

York, Marylisa

From: Burke, Ruth A
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:13 PM
To: Beyer, Jim R
Subject: FW: 4Ruth.A.Burke:Testimony4:DEP:PublicHearingRe:CMP-NECEC:LicenseSuspension-10-19-2021
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Ruth Ann Burke
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Board of Environmental Protection
Commissioner's Office

From: Heidi J Vierthaler <heidijvvv@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov>; Heidi J Vierthaler <heidijvvv@gmail.com>
Subject: 4Ruth.A.Burke:Testimony4:DEP:PublicHearingRe:CMP-NECEC:LicenseSuspension-10-19-2021

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Dear Ruth Ann Burke,

Thank you so much for all of your assistance during tonight's hearing.

In my Testimony I asked the Committee to please find my previous written testimony addressed to the DEP.

If I can be of further assistance to help in this process please let me know.

My email address for that correspondence was Heidijv@hotmail.com.

Also please keep my contact information confidential and unlisted within the committee. Thank you.

Please let me know that you received this email. Thanks.

I hope that you find this information useful, and that the DEP suspends the license for the NECEC Project.

Thank you again.

Heidi J Vierthaler

Commissioner Loyzim, and distinguished Department of Environmental Protection Committee Members, I am Heidi J Vierthaler, a Social and Environmental Advocate from Southern Maine in Wabanaki Territory, near Brunswick.

I rise to support the suspension of the license of the NECEC Project.

My primary reason for supporting this suspension is that, in the recent Superior Court decision, in *Black v. Cutko*, Justice Michaela Murphy ruled that the Maine Constitution requires the lease for CMP to receive 2/3 Legislative approval, per Article IX, Section 23 of the Maine Constitution, and that this decision represents a change in circumstance that warrants the suspension of the license for the NECEC Project.

To me this should be more than enough legal reason to suspend the license for the NECEC Project, and I urge the DEP to heed the legal arguments framed in Sandra Howard's October 19th, 2021 correspondence to the DEP which clearly outlines the evidence that CMP/ NECEC has historically evaded the law with backroom deals through different Administrations and has not received the proper legislative approval.

My conscience also calls me to listen to my heart to share why it is in the best interest for our state to suspend the NECEC License, is for human rights and climate related issues and how this will affect our state in the long term.

One reason is because, to the best of my knowledge, our state has not held any consultation with the Cree, or any other Indigenous Neighbors, whose cultures have been obliterated by Hydro-Quebec's Mega Dams. State governments have a responsibility to protect the people of our state, and we as a state, will be complicit in their further Genocide and Ecological Ethnic Cleansing, if we license the NECEC Project.

I met the Cree at a College and at the Ban The Dam Jam for James Bay Benefit Concert Series, in New York/City in 1991, and my BA in Geography and Anthropology from the University of Southern Maine grew out of my studies of Hydro-Quebec's denying both rights and judiciary obligations of consultation with our Cree neighbors to our north in James Bay. I have thus studied the way that Hydro-Quebec has continually reneged on its agreements with the Cree and coerced the Cree to give up more of their sacred territory. Hydro Quebec mega dams have devastated their sacred "Garden" (and their stewardship of their land, is so important for the future of our fragile ecosystem), with mercury poisoning and the economic disaster of forest transition from sustenance to a consumer-oriented economy, and resulting suicide. I was thus inspired to produce the Maine Earth Day alert for James Bay, North America's Own Amazon in 1993.

So having to speak out again decades later to stop this, hurts.

Furthermore we are responsible for the survival of our planet and according to University of Alberta Professor David Schindler says about the Mega Dams, from which Hydro-Quebec's energy is based, "the greenhouse gas production from hydro is expected to be about the same as from burning natural gas" ((natural gas) which is one of the most destructive Greenhouse Gasses that causes the Climate Catastrophe on our planet).

[\(https://theyee.ca/News/2018/01/24/Megadams-Not-Clean-Green/\)](https://theyee.ca/News/2018/01/24/Megadams-Not-Clean-Green/).

I won't be able to live with myself if I didn't tell you that Hydro-Quebec just can't be trusted with our own pristine Maine Forest. With all of the Global forest fires, we need to guard what is left of our own Carbon sequestering resource on our planet.

I am thus appalled that none of the decision-making entities are taking into consideration the Cree human rights issues, greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts especially in James Bay. This needs to change.

I thus ask: how can we find an alternative source of revenue so that all parties involved can prosper so that we can spare our pristine Maine wilderness and any further devastation of our Cree neighbors? We can look to Archbishop Desmond Tutu's model of negotiation for finding this wise alternative.

Let's learn from the Cree why we should reject the NECEC corridor. How can we trust Hydro-Quebec if Hydro-Quebec, Quebec and Canada have not honored their treaties, et cetera, with the Cree? How can we trust that Hydro-Quebec will honor the agreements that they have made with all of us in Maine -- when they haven't begun to honor those that they have already made with our own Cree citizens?

Please find my previous written testimony addressed to the DEP.

I urge you to suspend the license for the NECEC Project.

I hope that you will keep the Cree in your heart as you cast your votes. Their lives are in your hands.

Thank you for your time, I would appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions.

Heidi J Vierthaler