

January 3, 2020

Christopher A. Lawrence
Electricity Policy Analyst
Transmission Permitting and Technical Assistance Division
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Central Maine Power Company
Docket No. PP-438

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Central Maine Power Company (CMP) hereby submits an update to its Application for a Presidential Permit in Docket No. PP-438 that would authorize the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC or the Project¹) at the Québec-Maine border in Beattie Township, Franklin County, Maine. The purpose of this letter is to update the record to reflect a change in the Project route.

On September 18, 2019, CMP filed a petition to reopen the record with the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) and Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) to provide information relating to a new alternative to the original NECEC route through the Recreation Protection subdistrict at Beattie pond. The original Beattie Pond route would have run across a small, 300-by-300-foot parcel of land owned by the Passamaquoddy Tribe in the southwestern corner of Lowelltown Township. CMP had negotiated a lease with the Tribe, subject to the approval of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This portion of the route was described at page 24 of the Presidential Permit Application.

¹ The Project is a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) above-ground electric transmission solution capable of delivering 1,200 MW of clean energy generation from Québec to the New England Control Area. The transmission facilities to be constructed in proximity to the Québec-Maine border as part of the Project require a Presidential Permit. As reported to DOE in an update letter dated August 26, 2019, CMP will transfer and assign the Project to a new special purpose entity, NECEC Transmission LLC (NECEC LLC).

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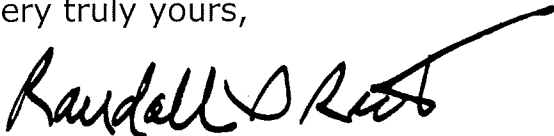
The new route, called the Merrill Strip Alternative, extends approximately one mile across the northeast corner of Merrill Strip Township, between Beattie Township and Skinner Township, south of the original route, and completely avoids the Beattie Pond Recreation Protection subdistrict and the Tribe's land. A map comparing the new route to the original route is attached as Appendix A. On October 3, MDEP requested, and on October 10, CMP provided, additional information regarding the Merrill Strip Alternative, which is now the preferred route for the NECEC. A copy of that October 10, 2019 submission is attached as Appendix B. Further, on November 26, 2019 CMP provided additional information to MDEP and LUPC in response to public and intervenor comments submitted to those agencies relating to the Merrill Strip Alternative. CMP's November 26, 2019 submission is attached as Appendix C.

Because of this route change, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will not consider the original Beattie Pond route as an alternative. Moreover, because the project will no longer use the Passamaquoddy Tribe's land for NECEC facilities or construction due to the Merrill Strip Alternative route, the BIA will no longer be a cooperating agency with U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the environmental assessment of the project. CMP and the Tribe will renegotiate the lease to reflect the change in usage of the property. CMP will honor the financial terms of the original lease, but neither the lease nor usage of the property will be related to or used for the NECEC Project.

Accordingly, CMP and NECEC LLC respectfully request that DOE consider the Merrill Strip Alternative, in lieu of the original route that passed through Lowelltown Township, in evaluating the Project for purposes of the Presidential Permit.

Please let me know if you need additional information about this change in the Project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall S. Rich", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Randall S. Rich

Attorney for
CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY
NECEC TRANSMISSION LLC

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cc: Julie A. Smith
Melissa Pauley
United States Department of Energy

Jay Clement
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Thorn Dickinson
Bernardo Escudero Morandeira
Central Maine Power Company

Jared S. des Rosiers
Matthew D. Manahan
Pierce Atwood LLP