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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
MAINE LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF
CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY'S
NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT PROJECT

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT
SITE LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT ACT
SITE LAW CERTIFICATION

EVENING HEARING - DAY 4
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

PRESIDING OFFICER: SUSANNE MILLER

Reported by Lorna M. Prince, a Notary Public and
court reporter in and for the State of Maine, on April
4, 2019, at the University of Maine at Farmington
Campus, 111 South Street, Farmington, Maine, commencing
at 6:00 p.m.

REPRESENTING DEP:
GERALD REID, COMMISSIONER, DEP
PEGGY BENSINGER, OFFICE OF THE MAINE ATTORNEY GENERAL
JAMES BEYER, REGIONAL LICENSING & COMPLIANCE MGR, DEP
MARK BERGERON, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND RESOURCES

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19 Intervenors:

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21 Group 1:

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23 Friends of Boundary Mountains

24 Maine Wilderness Guides

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1 PARTIES

2 Intervenors (cont.):

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4 Group 10:

5 Edwin Buzzell
6 LUPC Residents and Recreational Users
7 Carrie Carpenter, Eric Sherman, Kathy Barkley,
8 Kim Lyman, Mandy Farrar, Matt Wagner,
9 Noah Hale, Taylor Walker and Tony DiBlasi

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1 twice in each of the following Maine newspapers, The
2 Lewiston Sun Journal, The Bangor Daily News, The
3 Kennebec Journal and the Portland Press Herald.

4 The New England Clean Energy Connect Project
5 is a proposed new high voltage direct current
6 transmission line that would run from the Maine border
7 with Quebec to a new converter station in Lewiston, as
8 well as additional construction on a separate line in
9 parts of southern Maine. The purpose of the New
10 England Clean Energy Connect line would be to deliver
11 up to 1,200 megawatts of electricity from hydropower
12 generating facilities in Quebec, Canada to the New
13 England power grid.

14 Portions of the proposed project would be in
15 the following municipalities, Alna, Anson, Caratunk,
16 Chesterville, Cumberland, Durham, Embden, Farmington,
17 Greene, Industry, Jay, Leeds, Lewiston, Livermore
18 Falls, Moscow, New Gloucester, New Sharon, Pownal,
19 Starks, Whitefield, Wilton, Windsor, Wiscasset, and
20 Woolwich.

21 In addition, the proposed project traverses
22 the following townships and plantations, Appleton
23 Township, Bald Mountain Township, Beattie Township,
24 Bradstreet Township, Concord Township, Hobbstown
25 Township, Johnson Mountain Township, Lowelltown

1 Township, Merrill Strip Township, Moxie Gore; Parlin
2 Pond Township, Skinner Township, T5 R7 BKP WKR, and
3 West Forks Plantation. Portions of the proposed
4 project would also abut the boundaries of T5 R6 BKP
5 WKR, Haynestown, The Forks Plantation, and Pleasant
6 Ridge Plantation.

7 This week's hearing is being conducted
8 jointly by the Department and the Commission. The
9 Commission's portion of the hearing took place on
10 Tuesday, April 2nd starting at 10:30 a.m., and extended
11 into that same evening with public testimony. The rest
12 of the week is testimony for the Department only.

13 The criteria for consideration at the
14 hearing are limited to specific Commission and
15 Department criteria. Testimony provided this evening
16 by the public must be limited to the following
17 criteria, one, scenic character and existing uses; two,
18 wildlife habitat and fisheries; three, alternatives
19 analysis, and four, compensation and mitigation
20 packages. Criteria for the Department are available
21 for you to look at on the table where you signed in.

22 My name is Susanne Miller. I am the
23 Director for the Department's Eastern Maine Regional
24 Office and I have been designated the Presiding Officer
25 for this matter by the Commissioner of the Department.

1 This designation is limited in its scope to the
2 authority necessary to conduct the hearing and
3 administer governing procedural statutes and
4 regulations in the development of the administrative
5 record. My role does not include the ultimate
6 decisionmaking authority on the merits of the
7 application, which the Commissioner expressly retains.

8 Joining me from the Department of
9 Environmental Protection this evening are, to my left,
10 Commissioner Reid, to my right, Mark Bergeron the
11 Director of Bureau of Land Resources, to my right, Jim
12 Beyer, the Project Manager for NECEC Project. We also
13 have April Kirkland, who's sitting up front, she's
14 going to be our timekeeper. We have Doris Peaslee,
15 who's outside helping everybody with the sign-in
16 process and then to my left I have Peggy Bensinger, who
17 is the Assistant Attorney General and Counsel to the
18 Department. Although not part of these proceedings, I
19 do want to mention that we have Jay Clement here from
20 the Army Corps of Engineers. He's here to answer any
21 questions anybody might have about the federal process
22 that impacts this application.

23 Our hearing today is being transcribed by
24 Dostie Reporting Service. Over to our right is Lorna
25 Prince and she's going to be transcribing this portion

1 of the hearing this evening. In order to ensure an
2 accurate transcript, I may ask you to clarify the
3 pronunciation or spelling of your name and ask you to
4 speak clearly, or more slowly as necessary.

5 If you wish to speak, please sign in on one
6 of the appropriate sign-in sheets that's just outside
7 in the hall. We have three, there's in support of the
8 project, opposed to the project, or neutral. I will
9 call names from the sign-in sheets for you to come to
10 the microphone and speak. I'm going to call about
11 three people at a time just to make this go a little
12 bit more efficiently.

13 If you spoke Tuesday night, you will not
14 speak again this evening. Also, if you plan to speak
15 on behalf of somebody, that's not going to happen
16 because we do need to be able to swear everybody in who
17 speaks and cross-examine them, or they have to be
18 available for the opportunity for cross-examination.

19 To ensure everyone gets an opportunity to
20 speak, people wishing to testify will have about three
21 minutes to speak. As I mentioned, we have a timekeeper
22 who will let me know when you are about to exceed that
23 time limit and I'll let you know when you need to wrap
24 up. When I tell you that your time is up, I expect you
25 to wrap up quickly. Please be concise so that

1 everybody has a chance to speak and please focus your
2 testimony on the Department's hearing criteria.

3 Prior to presenting your testimony, please
4 state your name, where you are from and/or who you are
5 affiliated with. Please direct all testimony to me.
6 Do not address or speak to the audience. In this
7 hearing there will be no signs, no booing, no clapping
8 or cheering allowed.

9 All participants in the public hearing this
10 evening are expected to conduct themselves
11 professionally toward the Department, each other, the
12 general public, and University staff and students. If
13 a member of the general public is unable to conduct
14 themselves professionally, I will take appropriate
15 action, which may include excluding the individual from
16 further participation or have them even escorted.

17 At this time, please silence or turn off
18 your electronic devices, including cell phones, so that
19 there are no interruptions. As a logistical matter,
20 the emergency exits are located in the back. The
21 restrooms are located out the back and towards the left
22 down the hall.

