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January 6, 2021

## **RANDALL S. RICH**

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Christopher A. Lawrence
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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:

The purpose of this letter is to provide certain updates to the Presidential Permit application in the referenced Presidential Permit docket, including (i) notification of state government approval and the transfer of the New England Clean Energy Connect Project as defined in the Application for a Presidential Permit in the above referenced docket ("NECEC" or the "Project") to a new special purpose entity, NECEC Transmission LLC, and (ii) the submission of an Opinion of Counsel attesting that the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of the Project is within NECEC Transmission LLC's corporate powers and that NECEC Transmission LLC has complied with or will comply with all pertinent federal and state laws.

By letter dated August 26, 2019, Central Maine Power Company (CMP) submitted an update in the referenced Presidential Permit docket describing CMP's plans to transfer the Project to NECEC Transmission LLC and requested that the Department of Energy issue the requested Presidential Permit in the name of NECEC Transmission LLC as the applicant for the Presidential Permit. By order dated October 20, 2020, the Maine Public Utilities Commission approved a stipulation dated July 30, 2020, and the creation of NECEC Transmission LLC as a public utility, as well as the transactions required to effectuate the transfer of the Project from CMP to NECEC Transmission LLC. A copy of the order is attached as Exhibit A. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection approved the transfer of the

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permits granted by the MDEP for the NECEC on December 4, 2020. A copy of the order is attached as Exhibit B.

On January 4, 2021, CMP transferred the Project to NECEC Transmission LLC.

Attached as Exhibit C, please find an Opinion of Counsel for NECEC Transmission LLC.

CMP and NECEC Transmission LLC do not expect any further updates to the Project for purposes of the Presidential Permit.

For the reasons set forth above, CMP and NECEC Transmission LLC respectfully request that DOE consider NECEC Transmission LLC to be the applicant for the Presidential Permit and that the Presidential Permit be issued in the name of NECEC Transmission LLC.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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Randall S. Rich

Attorney for

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY NECEC TRANSMISSION LLC

**Enclosures** 

cc: Thorn Dickinson

Bernardo Escudero Morandeira

**NECEC Transmission LLC** 

Jared S. des Rosiers Pierce Atwood LLP