**New England Clean Energy Connect Project**

*December 7, 2018*

**From Construction Vegetation Clearing Plan:**

**Additional Clearing Restrictions within the Upper Kennebec Deer Wintering Area**

In consultation with MDIFW for the NECEC Project, CMP has identified and designated ten deer travel corridors within the Upper Kennebec River DWA (Map ID 060065), as shown in Figure 4 of this exhibit, which will be managed as softwood stands to promote deer movement across the transmission line corridor during the winter months when snow depths have the potential to inhibit deer travel. The NECEC transmission line corridor traverses this DWA from a point in The West Forks Plantation to a point in Moxie Gore. CMP has agreed to manage these deer travel corridors, designated and labeled Corridors 1 through 8 in Figure 4, as softwood stands and will allow for the maximum tree height that can practically be maintained without encroaching into the conductor safety zone or into the necessary cleared area adjacent to structures. Tree heights will vary based on structure height, conductor sag, and topography, but will generally range from 25 to 35 feet. Vegetation within Corridors 9 and 10, which are located where the transmission line will be buried using horizontal directional drilling, will be allowed to grow to its full height.

Within designated deer travel corridors 1 through 8, during the initial vegetation clearing for construction all capable hardwood species and individual softwood specimens will be cut to heights necessary so that they do not intrude into the conductor safety zone and are not at risk of growing into the conductor safety zone prior to the next scheduled vegetation maintenance. Softwood specimens that are not intruding into the conductor safety zone and are not at risk of growing into the conductor safety zone prior to the next scheduled vegetation maintenance will be retained. Access roads and structure preparation and installation areas will be cleared of all capable and non-capable species and maintained as scrub-shrub habitat to allow for post-construction maintenance, repair and/or emergency access during operation of the line. The designated deer travel corridors will be flagged prior to construction and identified in a database maintained by CMP, further described in Section 11.0.

**From Post-Construction Vegetation Maintenance Plan:**

**Additional Vegetation Maintenance Restrictions within the Upper Kennebec Deer Wintering Area**

As a result of consultation with MDIFW for the NECEC Project, CMP has identified and designated ten deer travel corridors within the Upper Kennebec River DWA (Map ID 060065), as shown in Figure 4 of this exhibit, which will be managed as softwood stands to promote deer movement across the transmission line corridor during the winter months when snow depths have the potential to inhibit deer travel. The NECEC transmission line corridor traverses this DWA from a point in The West Forks Plantation to a point in Moxie Gore. CMP has agreed to manage these deer travel corridors, designated and labeled Corridors 1 through 8 in Figure 4, as softwood stands and will allow for the maximum tree height that can be practically maintained without encroaching into the conductor safety zone of the transmission line or into the necessary scrub/shrub area adjacent to each structure. Tree heights in these areas will vary based on structure height, conductor sag, and topography, but will generally range from 25 to 35 feet. Vegetation within Corridors 9 and 10, which are located where the transmission line will be buried using horizontal directional drilling, will be allowed to grow to its full height.

Within designated deer travel corridors 1 through 8, during routine vegetation maintenance, hardwood and softwood species that are intruding into the conductor safety zone or are at risk of growing into the conductor safety zone prior to the next scheduled vegetation maintenance will be cut at ground level and removed. Softwood specimens that are not intruding into the conductor safety zone, and are not at risk of growing into the conductor safety zone prior to the next scheduled maintenance, will be retained. Access roads and structure preparation and installation areas will be maintained as scrub-shrub habitat to allow for maintenance, repair, and/or emergency access. The designated deer travel corridors will be flagged prior to maintenance activities and identified in a database maintained by CMP, further described below in Locating and Marking Buffers and Habitats.