23 As I mentioned earlier, all witnesses at
24 this hearing will be sworn and all evidence already
25 entered into the record will be available during the

1 course of the public hearing for inspection by anyone
2 who wishes to do so. Witnesses testifying this evening
3 are subject to cross-examination by the parties and the
4 Department. I will expect the parties who are here to
5 let me know if they would like to cross-examine any of
6 the witnesses this evening.

7 A copy of the project file is located just
8 in the back to the right, my right, your left, over
9 there. After the hearing, the project file will be
10 available for public review by arrangement during
11 regular business hours at the Department's Bangor
12 Office.

13 At this time, I ask all persons who are
14 planning to testify to stand and raise their right
15 hand. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you
16 are about to give is the whole truth and nothing but
17 the truth?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: I do.

19 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Question?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, Tuesday night we
21 were told that we could only speak to the items that
22 the LUPC said we could speak to, so I did not speak the
23 full time, nor did I speak to every point that I wanted
24 to make because it was my understanding that the DEP
25 had certain criteria, so by not allowing us to speak on

1 behalf of the DEP's topics kind of restricts people to
2 be able to voice their opinion and concern.

3 MS. BENSINGER: If you felt that that
4 was one of the rules, that wasn't one of the rules on
5 Tuesday night, but if you felt that it was, we could
6 give you a limited amount of time tonight to address
7 the DEP criteria.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sure, okay.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, the
10 communications director in Bangor, so perhaps he was --
11 but it was he who gave us the understanding that we
12 could speak to LUPC on Tuesday and DEP concerns
13 Thursday.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm under the similar
15 circumstances. I didn't specifically say on Tuesday
16 night that I was just directing my comments to LURC,
17 but I was and I was told that that's what I had to do
18 and if I wanted to add comments for DEP, I could say
19 those as well. I didn't sign up as myself. I signed
20 up to speak for my wife just in case you brought up
21 what you said, are saying now, but I didn't
22 specifically speak to the points.

23 MS. BENSINGER: So you would be
24 testifying yourself tonight, not on behalf of your
25 wife?

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I would prefer to do
2 that, but I signed up to testify for my wife.

3 MS. BENSINGER: I think that would be
4 okay.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.

6 MS. BENSINGER: One other thing I wanted
7 to mention is the application and most all of the
8 substantive materials filed pertaining to the
9 application can be viewed on the Department's website
10 and Jim Beyer can speak to how you find out on the
11 website.

12 MR. BEYER: The easiest address for me
13 to give you is Maine.gov, and if you know go there, you
14 can search for any and all State agencies. You can
15 find the Department of Environmental Protection's page
16 and once you're at our home page, there's a tab that
17 says major projects before the Department. If you
18 click on that tab, you will get a list of those
19 projects that are currently pending with the
20 Department, one of them is the New England Clean Energy
21 Connect project. When you click on that link, you will
22 get more information than you will want to read, trust
23 me, because I've read it all, but everything, with the
24 exception of what's been submitted this week, because I
25 haven't been able to get to it, almost everything

1 that's in the public record is on the Web page.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I just ask for
3 clarification again? Did you change it then so that
4 some of us who spoke on Tuesday night on one topic and
5 we are prepared on a different one topic, then we can
6 testify tonight or not?

7 MS. MILLER: Yes.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have
10 opportunity to submit written testimony after this
11 meeting?

12 MS. MILLER: There is. I'll talk a
13 little bit about that at the close of the hearing, but
14 if you have something in writing you would like to
15 submit, we put that red chair right over there, you can
16 put it right on that chair and we'll collect it at the
17 end of the evening.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is it open for say two
19 days from now?

20 MS. MILLER: Yeah, it will be open after
21 the close the hearing. The hearing isn't actually
22 going to close until after May 9th.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

24 MS. MILLER: Yes?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm sorry, I wasn't

1 aware of the limitations on what we could speak about,
2 but speaking about climate, we're speaking about the
3 outdoors and the northern woods and so forth, so is
4 that okay?

5 MS. BENSINGER: Generally speaking,
6 climate change and the effect on greenhouse gasses was
7 not included in the items to be discussed at the
8 hearing, although you may submit written comments and
9 information on that. We have given a little bit of
10 leeway on that for the evening sessions this week, so
11 there will be a little bit of leeway given on that
12 point.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

14 MS. MILLER: Okay. I'm going to go
15 ahead and call about four people at a time, if you
16 could just all line up behind that microphone. I would
17 ask if there's anybody that has mobility issues, if we
18 could just let them go ahead of the others so they
19 don't have stand there for too long. Okay, so we'll
20 start with Matt Wagner, Kim Lyman, Robert Bond and
21 Barry Dana.

22 And while everybody is lining up, I want to
23 just mention that we are being live streamed, and
24 that's the camera over to my right over there, so
25 people who aren't here can actually watch through the

1 UMF system as this all happens.

2 MS. BENSINGER: Are you an intervenor?

3 MATT WAGNER: LUPC.

4 MS. BENSINGER: Oh, okay, right.

5 MATT WAGNER: I'll get to that right in
6 the first opening remarks, I was going to get to that
7 right after. Good evening, I'm Matt Wagner, Registered
8 Maine Guide, lifelong conservationist, noble energy
9 professional. I'm also the spokesperson for LUPC,
10 Intervenor, Group 10 representing the Upper Kennebec
11 River Water Shed, local residents and recreational user
12 groups. Thank you for the opportunity to address you
13 formally. We missed the opportunity to become
14 intervenors in the DEP process.

15 What's most important to me tonight here is
16 my role as a father. My familiarity with the NECEC
17 corridor section one is deep. You've heard throughout
18 the hearing repeated threats with the loss of public
19 access to the surrounding working forest in attempt to
20 bully us into support. CMP's Visual Impact Assessment
21 never took into account the fact that Maine law
22 provides access to all great ponds, ponds defined as
23 being larger than ten acres to all foot traffic.

24 Our exposure to the undeniable impact of
25 NECEC should it be built would be expedientially more

1 frequent and longer in duration than the Dewan
2 Associates appear to have even considered. I remind
3 you that the Kennebec River log drives were stopped for
4 a similar loss of public access to a public resource by
5 a private for profit venture that obstructed that
6 public right. I'd also note that the idea of public
7 access to rivers and ponds is a wholly American idea.

8 The land mitigation deal negotiated on behalf
9 of my communities by Western Mountains and Rivers
10 Corporation makes me sick. Our community does not need
11 a private resort operated by Maine Huts and Trails.
12 Our idea of camping doesn't generally involve wine and
13 cheese. Our guiding industries require the clear cold
14 water and deer guards this project would endanger.

