December 21, 2017

Eliza Donoghue  
Senior Policy & Advocacy Specialist  
Maine Audubon  
edonoghue@maineaudubon.org

Dylan Voorhees  
Clean Energy Director  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
dvoorhees@nrcm.org

Kaitlyn Bernard  
Maine Policy Manager  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
kbernard@outdoors.org

Sent by electronic mail only

RE: Central Maine Power’s New England Clean Energy Connect Project (NECEC)  
Request for public hearing

Dear Ms. Donoghue, Mr. Voorhees, and Ms. Bernard:

At its December 19, 2017, regular business meeting in Bangor, Maine, the Commission considered your request for a public hearing on the allowed use portion of the NECEC project submitted on December 11, 2017 (copy attached). The Commission voted and decided that it will allow a public hearing on this matter on a date to be determined following consultation with Commission staff and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

The Commission staff will provide additional information regarding the scheduling and logistics of the public hearing once available. Please direct inquiries related to the Commission’s certification of this project to my attention.
Regards,

Bill Hinkel  
Regional Supervisor  
Land Use Planning Commission  
Ph: 207-446-8823  
e-mail: bill.hinkel@maine.gov  

xc: Gerry Mirable, CMP  
Matthew Manahan, Pierce Atwood, LLP  
Maine DEP staff  
LUPC staff
Request for Public Hearing

Appalachian Mountain Club, Maine Audubon, Natural Resources Council of Maine

December 11, 2017

RE: Central Maine Power's New England Clean Energy Connect Project, Request for Certification

Dear Ms. Horn:

On behalf of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Maine Audubon, and the Natural Resources Council of Maine, please accept this request for a public hearing on the allowed use determination portion of the Commission's certification of Central Maine Power's (CMP) New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) project. Our organizations feel strongly that a public hearing would assist the Commission in their evaluation of whether the portion of the NECEC located in P-RR (Recreation Protection) and P-WL (Wetland Protection) subdistricts will satisfy the special exemption criteria necessary to make an allowed used determination. See Chapter 10, Sections 10.23,1,3,d,8 and 10.23,N,3,d,9.

Specifically, we desire to offer evidence on the conservation, scenic, recreational, and wetland resources impacted by this project—information that is likely very different from the information presented by CMP. CMP's primary function and expertise is the operation of poles, wires, and other infrastructure that makes up the electricity grid. In contrast, the staff and members of our organizations have decades of experience working to understand, improve, and protect the conservation, scenic, recreational, and wetland resources in Maine and in the part of the state impacted by this project in particular.

As recommended by a Commission staff memorandum dated December 7, 2017, we request that the hearing be coordinated with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Donoghue
Senior Policy & Advocacy Specialist
Maine Audubon

Dylan Voorhees
Clean Energy Director
Natural Resources Council of Maine

Kaitlyn Bernard
Maine Policy Manager
Appalachian Mountain Club