

May 4, 2018

Mr. James R. Beyer
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Land Resources Regulation
106 Hogan Road
Bangor, ME 04401

Mr. Jay L. Clement
Maine Project Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
442 Civic Center Drive
Suite 350
Augusta, Maine 04333

**RE: New England Clean Energy Connect Project (NECEC)
Greenfield Corridor North vs. South Natural Resource Impacts Comparison**

Dear Mr. Beyer and Mr. Clement:

As detailed in Central Maine Power Company's (CMP) March 29, 2018 response to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (MDEP) November 20, 2017 information request, CMP conducted a preliminary comparative analysis of the greenfield portion of the NECEC project transmission line corridor (Segment 1) to determine if shifting the transmission line to the north side of this right of way would result in fewer natural resource impacts. This preliminary analysis, comparing the southern alignment (CMP's proposed option) to the northern alignment, found the difference in natural resource impacts to be comparatively minor but favored the south alignment primarily due to a smaller area of conversion (clearing) impact in wetlands and significant wildlife habitat.

In its response to the MDEP request, CMP committed to further refine this comparison and to more accurately compare resource impacts of the southern alignment to those of the northern alignment. For this purpose, CMP recently completed the 30% engineering design on the northern alignment and has performed a natural resource impact analysis and comparison. A summary of this natural resource impact comparison is provided below:

- Temporary wetland fill – **south alignment favorable (less) by 0.36 acre.**
- Conversion of forested wetland – **south alignment favorable by 4.93 acres.**
- Clearing within significant/potentially-significant vernal pool habitat – **south alignment favorable by 0.19 acre.**
- Conversion of upland inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat (IWWH) – **south alignment favorable by 1.65 acres.**



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- Impacts (pole or guy anchor fill) to upland areas of IWWH – **north alignment favorable by 0.0015 acre (approximately 65 square feet).**
- Direct impacts (pole/guy anchor fill) to significant/potentially-significant vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat (outside of the vernal pool depression) – **north alignment favorable by 0.001 acre (approximately 44 square feet).**
- Direct impacts (pole/guy anchor fill) to wetlands of special significance (WOSS) – **north favorable by 0.0095 acre (approximately 415 square feet)**
- Direct impacts (pole/guy anchor fill) to non-WOSS wetlands – **north favorable by 0.009 acre (approximately 392 square feet).**

This 30% design comparison confirmed the results of the preliminary assessment and supports CMP's selection of the south alignment as the preferred route within the Project greenfield transmission line corridor. Based on the results of this comparison, CMP will pursue detailed design of the south alignment.

If you have any questions regarding this analysis, please call or email me [207-626-9557; gerry.mirabile@cmpco.com].

Sincerely,

Gerry J. Mirabile
Manager – Environmental Projects
Environmental Permitting
AVANGRID Networks, Inc.

cc: Samantha Horn, Bill Hinkel, Naomi Kirk-Lawlor - LUPC; Christopher Lawrence, Melissa Pauley - USDOE; Bernardo Escudero - CMP; Mark Goodwin - Burns & McDonnell; Matt Manahan, Jared des Rosiers - Pierce Atwood