15 And finally in closing, and I hope I'm not
16 using too much of your time here tonight, my takeaway
17 from these proceedings, and I've been at every one of
18 them, is that there exists a reasonable alternative to
19 CMP that would minimize, not eliminate our concerns.
20 Thank you for your diligence in evaluating this
21 application. It's been a long week for all of us. We
22 urge you to move to deny the application for NECEC.
23 Thank you.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

25 ROBERT BOND: I'm a little nervous,

1 excuse me. I don't represent anybody but me. My name
2 is Robert Bond. I'm a retired school teacher. I live
3 in Portland. I have a camp in the town of Carthage. I
4 moved to Maine 30 years ago because it was the kind of
5 place that didn't tear down its natural world. I moved
6 here from Louisiana where they do.

7 I was kind of amazed at the name, this Clean
8 Energy Corridor. I don't know how many of you have
9 been there, but I've been to where Hydro-Quebec does
10 all their clean energy and seen what it did to the
11 native tribes in that area and it's disgraceful. I've
12 also seen the power lines that come from there and go
13 through Canada, which is vastly larger than Maine and
14 it will ruin what we now have as the beauty of living
15 in this place.

16 I don't know if I'm following all of your
17 protocols and whatever, but it would be a disgrace to
18 what's here to let it be destroyed by an organization
19 that can't get its billing system straight. It's
20 disgusting. And I don't know how much plainer to put
21 it than that, other than think about what you're doing
22 over the long haul and think about those who come after
23 you and think about what you're destroying, or
24 potentially destroying versus what you're getting for
25 the people of Maine. Thank you.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

2 KIM LYMAN: My name is Kim Lyman. I
3 live in Caratunk and I have 21 years of experience in
4 the tourism industry, so I know firsthand that this
5 region is special and worthy of protection. I am one
6 of the many who have this type of expertise who can
7 supply details and opinions based on thousands of
8 visits to an area, thousands of trips down a river,
9 hundreds of camping trips, not just one visit to a
10 number of areas by a consulting firm who then gives
11 their observations to submit as evidence that they
12 think should be held to a higher standard than the very
13 people who live, recreate and work in that area.

14 I can tell you that visitors come to our
15 region for remote nature experiences and scenic beauty
16 that are becoming harder and harder to find and
17 therefore, more precious and more worth preserving.
18 I'm concerned about the habitat and wildlife impacts of
19 fragmenting the north woods with a 53 mile power line.
20 I'm concerned that this power line will ruin the
21 character of the region and threaten our tourism
22 economy. Our livelihoods depends upon an intact forest
23 that gives our region its remote scenic character. A
24 long, tall power line through the north woods isn't
25 compatible with this.

1 I'm also a person who's very concerned about
2 the impacts of climate change, so I take issue with
3 CMP's claim that this power line will reduce greenhouse
4 gas emissions. CMP's spokesman, John Carroll, said at
5 a Wiscasset select board meeting in March, quote, so
6 the question about whether, whether this NECEC will
7 make a difference in climate change, CMP has no -- no
8 doubt that it will. We can't guarantee it. That's not
9 our job. That's not our business, end quote.

10 Not only that, there hasn't been a study that
11 looks at the effects of this power line in total carbon
12 emissions beyond New England's borders and the people
13 of Maine need to know this information before a
14 decision is made.

15 I also take issue with the fact that CMP has
16 helped create a nonprofit Western Mountains and River
17 Corp to give the appearance that people who live near
18 the power line support this project. I want the record
19 to reflect that Western Mountains and Rivers doesn't
20 speak for me and it doesn't speak for so many of us who
21 oppose this project and found out about it long after
22 they knew.

23 To the record I'm submitting articles and
24 letters of towns opposing CMP's power line or
25 retracting support. I've also included poll results

1 show that the majority of the people in Maine do oppose
2 this project. Thank you for your time.

3 MS. MILLER: Thank you. If you can put
4 any of the documents on that that chair and also, I
5 don't know if you've already done this, but if you
6 could identify your name on it somewhere so if we have
7 questions, we can call you. Thank you.

8 BARRY DANA: Good evening, thank for
9 this opportunity, Department of Environmental
10 Protection. My name is Barry Dana. I'm from the
11 Penobscot Nation. I'm not here representing the
12 Penobscot Nation, I'm here representing the people we
13 are descended from, which is the Abenaki, which is from
14 this very region that we're looking at on this map, so
15 I'm here representing 12,000 years of my ancestors and
16 I'm here representing future that my granddaughters
17 will one day be enjoying this area.

18 I think it's important that we understand
19 something here, that it's not all about money. Life is
20 not all about money. Life is about enjoying the
21 essence of living and in the native perspective, which
22 is what I'm here to share, a native perspective takes
23 in all living creatures as our very own relatives, as
24 you would your son and daughter, I consider the deer,
25 moose, eagle and the dragonfly as important in the

1 sacred circle that we all live in.

2 There's only one animal we can take out of
3 that circle and the circle is still healthy, and that's
4 us. But if you take out the bee or the dragonfly, or
5 any other insect, or any other animal because of
6 industrializing our forest, industrializing our lands,
7 you are insulting the very essence of a lifecycle that
8 was given to us by creation, not to destroy it, but to
9 preserve it, to protect it, to pledge stewardship in
10 the form of making sure in all areas of discussion and
11 decisionmaking we ask one very important question, how
12 does this project affect future generations? I don't
13 see it destroying our western mountains, the land that
14 we use for our canoeing, the land that we use for
15 running our dogs, I've been there, I've seen the color
16 of the trees that are not natural and I don't want to
17 see it more in a bigger project.

18 I want to be able to take my family in these
19 areas and not worry about drinking the water and not
20 having to worry about the air that we're breathing. We
21 should be able to enjoy this creation that creator gave
22 us.

23 So I ask the State of Maine, I ask the
24 Department, I ask everybody, let's leave something for
25 future generations that is worth leaving. We don't

1 need to leave them a legacy providing more electricity
2 to Massachusetts so they can enjoy air-conditioning.
3 We need our land here. We need our clean waters here.
4 We need our clean air here. My ancestors' spirits are
5 in that soil. My ancestors' DNA is in those
6 dragonflies. That needs protection. I ask you all to
7 deny this project on behalf of future generations.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Tom Saviello,
10 Bob Woodbury, Sandra Swatsky, Becky Bartovics.

11 BOB WOODBURY: Good evening, ladies and
12 gentlemen, my name is Bob Woodbury. I am 81 years old
13 and I live in Winslow. I am a member of the Kennebec
14 Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Maine's largest
15 chapter formed over 35 years ago. The chapter has been
16 inducted into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in
17 Hayward, Wisconsin where I am also a charter member.

