

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

and

STATE OF MAINE
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY)
NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT)
#L-27625-26-A-N/#L-27625-TG-B-N/)
#L-27625-2C-C-N/#L-27625-VP-D-N/)
#L-27625-IW-E-N)

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY)
NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT)
SITE LAW CERTIFICATION SLC-9)
Beattie Twp, Lowelltown Twp, Skinner Twp,)
Appleton Twp, T5 R7 BKP WKR,)
Hobbs town Twp, Bradstreet Twp,)
Parlin Pond Twp, West Forks Plt, Moxie Gore,)
The Forks Plt, Bald Mountain Twp, Concord Twp)

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
DANA CONNORS

February 28, 2019

Dana F. Connors being duly sworn submits this pre-filed testimony as follows:

1. I am a native of Easton, Maine. I received my B.A. in public management from the University of Maine. I served as City Manager in Presque Isle from 1968-1984. I served as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation for 11 years, through the last three years of the Brennan Administration and the entire McKernan Administration. As Commissioner, I had statewide responsibilities and opportunities to become familiar with the entire State and its infrastructure. Since 1994 I have served as President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce with a membership of 5,000 businesses throughout the State of Maine that, in the aggregate, employ hundreds of thousands of Mainers. The

Chamber's mission is to advocate not only for the businesses and their interests, but for the larger economic development and prosperity objectives of all people in Maine. The Chamber has intervened to support this project for several reasons.

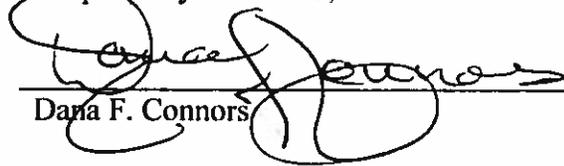
2. The Chamber supports the delivery of clean hydropower into our regional transmission grid. There is no question that there will be continuing and escalating demands for energy in Maine and that any addition to the supply will be a welcome influence on the price. High energy costs are a problem for Maine businesses, especially Maine businesses that compete with companies in other parts of this country or other countries where energy costs are lower. Our surveys show that energy prices are a concern of our members. Maine's energy costs are also a problem for the State in developing or attracting new businesses. On information and belief, all the experts in the PUC proceeding on this Project agreed that the addition of wholesale supply will reduce wholesale prices for the benefit of every energy customer in New England.
3. The tangible property to be constructed, as the project is developed and completed, will become part of the property tax base of the host communities and generate much needed relief in those communities whether it is realized as a reduction in the tax rate or an increase in badly needed municipal services.
4. The project is expected to generate, on average, over 1,600 direct, indirect and induced Maine jobs each year during the six-year development and construction period. Over 850 of those jobs are direct jobs and the remainder will be indirect and induced. It need not be assumed that all of the indirect and induced jobs will simply disappear when construction is complete. It is the Chamber's experience that some of that work is likely to transition to other economic activity which will benefit not only those who are employed, but the communities in which they live and spend their money, as well as the State at large.
5. After completion and during operation it is anticipated that the project will generate almost 300 Maine jobs on average year in and year out during the operation period.
6. The jobs to be created by NECEC are steady, good paying jobs. It is the Chamber's judgment that the employment opportunities to be created by NECEC provide a concrete and substantial benefit, not only for the host communities but for the State as a whole.
7. Although not yet finalized, it is appropriate to consider the importance of the very substantial broadband benefits provided for in the stipulation now pending in the Public Utilities Commission. The stipulation calls for the final design of the NECEC transmission lines to include the necessary facilities and equipment to provide additional fiber optic capacity for the benefit of the State, and especially the host communities. This includes up to \$2 million to study and, if feasible, to implement and construct a fiber optic connection between the State of Maine and the fiber optic network serving

Montreal which in turn will connect Maine with New York and Chicago without having to confront the capacity issues associated with the Boston connection. This added broadband capacity will facilitate Maine's ability to participate in the clean technology-based economic development opportunities available to those who have such broadband capacity. This is important for the State but especially for the host communities in western Maine.

- 8. Given these benefits, it is my opinion that, if and to the extent that the Project has any adverse effect on any scenic, aesthetic, or recreation uses, any such effect will not be unreasonable.

Date: 2-25-19

Respectfully submitted,



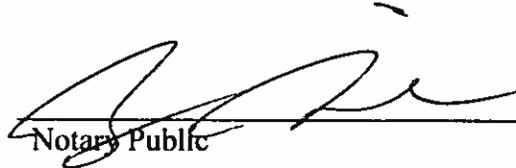
Dana F. Connors

STATE OF Maine

COUNTY OF Kennebec

February 25, 2019

The above-named Dana F. Connors personally appeared before me and gave oath that the pre-filed testimony herein above is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.



Notary Public

My commission expires: ME Co # 9208