



EXECUTIVE

**Edward A. Barrett, City
Denis D'Auteuil, Deputy City**

July 16, 2018

Jim Beyer
Bureau of Land Resources
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
106 Hogan Road Suite 6
Bangor, Me 04401

Re: Petition on Behalf of the City of Lewiston for Leave to Intervene in Proceedings Involving an Application by the Central Maine Power Company for a Site Location of Development Act Permit and Natural Resources Protection Act Permit for the Construction of the New England Clean Energy Connect

Dear Mr. Beyer:

On July 10, 2018, the City Council of the City of Lewiston adopted the attached Order authorizing me, on behalf of the City of Lewiston, to petition for leave to intervene in proceedings before the Maine Department of Environmental Protection relating to the Site Location of Development Act permit application and Natural Resources Protection Act permit application for the construction of the New England Clean Energy Connect Project. The City of Lewiston's Petition to Intervene also is attached hereto.

The City of Lewiston will be substantially and directly affected by the proposed project given that CMP is proposing to construct a direct to alternating current converter station within the City and install new and upgrade existing transmission lines within our community. Further, the City of Lewiston is an agency of local government, a status that further qualifies Lewiston for intervenor status.

CMP's anticipated investment in Lewiston as a result of this project is estimated to be approximately \$250 million. This investment will substantially expand the City's tax base, with profound beneficial effects. Based on Fiscal Year 2016 data, Lewiston's Assessed Value per capita was \$60,690, by far the lowest among Maine's ten largest municipalities, where the average was over \$114,000 per capita. In spite of the fact that Lewiston's per capita operating expenses were the lowest among this group of communities, at \$903 per capita versus an average of \$1,248, our low assessed value results in a high and burdensome municipal tax rate, particularly in light of our relatively low median incomes and high poverty rates. Once the project is completed, Lewiston anticipates seeing approximately \$6 million in annual revenue from this project, revenue

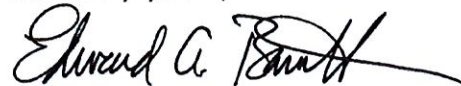
that will help us meet our community's public service needs while also reducing the property tax burden to our residents.

In addition, the City is a significant user of electricity and we anticipate that the introduction of 9.5 terawatt hours of additional electric power into the New England energy mix will not only help to offset anticipated generating retirements but will increase the overall availability of energy to our region. Given the basic rule of supply and demand, additional energy supply will help to hold down and decrease the cost of energy in future years.

We also anticipate that the jobs created during the construction period will benefit our local economy, both through the potential for employing our residents and as a result of related project expenditures in our local economy.

For these and other reasons as set forth in the attached Petition to Intervene, we request leave to intervene in these proceedings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward A. Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edward A. Barrett
City Administrator



COUNCIL ORDER

ORDER, Authorizing the City Administrator to Petition for Leave to Intervene in Proceedings Before the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Relating to New England Clean Energy Connect Project.

Whereas, Central Maine Power's New England Clean Energy Connect transmission project has been selected by Massachusetts to provide clean energy for distribution throughout that state; and

Whereas, a portion of this project will be located within the City of Lewiston, including a station that will convert direct to alternating current and portions of a new power line that will transport this electricity through Maine; and

Whereas, CMP's investment in Lewiston for this project is estimated at about \$250 million, which will substantially expand the City's tax base and assist in mitigating the City's property tax rate; and

Whereas, the construction phase of the project is projected to run through 2022 and will support additional jobs in Maine and in Lewiston; and

Whereas, the availability of 9.5 terawatt hours of additional electric power in New England will help to offset anticipated generating retirements and will increase the overall availability of electricity to our region, resulting in lower energy costs, with CMP estimating \$3.8 billion in energy related savings over the first twenty years of project operation; and

Whereas, this project will require permits and approvals from a variety of agencies including, among others, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection; and

Whereas, on June 19, 2018, the City Council adopted a Resolve in support of this project; and

Whereas, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has issued a Notice of Opportunity to Intervene in its consideration of the project's applications for a Site Location of Development Act Permit and a Natural Resources Protection Act permit; and

Whereas, Intervenor status will provide the City with more timely access to information and potential testimony regarding these applications;

Now, therefore, be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that

the City Administrator is hereby authorized, on behalf of the City of Lewiston, to petition for leave to intervene in proceedings before the Maine Department of Environmental Protection relating to the Site Location of Development Act Permit and Natural Resources Protection Act Permit for the construction of the New England Clean Energy Connect Project.