18 I am here to testify on behalf of brook who
19 aren't able to be here to testify this evening, nor
20 were they able to provide written testimony. Central
21 Maine Power claims a reduction of greenhouse gas
22 emissions would occur if Maine permits construction of
23 the New England Clean Energy Connect project. Would
24 it? We don't know. No one knows. That claim has in
25 no way been proven to anyone by anyone. We can make

1 the claim, but we don't have to prove it. Don't we
2 need to know for certain that this claim is valid? Do
3 we require proof of some kind of that claim or do we
4 take the money and run? I have wonder if the algorithm
5 is hiding somewhere. My main concern is the sanctity
6 of wilderness and its inhabitants, basically brook
7 trout, probably the most vulnerable creature in the way
8 of the corridor.

9 There's a page on the Maine Inland Fisheries
10 and Wildlife website titled wild brook trout. Please
11 let me quote a paragraph from that page. Maine is the
12 only state with the extensive intact populations of
13 wild self-producing brook trout in lakes and ponds
14 including some lakes over 5,000 acres in size. Maine's
15 lake and pond trout resources are the jewel of the
16 eastern range. Lake populations are intact and 185
17 water sheds, 18 percent of the historical range, in
18 comparison to only six intact water sheds among the 16
19 other states. Furthermore, Maine is the last true
20 strong hold for stream dwelling populations of wild
21 brook trout supporting more than twice the number of
22 intact sub water sheds as the other 16 states in the
23 eastern range combined.

24 What do all these statistics mean? Well, in
25 a nutshell Maine is only 97 percent of the wild native

1 naturally producing eastern brook trout remaining from
2 its historic range on the eastern seaboard. That's
3 since the ice age, ladies and gentlemen.

4 So how do we interact with this information?
5 One way is to say we have plenty of wild brook trout,
6 so if we kill a few thousand, it really doesn't matter.
7 So on one particular section of CMP's glorious power
8 line, we'll do that. We could go around, and there's a
9 reasonable way to do that, but that would be more
10 expensive, so let's endanger several thousand native
11 brook trout and their prodigy for many years to come
12 and save some money. After all, money is what this
13 corridor is all about, isn't it, and they're only brook
14 trout.

15 Why is it necessary to tear up wilderness
16 claiming it's for our own good and then refusing to
17 prove why? Why can't we leave the wilderness alone for
18 all to enjoy? Brook trout don't live in no ugly
19 places. Wilderness is beautiful. It was created
20 however your belief tells you how it was created to be
21 beautiful and appreciated for its beauty.

22 Point of thought for the only reason I can
23 think of, and not just in the cause about what which we
24 testified today, greed and money. I really do
25 appreciate your time and I do not envy the charge with

1 which you've been burdened. Thank you.

2 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

3 SANDRA SWATSKY: Good evening. My name
4 is Sandra Swatsky. I'm from Industry, Maine. I
5 graduated from UMO with my bachelor of science in
6 biology and I'm a medical laboratory scientist and I've
7 been a microbiologist for most of my career, and I just
8 say that because I want to explain that I do know how
9 to read a material safety data sheet and that I'm
10 opposed to CMP's NECEC because I'm particularly
11 concerned about the use of herbicides.

12 Here are some of the chemicals that I've seen
13 listed on the CMP website in use during the 2018
14 calendar year. These are brand names of course, Garlon
15 4 Ultra, Arsenal Powerline, Milestone VM, Rodeo and
16 Stalker. So I've looked them up. They're not benign
17 chemicals. Their safety data sheets include toxicity
18 for fish and/or aquatic lands, among other warnings
19 such as not being readily biodegradable. I've attached
20 one of them. They're very interesting documents. You
21 can find out an awful lot about them and it's pretty
22 scary.

23 CMP's herbicide plans that I have found for
24 the 2018 calendar year states that there will be a
25 minimum buffer zone of 25 feet maintained around open

1 water and a minimum 100 foot buffer around drinking
2 water supplies. I submit to you that this is not
3 sufficient. What about springs, vernal ponds, bogs and
4 when the rain washes the chemicals into ground water?
5 Who is testing the surrounding water sources for these
6 chemicals and how often will they be tested? Who will
7 monitor the effects on the deer and moose? Who would
8 want to drink that water or eat those blueberries that
9 have been sprayed?

10 Once damage is done to our environment,
11 it's awfully hard to fix, as I've heard other people
12 explain too. I believe we'd be better served by CMP
13 with the already existing dams were upgraded for power
14 generation, and all the land in the existing corridors,
15 which is already cleared, were put to use as solar
16 farms. We need to provide our own power to Maine
17 instead of sending it off to Massachusetts.

18 I can do little, but this Commission can
19 intervene and make the difference. In closing I'd like
20 to leave you with this quote from Joni Mitchell's Big
21 Yellow Taxi, and let's not have it happen to us. Don't
22 it always seem to go you don't know what you got until
23 it's gone and they paved paradise and they put up a
24 parking lot. And I'm afraid that's what's going to
25 happen here. Thank you very much.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

2 BECKY BERTOVICS: That's a tough one to
3 follow. I think it's better if I come before Tom
4 Saviello. I'm Becky Bartovics and I represent 1,800
5 members of Sierra Club Maine. I live in North Haven
6 Island. Good evening, thank you so much for holding
7 this hearing and allowing me to speak. We stand
8 opposed to Hydro-Quebec's power and stand opposed to
9 the high voltage transmission line ruining the
10 landscape of Maine's unique environment and scenic
11 character and its current value for tourism.

12 Under the Natural Resource Protection Act,
13 the applicant is required to present all practical
14 alternatives. This application does not consider any
15 other alternatives than a huge transmission line.
16 Where in this plan can we find energy efficiency and
17 renewables that does not only benefit our economy, job
18 development and potential of local incomes to the
19 state, but also improve the health and our overall
20 environment.

21 For Maine practical alternatives already
22 exist. Efficiency comes first for any energy usage,
23 then renewable development insulation, both of which
24 enormously benefit local economies. The DEP and LUPC
25 need to evaluate the impact of fragmentation on file

1 though, contiguous forest for adaptation and hydrology,
2 how Mainers of this highway side swathe of corridor
3 through the region will impact streams and wetlands.

4 Our continuous forested lands are unique east
5 of the Mississippi River. Not only is this project
6 impacting forest, but it's also built on destroying the
7 forest of the eastern Canada. Therefore, there must be
8 a full environmental impact statement, EIS, on the
9 entire project before it is permitted only due to the
10 impacts of wetlands, streams and rivers.

11 We have serious questions about the lack of
12 demonstrated need in Maine for this project and the
13 benefits that will accrue for Maine citizens for
14 ratepayers, especially given that we pay the lowest
15 price for a prices for electricity in New England
16 already.

17 To develop Maine's forested lands for outside
18 energy projections is not going to benefit our economy
19 or the health of our environment. While CMP
20 Hydro-Quebec are -- a huge infusion of cash to Maine,
21 their compensation is inadequate at best. The 258
22 million represents 13 cents per kilowatt hour and it
23 pales in comparison to the funds that shareholders of
24 this international consortium will generate.

