and full of happiness, yet ALL of these mountain tops will have a
23 view of this power line, if built. The people say they plan to come back, to see more

1 of this land. Maintaining the existing scenic beauty guarantees that continued
2 patronizing of guests who can't believe how lucky they feel to be here. They could go
3 anywhere in the world, but they come HERE. This is the type of use Maine should be
4 paying attention to. It is sustainable, clean [REDACTED] for our state, to host
5 people, and to provide guides with jobs, hosting them, to make them feel comfortable
6 and safe.

7 Contrary to the testimony of one expert that CMP had speak at the Hallowell PUC
8 public comments meeting, who said that there is no proof that people will not come
9 back to an area because of industrialization. It is exactly so, that people will seek out
10 other places to use for their vacations, leaving guides without patrons, leaving stores,
11 restaurants and lodging hosts without patrons. The ripple effect of this will be felt
12 state-wide, as these people who would no longer use our lands for their recreation
13 would go elsewhere. The 2017 John Muir study showed that 55% of people stated
14 that very fact (*See Exhibit 1*). Losing 55% of the number of current visitors/tourists to our
15 area would be catastrophic not only to our area, but to the towns along the way to our
16 area, who sell these people food, and gas, souvenirs, and more. So, the fact that the
17 usability of the wilderness of this entire region would be compromised based on a
18 change to the scenery that is about as far from natural as it gets, I request that the
19 LUPC say 'no' to issuing a permit for this NECEC project.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Kimberly Lyman
Print Name: Kimberly Lyman

OF Maine
COUNTY OF York

personally appeared before me on the above-named Kimberly S. Lyman, who being duly sworn, depose and testify that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Before me,

Lori A. Blondin

Notary Public/ Attorney at Law

My Commission expires February 1, 2025



Lori A. Blondin
Notary Public • State of Maine
My Commission Expires February 1, 2025