January 24, 2019

Re: Central Maine Power Company’s Application for Site Location of Development Act permit and Natural Resources Protection Act permit for the New England Clean Energy Connect (“NECEC”) from Québec-Maine Border to Lewiston and Related Network Upgrades: Trout Unlimited Officers and Directors

Dear Mr. Worcester and Ms. Miller:

At the joint Pre-Hearing Conference on January 17, 2019, the Maine DEP and LUPC hearing officers reminded participants that representatives of intervening parties, who have an opportunity to present information during the daytime portion of the hearings, should not also present at the two evening sessions. You also stated that this restriction would extend to board members, officers, and directors, but that members of intervening organizations could present at the evening sessions. At the meeting, I indicated that Trout Unlimited has a fairly complicated organizational structure and asked for clarity about who should be counted under that restriction. In discussion with DEP and LUPC staff after the meeting, I explained a bit more about TU’s structure. Staff requested that I follow up with a letter proposing how TU’s volunteer members be considered.

Trout Unlimited is a national conservation organization organized as a 501c3 corporation, founded in Michigan in 1959. We have a national office in Arlington Virginia, and staff in offices in more than 30 locations around the country. We also have 385 local chapters in all 50 US states. Five of those chapters are here in Maine, each of which has its own directors to make decisions at the chapter level. The five Maine chapters are organized into a Maine State
Council that addresses issues of statewide significance. Each Maine chapter elects delegates to the Maine State Council, with the number of delegates per chapter based on the number of members in each chapter. There are currently 33 official delegates from the various chapters to the Maine Council.

Members of several of our chapters and I as a staff member working statewide all raised concerns about the NECEC proposal, and the Maine State Council discussed the issue and voted to intervene last spring. David Hedrick, a member of the Kennebec Chapter Board and a delegate to the Maine Council from the Kennebec Chapter, was appointed as the lead volunteer for Maine Council and its member chapters, to work with me as staff to represent TU in this matter. We are reporting back to the Maine Council at regular meetings. If decisions are needed between scheduled meetings of the Maine Council, we confer with the Council’s Executive Committee, which is comprised of Council Chair Mac McGinley, Vice Chair Matt Streeter, Secretary David Huntress, Treasurer Don Abbott, and National Leadership Council Delegate David Van Burgel.

My suggestion would be that for the purposes of the hearing Mr. Hedrick, the five members of the Maine Council Executive Committee, and myself be considered as intervenors, officers and directors. Our presentations during the hearings will be limited to Mr. Hedrick and myself, along with our expert witnesses. Other TU volunteer leaders who are not directly involved would be more appropriately treated as members and be eligible to speak in the evening.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. The best way to reach me is by email at jeffrey.reardon@tu.org.

Sincerely,

Jeff Reardon