25 Mitigation is by the way by its very

1 nature a net loss of wetlands, so neither compensation
2 nor mitigation are adequate as far as we're concerned.
3 Seasonal withholding of release of water at periods
4 counter to norms behind the dams, flooding in wintering
5 depriving systems in spring and summer impact the
6 ecosystems in dire ways in Canada, removing microscopic
7 organisms that provide feed for this species in the
8 Gulf of Maine.

9 There's likely been a result in dramatic
10 impact on the important fishery resources that's
11 incomes in Maine as result of those dams. The St.
12 Lawrence River introduces nutrients in the ocean
13 current that feeds into the gulf of Maine. Our
14 fisheries are impacted by loss of food sources
15 throughout the food chain. These issues represent
16 costs to Mainers that Hydro-Quebec Power are currently
17 causing us. We do not need more of this.

18 The damage to Maine's environment for
19 Massachusetts to benefit from false clean power is huge
20 crossing 115 streams, 263 wetlands and numerous other
21 ponds that provide critical wildlife habitat while
22 dangling power lines over one of our most iconic
23 forested waterways.

24 CMP's transmission line rights of way will
25 clearcut and -- will be clearcut and maintained with

1 periodic herbicide and spray, which was already talked
2 about. CMP's transmission line is an onslaught of the
3 people and environment of Maine and our economy, the
4 opportunistic and blatant disregard for the functions
5 and values of the forested land in western Maine for
6 its current value, scenic use and values for tourism.
7 It's a travesty.

8 Our forest will provide benefit to clean
9 air and water that most corridor with no scar of a
10 transmission line kept open for years with herbicides
11 and cut over can possibly amend. To suggest that this
12 is a clean way for Massachusetts to don renewable
13 energy going into the future is highly ridiculous and
14 mendacious.

15 Meanwhile how does Maine benefit from this
16 project? How do our children and grandchildren
17 benefit? The benefits will only accrue to the
18 shareholders of CMP and Hydro-Quebec. The Sierra Club
19 of Maine urges that the DEP and LUPC reject this permit
20 on the basis of NRPA. Thank you very much.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

22 TOM SAVIELLO: Thank you. I'm Tom
23 Saviello and I'm a recovering politician and I'm
24 speaking for myself, and I want to emphasize that I'm
25 not being paid by any dark money. In fact, if anybody

1 would like to make a donation to me, I'd be glad to
2 accept it. I welcome you to Farmington, especially
3 number 14, which he can explain to you later what it
4 means.

5 Some of you know my background, some of you
6 don't. I have a bachelor's degree in forestry, a
7 master's in agronomy and a Ph.D. in forest soils from
8 the University of Maine. I'm not a political science
9 major at all. Being old and that I've had 16 years
10 experience in the this other job called legislature, or
11 State Senator last year, I want to bring you to a
12 decision that the DEP made, which I don't agree with
13 because I believe it's part of an alternative analysis,
14 and that's to look at the greenhouse emissions and the
15 impact of MECA on these emissions. I disagree with
16 that decision and I believe that an alternative
17 analysis should be done.

18 As you know, Senator Carson has offered LD840
19 to look at the greenhouse emission impacts of this
20 particular power line. In number 14's testimony Mark
21 stated, and I'll just go to the bottom of it, that
22 there's a section of the Site Law, Chapter 375, Section
23 2, that requires the project not cause unreasonable
24 alteration to the climate. In his testimony, and this
25 is the privilege of being old and in the legislature a

1 long time, he forget LD845, an act in addressing
2 climate change sponsored by Representative Coffin in
3 the 121st legislature. That bill passed and it became
4 law as part of 38 MRSA, Chapter 237. I helped write
5 that bill unfortunately for all of you and I'll refer
6 to just one part of the section, paragraph 577 where it
7 talks about shall the -- State shall adopt a climate
8 change plan and allow a sustainable managed forest,
9 agriculture and other natural resource activities to be
10 used in sequestering gas emissions.

11 Let me point out that this law, we set goals
12 for Maine, not New England, so I can suggest this part
13 of the law should be addressed as part of the site
14 location permit before it can be issued. And let me
15 explain why, let me give you a little foresting story.
16 One tree can absorb as much carbon in a year as a car
17 produces while driving 26,000 miles. Over the course
18 of a life, a single tree can absorb one ton of carbon
19 dioxide. So if we take the 55 miles of the corridor
20 that's 150 feet wide and the rest at 70 feet wide,
21 we'll cut a lot of trees which will equate to about
22 800,000 pounds of car carbon emissions. Now I think
23 there are those that are out there saying that we'll
24 make -- actually reduce -- this project will reduce the
25 carbon emissions by an equivalent of 700,000 cars, yet

1 my good friend, Mr. Dickinson in his testimony against
2 LD640, he said the project will take roughly equivalent
3 to taking 5,400 -- I'm sorry, 54,140 passenger cars off
4 the road in Maine every year, quite a difference about
5 what's been -- so I give the proponents right now
6 the benefit of the doubt. It's a wash, or is it? If
7 only 54,000 cars are off the road, we're really losing
8 on our climate change carbon sequestration in the State
9 of Maine.

10 So based on this information that I just
11 presented, Chapter 237 and Chapter 275, Section 2,
12 reductions in carbon emissions are not being met and
13 the climate is being altered. The analysis proposed by
14 Senator Carson needs to be done before a permit can be
15 issued, so -- or you can issue the permit and agree
16 with John Carroll, I won't read his quote other than to
17 say we can't guarantee it, that's not our job.

18 So to me the question remains would you
19 rather have a mythical a 54,000 or 700,000 car
20 emissions gone or real trees cut that do sequester
21 carbon? Once cut, the future sequestration is gone.
22 The project does affect the climate change in Maine and
23 needs to be vetted before this permit can be issued.
24 I'll be glad to answer to any questions you might have.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. Tony

1 Marple, Peter Vigue, Lloyd from Wayne, I can't make out
2 the last name, Tom Nason, Steve Johnson and Cynthia
3 Soma.

4 LLOYD IRLAND: Good evening, my name is
5 Lloyd Irland, thank you for having me here.

6 MS. MILLER: I'm sorry, is that Earl?

7 LLOYD IRLAND: Lloyd Irland.

8 MS. MILLER: Can you spell that?

9 LLOYD IRLAND: Lloyd Irland,
10 I-R-L-A-N-D.

11 MS. MILLER: Thank you so much.

12 LLOYD IRLAND: Funny you should ask
13 because they misspelled it in the PUC report. I speak
14 for myself in two, a lot of time Maine conservation
15 leaders for whom I've worked in the past in Maine State
16 Government and elsewhere, together with Richard
17 Anderson and Richard Barringer, among us we have well
18 over a century of career involvement in these matters
19 of both land conservation and economic development.

