

Testimony

November 22, 2021

Department of Environmental Protection and CMP Corridor

Roger Merchant, LPF 727 and Forest Photographer

Glenburn, Maine

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on my behalf in calling on Department of Environmental Protection to suspend CMP's permit following this hearing, and for CMP to cease all corridor operations. Here's three reasons.

ONE: Given a public referendum where Maine people voted 59-41 to ban this corridor, voices and communities across Maine have spoken: to CMP, the Governor, the Legislature, and DEP. Factor in 25 towns adjacent to the corridor that signed off as opposed to this project is a clear signal of public resolve to reject CMP's project.

Governor Mills put a call out for CMP "to honor the will of the people of the State of Maine and cease further construction until DEP and the Courts reach their independent conclusions."

TWO: CMP insists it operates under existing rules, I beg to differ. In their brokering a lease across Maine Public Lands, they failed to obtain required legislative review. It seems to me they hung their actions on legal technicalities to avoid public scrutiny about how the CMP Corridor would "quad fragment" these public lands - our lands.

THREE: Lastly, environmental concerns have intensified as CMP construction activities continue.

On November 14, 2021 I drove Spencer Road from Route 201 to Tumbledown Notch to document corridor-clearing. One photo taken on the Rock Pond campsite road looks west to The Notch. It reveals CMP's blatant disregard for trout headwaters protection where the cleared corridor crosses Baker Stream.

In DEP hearings CMP insisted they would protect cold-water habitat by retaining vegetation adjacent to all streams. In my photograph of Baker Stream, fresh cut stumps and vegetation removal down to waters edge has exposed this critical trout stream to the heat of the sun, and exposes CMP's lack of integrity behind their words about protection of trout headwaters.



Given these ongoing issues and impacts, the public's voice and vote is present and accounted for. I respectfully ask that DEP suspend CMP's permit and that CMP cease any and all construction on the NECEC Project.

Thank you

*Roger Merchant
Glenburn, Maine*