

<b>Gerald Reid, Commissioner</b> Department of Environmental Protection 17 State House Station Road Augusta, Maine 04330	<b>Everett Worcester, Chair</b> Land Use Planning Commission 18 Elkins Lane 22 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04330
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**RE: Central Maine Power's NECEC Project**

April 4, 2019

I'm Dot Kelly, live in Phippsburg, Maine and am co-chair of the Sierra Club Maine Energy Team. I provided this sworn testimony on April 2, 2019 and Becky Bartovics, member of the Sierra Club Maine Energy Team and past president, will be testifying on April 4, 2019.

My testimony makes three points related to less environmentally impactful alternatives.

1. NECEC as designed is a high impact transmission line and insignificant analysis was done regarding alternative routes that include significant undergrounding.
2. Given, the visual, economic and environmental impacts of NECEC, including the risk associated with overhead high voltage DC line using VSC technology (VSC-HVDC), it has not been shown that the line is appropriate, not that this plan is compatible with the LUPC region.
3. Risk and risk reduction solutions. The VSC-HVDC overhead lines have significant reliability and hazard issues due to lightning, ice, wind, line contact from birds, and line damage. In addition, the fire and hazard due to security risks from arson, explosives and firearms, must be considered compared to underground lines, including underground lines along Route 201.

The whole electric transmission industry has been hiding the danger of transmission lines in causing fires throughout the world. It is now reported that 10% of forest fires in Texas and California are due to power failures.

Given the tragic loss of life and economic and environmental impact that we have recently seen in California from fires started from power lines, I urge the Commission and the Board to assure this project will be protective and to require consideration of significant undergrounding as a more protective, practicable alternative.

Thank you for your service to the State of Maine and for allowing me to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

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