20 We are sympathetic to those who like us value
21 and enjoy the Maine woods and live near the corridor,
22 but have drawn a conclusion about the NECEC. Their
23 hearts are in the right place. We share with them the
24 concern for the woods future, but we strongly endorse
25 the NECEC project.

1 Yes, there will impacts, as the PUC report
2 concludes, but the report goes on to state that the
3 significant benefits outweigh the impacts. Almost a
4 thousand acres will be harvested along the 53 mile
5 corridor covering ten townships that were just
6 mentioned. This is a drop in the bucket --

7 MS. MILLER: I'm sorry, can you slow
8 down a little bit for our transcriptionist.

9 LLOYD IRLAND: Pardon me. Yes, there
10 will be impacts, as the PUC examiner report concludes.
11 Almost one thousand acres will be harvested along the
12 53 mile corridor covering ten townships. This is a
13 drop in the bucket compared to the acreage harvested
14 annually in western Maine and our people and our
15 visitors are used to a working forest landscape.

16 By my calculations, almost as much is
17 harvested annually in each and every one of the ten
18 corridor townships, not to mention a larger area that
19 is there permanently as permanent roads to access all
20 that timber and all that recreation.

21 People traveling the roads snowmobiling or
22 hiking in the woods will not see the towers unless
23 they're close or nearby. From some ridges, ponds and
24 prominent heights, the line will be visible, so is
25 Route 201, a long permanent scar on the landscape and

1 likely -- not as wide as the New Jersey Turnpike.

2 This corridor will have a small impact on
3 resources and uses relative to the entire local
4 landscape. Will a power line damage prospects for a
5 stronger tourism economy? No evidence has been
6 produced. Huge increases in visitation to the new
7 Katahdin Woods and Waters National Heritage are
8 predicted, which is reached by driving under power
9 lines.

10 Not only is there no evidence that the area
11 of tourism is at risk, but these fears draw -- distract
12 attention on the real threat, which is climate change.
13 And one more thing, are three of us concerned about
14 brook trout? We sure are, but I believe that the brook
15 trout have worked here for climate change and for me
16 and other avid trout anglers than from this power. I
17 was going to bring my fishing rod, but I thought that
18 would be a little too -- I will forgo reading the
19 qualifications of us, which will be here. I know you
20 need more reading materials so I brought you some.
21 Would it be okay if I leave this? I doubt that you'll
22 want to cross-examine me.

23 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Go ahead.

24 TONY MARPLE: My name is Tony Marple.
25 I'm retired from a career in hospital administration

1 and four years as Medicaid director in Maine. We have
2 a farm that includes 30 acres of wild blueberries in
3 Whitefield and Whitefield is the town to which the
4 secondary line would pass, but I totally agree with the
5 governor's position on the NECEC. It's all about
6 climate change and, you know, I've been a hiker all my
7 life. I'm as concerned as anyone about the northern
8 forest and if you read the University of Maine climate
9 position, they're basically saying that the forest is
10 totally at risk from warming, that spruce and fir are
11 the most beautiful part of the mountain hike.

12 And secondly, the warming is going to bring
13 more southern insects that are going to create tree die
14 offs throughout Maine and meanwhile the warming of
15 course is going to kill fish, fresh water fish and salt
16 water fish.

17 So in my opinion in our town the opposition
18 for the power line is kind of a mean spirited ideology
19 and when you speak out in favor of it, you pay a price.
20 I've seen that in our town when I was selectman and
21 held a hearing on it, but I'm more concerned about our
22 granddaughters and the price they'll pay if we don't
23 act aggressively to mitigate climate change.

24 So CMP is constantly accused of lying and
25 Hydro-Quebec, which is the biggest source of clean

1 energy in eastern North America, is accused of green
2 washing. Meanwhile is anyone demonizing the owners of
3 the fossil fuel plant, and by the way, the biomass
4 plants, how many trees are they cutting? Those are the
5 biggest funders of the opposition.

6 So in New England, we're in a New England
7 grid, the electricity production is 51 percent fossil
8 fuel, 30 percent nuclear, 7 percent biomass and
9 garbage, 8 percent existing hydro and 4 percent wind
10 and solar. So Hydro-Quebec is being asked to do a
11 project that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
12 who's asking the natural gas companies who are sending
13 natural gas from track wells to leafy pipe lines to New
14 England, what's their impact on climate change? Nobody
15 is asking that.

16 So we need to replace the fossil fuel
17 component in New England -- well, in the world really,
18 cover the loss of closing old nuclear power plants and
19 at the same time when we need gear up for the
20 electrification of transportation and heating, so
21 that's going to require massive amounts of clean
22 energy.

23 So the open, you know, the Conservation Law
24 Foundation led a productive negotiation with CMP, the
25 governor, the public advocate and others and it

1 includes 50 million for electric vehicle charge and 50
2 million for expanded use of heat pumps and a lot more,
3 but of course somebody once called it a bribe.

4 MS. MILLER: I just need to ask you to
5 wrap up.

6 LLOYD IRLAND: Sorry, okay. I'll just
7 add that I think, you know, reaching that 80 percent
8 goal by 2050 is going to be a real challenge and can't
9 be done without some controversial project, even off
10 shore wind is going to come underwater cable and then
11 it's going to be an above ground power line and people
12 will object to that, so we need all the clean energy we
13 can get. Thank you.

14 MS. MILLER: Thank you very much.

15 PETER VIGUE: Good evening, my name is
16 Peter Vigue. I'm a resident of the town of Pittsfield,
17 Maine in Somerset County. This evening I brought some
18 pictures of the right of way and what is depicted as
19 being pristine forest, which it is not. What is shown
20 on these documents, and I can provide more if you'd
21 like them for the entire right of way from the Quebec
22 corridor all the way to Lewiston. These are scale with
23 the exact width of the right of way depicted as well as
24 the elevation as well as each structure that is planned
25 along the right of way.

1 My point here this evening is a proponent of
2 this project for Central Maine Power and there are
3 seven copies there, at least one for each of you, is
4 the fact that these pictures include Township Skinner,
5 Appleton, Bradstreet, Johnson Mountain and The West
6 Forks. Clearly as a result of the clearcuts that have
7 been done over a period of years and the amount of
8 trees that have been removed clearly indicate through
9 these pictures that this is not pristine forest. This
10 is a working forest with roadways going in every
11 direction that are utilized by people that want access
12 for snowmobiling, that are utilized by people who want
13 access to the ponds so that they can go any way in any
14 direction that they want and that is allowed on these
15 properties, which are privately owned, yet they are
16 accessible to all of us here in the State of Maine and
17 we should be grateful for that.

18 I'm prepared to answer any questions that you
19 might have ongoing and provide additional information
20 that supports my comments.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you very much.

