

Maine Board of Environmental Protection
Chairman James W. Parker
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

John and Nancy Nicholas
208 Gayton Lane
Winthrop, Maine 04364

Date: August 8, 2018

Case: Opposition to Central Maine Power Company's proposed 145-mile Quebec Hydro transmission line in the State of Maine.

Dear Chairman Parker:

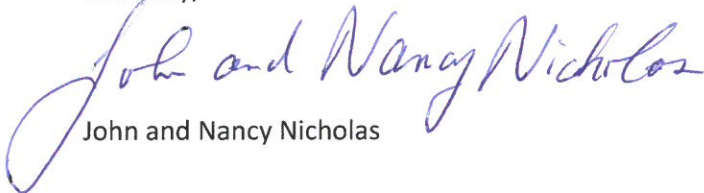
We own real property in Upper Enchanted Township, Maine, approximately two miles from CMP's proposed 145-mile Quebec Hydro transmission line in the State of Maine. We bought our property to enjoy the heavily forested beauty, remoteness and silence of the north Maine woods in Upper Enchanted Township, Maine, and to experience the abundance of unique wildlife (moose, bear and deer) and native fisheries (wild and native brook trout). The proposed CMP transmission line would forever destroy that enjoyment. Consequently, we are fervently opposed to the CMP transmission line for the following reasons:

1. CMP proposes a 25-foot buffer for the transmission line from any lake, pond, stream, brook or wetland in violation of Maine's Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act, which requires a buffer, or setback, of at least 100 feet from the high-water mark of any lake, pond, stream, brook or wetland. The proposed 25-foot buffer would cause irreparable harm to Maine's cherished wild and native brook trout, which are abundantly dispersed around the proposed transmission line in that part of the Unorganized Territory of Maine.
2. The proposed transmission line would result in a clear-cut of approximately 1,100 acres in the Unorganized Territory, which violates Maine Forest Service, Chapter 20 standards, Forest Regeneration & Clearcutting issued pursuant to MRSA Title 12, section 8869, subsection 2, Performance standards for clear-cuts, in which a clear-cut cannot exceed 250 acres.
3. The proposed transmission line would traverse Colburn and Johnson Mountains (Colburn Mountain is the highest mountain peak in the Jackman, Maine area) despoiling forever two picturesque mountain peaks and creating a hideous eyesore easily visible for miles on Route 201 for Maine residents and tourists.
4. The proposed transmission line appears to traverse at least two additional storied mountain peaks (this cannot be precisely determined, as the proposed transmission line has not been superimposed on a topographical map), Number 6 and Number 5 mountains.
5. The proposed transmission line appears to traverse Maine Public Reserved Land at mile 8 on the Spencer Road and near the Kennebec Gorge. If this is correct, the proposed transmission line land transfer, or acquisition, would be in violation of Article IX, section 23 of the Maine Constitution that requires a 2/3 vote of both houses of the Maine Legislature to alter or convey Maine Public Reserved Land.

6. The proposed transmission line will not provide Unorganized Territory property tax benefits for owners of real property in the affected area. Any marginal property tax benefit would be shared by property owners in the entire Unorganized Territory, who vastly outnumber those directly impacted by the proposed transmission line. Also, the hundreds of property owners in the affected area would seek tax abatements from the Maine Department of Audit for the loss of property value from the proposed transmission line, offsetting any marginal property tax reduction.
7. The project will not reduce carbon emissions as claimed by CMP, as the energy coming through the proposed transmission line would come from existing Quebec Hydro resources, thus, displacing current hydro users in New York, Quebec and Ontario. The latter displaced hydro energy users would be compelled to replace that energy source with carbon-based sources – oil, coal and natural gas.
8. The project will not result in any long-term increase in employment in the State of Maine, only short-term employment from the construction of the proposed transmission line. After construction of the proposed transmission line is complete, Maine would experience a loss of permanent, long-term employment through the decline of other Maine-based energy producing sources.
9. It is highly speculative, and clearly erroneous, for CMP to claim that the proposed transmission line would reduce electric rates for Maine residents. Since Maine's electric power emanates from the New England Energy Pool, there are multiple and complicated factors that may impact electric rates in the future among the New England states including, as examples, residential growth, changes in the makeup of commercial energy users and changes in the mix of energy sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in opposition to the Central Maine Power Company's proposed 145-mile Quebec Hydro transmission line in the State of Maine. We can be reached at jrnicholas@roadrunner.com, 207-377-6352 and 207-462-4049.

Sincerely,



John and Nancy Nicholas