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

IN THE MATTER OF

Central Maine Power Co.)	
New England Clean Energy Connect)	Petition to Intervene of
#L-27625-26-A-N, #L-27625-TG-B-N,)	the City of Lewiston in
#L-27625-2C-C-N, #L-27625-VP-D-N,)	Support of NECEC
and #L-27625-IW-E-N)	
)	

Now comes the City of Lewiston (Lewiston) in support of Central Maine Power Company's (CMP) NECEC Project and petitions to intervene as a party in the above-captioned matter of the NECEC Project applications for Site Location of Development Act and Natural Resources Protection Act permits. *See* DEP Regs. Ch. 3, § 11(A). Pursuant to the applicable regulations governing the conduct of licensing hearings, a petition to intervene shall be granted if it demonstrates that the petitioner is or may be, or is a member of a class which is or may be, substantially and directly affected by the proceeding. *See* DEP Regs. Ch. 3, § 11(A)(1). As discussed below, Lewiston meets this criterion. In addition, any state, federal, municipal or other governmental agency that wants to participate as a party shall be granted intervenor status if it files a petition for leave to intervene within the time specified in the DEP notice. *See* DEP Regs. Ch. 3, § 11(A)(2). The Presiding Officer therefore should grant this petition.

I. Lewiston has a direct and substantial interest that may be affected by this proceeding.

Lewiston has a direct and substantial interest that will be affected by these proceedings. Following the electric infrastructure upgrades completed in Lewiston as part of the Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP), Lewiston is now one of the strongest points in the New England electric grid. Accordingly, Lewiston was selected as the site of the new NECEC converter station, and stands to benefit from the over \$200 million investment in the City planned as part of

NECEC. Lewiston has recently experienced the transformative impact of the MPRP investment in the Larrabee Road substation, and looks forward to hosting the converter station and using the tax revenue to support our community. The NECEC investment will substantially expand the City's tax base with profound beneficial effects. Based on Fiscal Year 2016 data, Lewiston's Assessed Value per capita was \$60,690, by far the lowest among Maine's ten largest municipalities where the average was over \$114,000 per capita. In spite of the fact that Lewiston's per capita operating expenses were the lowest among this group of communities, at \$903 per capita versus an Average of \$1,248, our low assessed value results in a high and burdensome municipal tax rate, particularly in light of our relatively low median incomes and high poverty rates. Once the Project is completed, Lewiston anticipates seeing approximately \$6 million in annual revenue from the Project, revenue that will help us meet our community's public service needs while also reducing the property tax burden to our residents.

No single entity or community stands to lose more if the NECEC is not permitted and built.

II. Lewiston has specific contentions regarding the subject matter of the hearing and the appropriate statutory criteria.

Lewiston is seeking to intervene in these proceedings to raise specific contentions regarding the statutory and regulatory criteria that will apply to the Project. Lewiston's contentions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- No unreasonable interference with existing scenic, aesthetic, recreational or navigation uses (*see* 38 M.R.S. § 480-D(1); DEP Regs. Ch. 315)
- No reasonable alternative exists (*see* DEP Regs. Ch. 310)
- No adverse effect on the natural environment (*see* 38 M.R.S. § 484(3); DEP Regs. Ch. 375)
- Adequate buffering (*see* DEP Regs. Ch. 375(9))

Based on the foregoing, Lewiston seeks to intervene to raise specific contentions about the facts presented in CMP's applications and compliance with the applicable statutory and regulatory criteria.

III. Lewiston is prepared and capable of participation.

Finally, Lewiston is prepared and capable of participation in the hearing in a manner that will support its contentions about the Project. Lewiston will be represented by City Administrator Ed Barrett, other City staff, elected officials, and by legal counsel (to be determined). As the second largest City in Maine, Lewiston is fully capable and experienced in such proceedings and will be efficient in the presentation of its arguments.

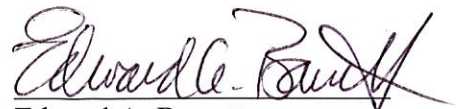
Lewiston will address compliance of the applications with applicable statutory and regulatory standards, including those discussed above. Depending on the format established for this hearing, our witnesses will file written reports and/or present testimony with an opportunity for questions and cross-examination.

These witnesses will ensure that Lewiston presents detailed, technical information about the proposed Project. We will attend pre-hearing conferences and the public hearing. Therefore, Lewiston is both prepared and capable of participating in this proceeding and supporting the contentions discussed above.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Lewiston has satisfied the requirements for intervention under the applicable regulations and respectfully seeks to intervene in this proceeding as a party.

Date: July 18, 2018



Edward A. Barrett
City Administrator
City of Lewiston
27 Pine Street
Lewiston Maine 04240
207-513-3011