



July 19, 2018

Jim Beyer  
Bureau of Land Resources  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
106 Hogan Road Suite 6  
Bangor, Maine 04401

RE: Petition for leave to intervene in CMP NECEC proceedings

Dear Mr. Beyer:

The Nature Conservancy in Maine (the Conservancy) respectfully petitions the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for leave to intervene in proceedings conducted in response to the application by the Central Maine Power Company (CMP) for a Site Location of Development Act permit and Natural Resources Protection Act permit for the construction of the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) project.


The Nature Conservancy is a science-based nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. The Conservancy has been working in Maine for some 60 years and is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest landowner in the state. We own and manage some 300,000 acres, all of which is open to the public for a wide variety of uses, including hiking, hunting, canoeing and fishing. We also work across the state to restore rivers and streams and with fishermen in the Gulf of Maine to rebuild groundfish populations. In 2017, the Conservancy paid more than \$450,000 in property taxes.

One of our properties, the Leuthold Forest Preserve, is directly adjacent to the proposed NECEC transmission corridor. This preserve encompasses 16,934 acres of forest land southwest of Jackman, including Number 5 Mountain and the shorelines of seven ponds. Among the wildlife species found in the Leuthold Preserve are pine marten, gray jay, boreal chickadee, Blackburnian warbler and blackpoll warbler. CMP's proposed NECEC transmission project would run along the southern border of the preserve, with CMP right-of-way immediately abutting the preserve.

When development of new energy infrastructure is proposed, the Conservancy seeks to ensure that the planned infrastructure is well-sited and that projected impacts are appropriately addressed through the mitigation hierarchy. As intervenors in this proceeding, we will bring a science-based lens and significant staff knowledge. Many Conservancy staff, some of whom were formerly state agency staff, are familiar with agency procedures and understand well the relevant statutes and regulations governing Site Law and NRPA permitting.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions now or in the future. Thank you for your consideration of our petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "W".

Rob Wood  
Energy Policy & Projects Advisor  
The Nature Conservancy in Maine