22 TOM NASON: Good evening, my name's Tom
23 Nason. I'm a lifelong Mainer. I was brought up in
24 beautiful downtown Leeds, one of the communities where
25 the power line is going to be extended. I also work

1 for E.S. Boulos Company, electrical contractors. E.S.
2 Boulos was established in 1920 and is Maine's largest
3 electrical contractor. Tonight I speak in favor of the
4 proposal of the New England Clean Energy Connect
5 project.

6 ESB is also a wholly owned subsidiary and let
7 me explain each company' working relationship with CMP.
8 ESB has constructed many of CMP's high voltage
9 substations as well as transmission and distribution
10 lines through some of Maine's most rugged, yet
11 sensitive terrain. Each project has been constructed
12 with the least environmental impact possible. That
13 fact does not change from town to town, county to
14 county or project to project.

15 Minimal environmental impacts before, during
16 and after completion are one of the most important
17 factors in constructing projects for CMP. They
18 resolute with Maine's specifications that no leaf, tree
19 or pathway is left in an environmental and unsound
20 condition. They fully plan each step to make sure
21 positive results for neighbors, partners,
22 recreationalists and New England's power route.

23 MYR, the parent company, constructed the
24 northern loop of the MPRP project that included over
25 1,100 poles and structures and 210 miles of 345 and 150

1 KV transmission lines. The project employed 2,100 plus
2 Maine and New England workers. That team included
3 linemen, engineers, planners, community relations
4 professionals, environmentalists and numerous Maine
5 subcontractors.

6 The environmental impact to that 210 mile
7 project, 60 miles longer than the proposed NECEC
8 project were zero. CMP and MYR worked closely with the
9 municipality and landowners to ensure the finished
10 project looked as it had at full construction. The
11 outcome provided a very a positive environmental
12 statement and a roadmap for the NECEC project.

13 We also had the need to consider the economic
14 impact of an environmentally sound construction
15 project. We put Mainers into high paying
16 apprenticeship programs to work and learn from our
17 construction professionals who invest in the economies
18 of the communities they work through and where they
19 live, release land from homeowners and tenants, the lay
20 down area for equipment and materials and remediate
21 those areas. Local stores, motels, gas stations, to
22 only name a few, saw increased revenues from
23 construction professionals utilizing their businesses.

24 Upon project completion, the MPRP corridors
25 were available for ATVs, snowmobilers and outdoor

1 recreationalists, that's a bad word, to access and
2 enjoy. Any construction project, whether it's a gas
3 station, hospital, school, strip mall or a transmission
4 line is going to affect the communities where they are
5 constructed.

6 My goal is to share our past experience in
7 how environmentally and economically sound the NECEC
8 transmission project will be for each community that it
9 passes through and for all of Maine. The environmental
10 impacts I believe will be minimal upon completion. I'm
11 also relieved when NECEC is completed and carbon free
12 power will be flowing into Maine and New England and at
13 that time the fossil fuel plant will have to quickly
14 and inefficiently ramp up to meet our energy needs
15 during very high electric demand periods in which
16 millions of tons of carbon into our air will no longer
17 be needed. That in my opinion is sound environmental
18 progress for the State of Maine and why I am in favor
19 of the NECEC project being permitted and constructed.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

22 STEVE JOHNSON: Hello, my name is Steve
23 Johnson. I am from Solon, Maine. I am a relative
24 newcomer to the State of Maine. We've been here for
25 about a year so I am still trying to learn how to

1 become a Maniac, even though I -- I haven't figured it
2 out yet, but. Since I've been here I've been caught up
3 in the environmental concerns of this project and I
4 have to say that I am against the proposal to build
5 this corridor.

6 Mainly I see that Maine is at a tipping point
7 where the choices that we have as the people of the
8 State of Maine, choices are being taken away from us in
9 that we are now being told by out of state, out of
10 country outfits how we have to conduct our state, how
11 we have to run our state. We know in the news that
12 Emera Electric Company has been bought out by a
13 Canadian company. I understand that CM -- Central
14 Maine Power is owned by a Spanish company and now we're
15 talking about bringing down Canadian electricity
16 through our state. We have no control over what is
17 going to be happening in this state.

18 The voice of the people needs to be heard and
19 I would urge that this whole proposal be brought before
20 the people of the State of Maine in a referendum. Let
21 the people vote on this statewide, not just letting the
22 politicians, not just letting the corporate CEOs
23 dictate to us what they are going to do to our state.

24 Last summer I had the opportunity of bringing
25 my granddaughter up to the State of Maine. I was proud

1 to show her the vistas that we have in western Maine,
2 the mountains that we have. Are we going to be the
3 last generation to be able to observe an unblemished
4 vista? Are my grand kids going to be able to
5 experience coming to Maine enjoying the pristine
6 wilderness of this state?

7 I would say also that the State of Maine is
8 not allowed to build any new hydroelectric dams to
9 provide electricity for our state, whereas why then are
10 we going to be abetting this company from Canada to
11 exploit their resources up in Canada by abusing their
12 hydroelectric resources and allowing them to bring
13 their electricity down through our state? We don't
14 allow new hydroelectric power plants in our state. Why
15 are we abetting Canadian interest to run their
16 electricity through our state?

17 I would say that the alternative to this
18 project would be that for Massachusetts, which would be
19 the primary beneficiary of this project, but also the
20 New England grid, that there is American Green Energy
21 available from the midwest. I am a native from
22 Illinois and of the prairie states of this country
23 there are tens of thousands of turbine wind farms that
24 have been constructed, which is part of electric grid
25 of our country. There's no reason why Massachusetts

1 and a New England grid cannot tap into American Green
2 Energy.

3 I'd also say that New Hampshire has voted
4 down this same scheme. This scheme was tried to be
5 brought and approved by the State of Maine and the wise
6 people of New Hampshire voted down this same scheme of
7 bringing down Canadian electricity. There are other
8 alternatives. We do not want to give up our pristine
9 wilderness. Where else can you travel in the world but
10 to see what we have here in Maine? We have wilderness.
11 We have forests that are working forests that those
12 forests regenerate themselves.

13 Transmission lines are permanent. They do
14 not regenerate themselves, but they are a constant
15 eyesore and I would just urge you people involved to
16 allow this project to come before referendum before the
17 state. Thank you.

18 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

19 CYNTHIA SOMA HERNANDEZ: Can we stop the
20 runaway CMP train by moving from paper mills to hemp
21 mills? My name is Cynthia Soma Hernandez. I was a
22 Bernie Sanders national delegate. I am from North
23 Anson, Maine. I hope to inspire, insight and guilt CMP
24 into doing something constructive for the Maine
25 community.

1 First of all, we need to question why an
2 overwhelming statewide disapproval of the proposed CMP
3 line is being dismissed. Why would the disapproval
4 rates of 90 percent in Franklin County, 83 percent in
5 Somerset County and a statewide disapproval rate of
6 65 percent persist in this apparent following for the
7 love of energy?

