

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS 22 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL COMMISSIONER

October 8, 2025

Ms. Dawn Hallowell Maine Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Land Resources 17 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Re: Forest Management Plan for the proposed 50,000+ acre conservation easement that serves condition compliance for the New England Clean Energy Connect Project

Dear Ms. Hallowell,

With the recent revision of the 'mature forest' definition in the proposed 50,000+ acre NECEC conservation easement, I am providing a status update on the Bureau of Parks and Lands' (BPL) review of the Forest Management Plan (FMP) associated with the easement property.

Since NECEC submitted the original Forest Management Plan on July 16, 2025, BPL has reviewed it and requested further information from the landowner, Weyerhaeuser. Because of BPL's perpetual monitoring obligation, iterative review and discussion of FMP drafts is standard practice when BPL agrees to hold such easements that allow forest management. Recognizing the specific mature forest goal in the proposed easement, BPL is particularly focused on forest inventory, growth and yield, and harvest details that provide confidence and accountability that the goal will be achieved.

While good progress has been made toward a final plan, following a review of the original FMP and supplemental draft information provided to BPL on September 19, 2025, BPL requires additional information to make a final determination on the FMP. We have requested that Weyerhaeuser incorporate that information into an updated FMP provided to BPL, and we hope to make a final determination soon.

Sincerely.

Andy Cutko

Director

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