

Thanks for allowing me to testify. The DEP has no cause to suspend the license you granted to CMP and NECEC Transmission LLC because the BPL lease is still valid. There is no change in circumstance.

The lease allows for the Clean Energy Corridor to cross less than 1 mile of two adjacent public lots that total 1241 acres. That means the Clean Energy Corridor would clear less than 6.5 acres of the public lots in question which represents .00522% of the lots and .00001% of all public lots in Maine.

There is no reduction in use or substantial alteration to these lots. These two lots have no special qualities that distinguish them from the surrounding area which is private land used as commercial forest. Indeed, the two lots in question are managed by the State of Maine for timber harvesting. 9942 cords of wood have been cut on these lots

since the State of Maine acquired them. There are numerous woods roads crossing the lots as well as a CMP transmission corridor that has been there since 1963, which is wider and longer than the proposed NECEC corridor through the lots. I bet that the DEP has received no complaints from hunters, fishermen or environmental organizations about this existing corridor in the last 48 years.

The Corridor has been approved by every public agency in Maine that has jurisdiction. They have asserted, based on extensive hearings and evidence, that the Corridor will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, help combat climate change, and be of great benefit to all of us in Maine. The public lots are for the public good. What better use of 6.5 acres than to host a narrow corridor that will bring 1200 megawatts of clean energy into Maine,

along with a host of other benefits like jobs, tax revenues and reduced electric prices.

Every inch of Maine is impacted by the global climate crisis. This Corridor proposal is Maine's chance to legally, quickly, with the least amount of impact, take a major step forward to address this existential crisis.

Thanks, Christopher Ayres