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August 10, 2018

Mr. Jeff Crawford
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Air Quality
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Subject: Ozone Transport Region Petition

Dear Mr. Crawford:

POWER Engineers Inc. (POWER) is in full support of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove certain areas of the State from the Ozone Transport Region (OTR).

For nearly 30 years POWER's Freeport based air quality engineers have worked with Maine industry to navigate the complex air licensing process for both new facilities as well as with existing facilities looking to expand or modify operations. POWER's clients in Maine include electric power generators, wood products manufacturers, boat builders, industrial manufacturers, academic institutions, healthcare facilities, petroleum distributors, and food processors.

We have witnessed our clients strive to be competitive in a global market while facing the well documented economic challenges of operating a business in Maine. It has been our experience that one of the obstacles for attracting new or expanding existing Maine industry is regulatory requirements. As Maine residents the protection of our natural resources, including our clean air, is vital to what makes our home state so special. However, we also realize there must be a balance of industrial activity and development in order to provide for a sustainable economy for current and future generations.

The Maine DEP has effectively demonstrated in its draft document, *Maine's Ozone Success Story* that nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from Maine stationary sources are insignificant contributors to ozone concentrations in Maine and in other states; based on data provided by Maine's network of ozone monitoring stations, the state is in attainment with the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). As a result of its participation in the OTR, Maine along with other OTR states, has been required to implement OTR requirements including Lowest Achievable Emission Rates (LAER) and emission offset requirements for new major sources and major modifications; Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) requirements for existing sources; and regulations based on EPA's VOC Control Techniques Guidelines (CTG) applicable to major and minor sources, existing and new.

Based on emissions data contained in Table 6 of *Maine's Ozone Success Story*, Maine has effectively reduced annual VOC and NOx emissions from 1990 to 2016 by 6,560 tons per year and 20,883 tons per year, respectively. This represents a 71% reduction in annual VOC emissions and 68% reduction of annual NOx emissions from Maine stationary sources.

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In addition to the historical emission reductions in Maine, the ozone back-trajectory analyses conducted by Maine DEP's meteorologists clearly demonstrates that VOC and NOx emissions from Maine are insignificant contributors to monitored ozone NAAQS exceedances in the OTR, including at the summit of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park. Also demonstrated by the back-trajectory analyses is the finding that elevated ozone level episodes in Maine are predominantly the result of air masses originating in Southern New England or the Ohio River Valley which are transported over the Gulf of Maine and northeastward up the coast.

The brunt of ozone precursor emissions reduction efforts has fallen on Maine industry and there is an impact to such onerous regulations: existing Maine operations don't expand or will invest elsewhere while companies looking to invest in Maine are discouraged when compared to states not hampered by regulations that have little if any impact on Maine ozone concentrations.

If a company evaluating locating operations in Maine is classified a major source of VOC or NOx emissions or an existing Maine source considering changes that qualify as a major modification of VOC or NOx emissions, the combination of applying LAER and having to obtain emission reduction credit (ERC) offsets can make it cost prohibitive to invest in Maine. Given the scarcity of reasonably-priced ERCs available on the market, in particular VOC ERCs, the requirement can add millions of dollars to a potential project. The application of best available control technology (BACT) in place of LAER would continue to protect Maine's air quality. As has been demonstrated in DEP's petition, Maine industry has insignificant contributions to the ozone concentrations at monitoring locations and the DEP's effective application of BACT should safeguard that going forward.

Removing portions of Maine from the OTR would provide a more attractive investment opportunity in Maine for existing and potential industry while having little impact on ozone concentration levels in Maine and other states. It is for this reason that POWER fully supports DEP's petition to EPA to remove certain areas of the State from OTR.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the DEP's petition.

Sincerely,



Tim Donnelly
Senior Project Manager I