

Beyer, Jim R

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Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 9:11 AM
To: DEP, NECEC
Subject: Corridor public hearing comments

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I urge the DEP to suspend the permit issued for the NECEC because CMP/NECEC no longer has Title Right and Interest for the entire line.

It is my opinion that the permit needs to be suspended, and construction must stop. The CMP corridors' continued clear cutting is causing irreparable damage on Maine's environment, scenic character, and wildlife habitat. Maine voters' and the Legislatures' interests are clearly being ignored.

In 1994, the Legislature adopted a constitutional amendment supported by 72% of Maine voters which states: All "real estate held by the State for conservation or recreation purposes and designated for such purposes may not be reduced or its uses substantially altered except on the vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of all the members elected to each house".

And in addition, I'd also like to make the point that when conservation easements are implemented they can only be modified through court processes, with clear objectives that allow continued use of public lands and in the context of protecting such resources. A case in point for that is the current lawsuit in Belfast for designated conservation lands intended to be taken by the city as eminent domain for an economic project that does not have the support of the citizens of Belfast.

Despite the aforementioned constitutional amendment, in 2014, certain entities within State government mistakenly and illegally signed a lease with Central Maine Power for 33 acres that bisect a parcel of public land in Somerset County between Johnson Mountain Township and West Forks Plantation for construction of the NECEC Corridor. The NECEC Corridor would significantly alter the value and use of that public land, and damage critical wildlife habitat in western Maine. This is unacceptable to the interests of Mainers.

Giving away our precious natural resource heritage to a project that offers no benefits to the people of Maine is deplorable. At a minimum the constitutional directives need to be met. At best the entire project should be prohibited.

It is the DEPs responsibility to stand up for protecting Mainers' environmental interests and not those of a foreign owned company or those of people from another state. Mistakes were made by entities within the State that now need to be corrected. While certain individuals may have mistakenly thought these actions were legal, it has now been clarified by the courts that they were not. It behooves us to take stock and reevaluate what's important to Mainers as part of this process.

We ask that you stand up and do the honorable thing and rescind this illegal permit which was granted as a result of unconstitutional actions.

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