8 Secondly, while agreeing a new deal in Maine
9 cannot happen fast enough, there is more that we can do
10 and we can't do it fast enough, that is the reopening
11 of a closed paper mill as an industrialized hemp mill.
12 When will Maine develop a sustainable industrialized
13 hemp industry? When will an economic feasibility study
14 be conducted to present to the legislature to request
15 funding? Could CMP underwrite this study as an act of
16 goodwill? Yes, yes, yes, they could.

17 We must do better. Why? Theory has it the
18 clock is ticking at 12 years and counting. Hemp is
19 biodegradable. We can maximize our farming industry.
20 We can employ our mill workers. We can process hemp
21 from the tri-state area and maintain a sustainable
22 green economy. An industrial hemp manufacturing
23 facility would activate businesses and soil -- fuel
24 production, building and construction materials such as
25 hemp -- semiconductors are stronger when they're made

1 with hemp. Plastics are cleaner when they're made with
2 hemp. Within ten years we could be manufacturing
3 hempmobiles in Detroit, Maine, can't buy that kind of
4 PR. Help us CMP. Do something really great for New
5 England. Have you heard the train whistle blowing?
6 Alternative analysis.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you. All right, Hank
8 Washburn, Cliff Stevens, Troy Hull and Tim Bryant.

9 CLIFF STEVENS: Cliff Stevens, I'm a
10 resident of The Forks, a father of two who were born in
11 The Forks.

12 MS. MILLER: Can you speak into the mic,
13 please. Thank you.

14 CLIFF STEVENS: Cliff Stevens, I'm a
15 resident of The Forks, a father of two who were born in
16 The Forks. I've been a professional guide for
17 40 years. I own Moxie Outdoor Adventures, an outdoor
18 company and rafting company, and I also own Lake Moxie
19 Camps, a sporting camp on Lake Moxie. All my
20 properties and businesses directly abut the corridor
21 and the transmission lines.

22 Recently I've been, you know, thinking about
23 the Maine brand and I saw a TV commercial put out by
24 the Maine Department of Tourism. They're marketing a
25 brand new campaign for Maine, the this is me campaign.

1 It's a national TV ship campaign and it shows Maine is
2 a beautiful state made of unique individuals living and
3 working in spectacular locations, smiles on their faces
4 and content. They go through their activity and they
5 say this is ME, capitalizing on the abbreviation M-E,
6 this is me.

7 For example, a fisherman in a remote trout
8 stream turns and looks and says this is ME; an AT hiker
9 on the summit of the mountain screaming this is ME;
10 paddlers on the river, this is ME; an innkeeper with a
11 view, this is ME; and an snowmobiler in the wilderness,
12 this is ME. Their message is to live in or come to
13 Maine and you can live and feel this too. This is ME,
14 the Maine brand.

15 Imagine the same TV commercials, same
16 backdrops, only now 150 miles of 90 foot high towers
17 and 150 foot wide corridor, now the same scenes with
18 the transmission poles in the background. I am Matt,
19 I'm hiking the AT, this is me? I am Joe, the fly
20 fisherman, this is me? I am a paddler, this is me? We
21 are Tom and Jane, leaf peepers on the National Scenic
22 Byway, this is me?

23 The DEP is to consider potential impacts to
24 scenic character and existing uses, potential impacts
25 to the wildlife habitat and fisheries. This project

1 has a huge impact on both. I have heard many people
2 speak to the impact of the health of the animals in the
3 corridor were it to be approved. We as humans are one
4 of those animals in this wildlife habitat. This
5 wilderness area with the working forest that is part of
6 our heritage, this remote and scenic locations are
7 important to the health and well-being of us as humans.

8 The million people who live in Maine and the
9 millions who are attracted to come here from away come
10 to unplug, come to recharge, come to look around, Maine
11 is not a huge wilderness area. We look big in New
12 England, but nationally we rank in the low 40s. That's
13 40 out of 50 states. That is not a lot of wilderness
14 to play with. We need to protect this wilderness and
15 our jobs.

16 Maine's tourism jobs, Maine's guiding jobs,
17 there are 5,000 registered Maine Guides every year.
18 Those are renewable jobs over years, hundreds of years.
19 We need to protect our wilderness. I strongly
20 recommend and request the DEP request further studies,
21 request alternatives such as burying the line, but
22 mostly not approve this project at all as proposed. We
23 are M-E. We are Maine. Thank you for your time and
24 this long week.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

1 HANK WASHBURN: My name is Hank
2 Washburn. I'm a retired elementary school teacher and
3 I don't envy you guys, your task. It's really a lot to
4 think about. Thank you for your service.

5 It's been claimed that hydropower from Quebec
6 is clean and that the New England Clean Energy Connect
7 would be clean energy too. We've talked a lot about
8 the effects of the corridor in Maine, but I was curious
9 to know where this power line would really be coming
10 from and how it would be created.

11 Here's some things I didn't know.
12 Hydro-Quebec is wholly owned by the province of Quebec
13 with subsidized the sale of electricity in the
14 province. It is, however, free to charge more for the
15 power that it exports. Seventeen percent of
16 Hydro-Quebec's power is currently exported mostly to
17 New England, New York and Ontario, but the exports
18 create 27 percent of the company's profits, so
19 Hydro-Quebec has a clear incentive to create more power
20 for export. What are the outcomes of this profit
21 margin?

22 Hydro-Quebec's latest scam, Romaine Number
23 Four, which completes the series of Romaine One, Two,
24 Three and Four on the same river is scheduled to be
25 completed in August 2020. Premier Legault and Prime

1 Minister Trudeau are on record as supporting building
2 more dams in Quebec once the main corridor is
3 completed.

4 The motivation behind the construction of
5 more dams is profit from exporting power, not just
6 power for domestic consumption. The problems with that
7 are briefly, enormous alterations of the natural
8 landscape, complete rerouting of rivers to create catch
9 basins, flood in some areas and be -- in other areas of
10 water. Displacement of a -- and disruption of their
11 traditional way of life and the release of methane and
12 methylmercury from flooding soils to vegetation to the
13 point where fish from the dam rivers are no longer safe
14 to eat.

15 The only remediation that anyone could think
16 of to do up there with the mercury and water was to
17 truck in chicken and fish to let people eat, but no
18 other remediation has been tried to my knowledge.
19 These environmental impacts of Hydro-Quebec's dams
20 ought to be taken into consideration when deciding
21 whether to go forward with this project in addition to
22 the more local effects of the transmission corridor in
23 our own state, its effects on brook trout, deer,
24 habitat disturbance and loss of connectivity and
25 habitat and the use of herbicides like Round Up to keep

1 the power line corridor clean.

2 A word more about the native tribes in
3 Quebec, they did enter into some agreements with the
4 province over giving up the rights to, you know, their
5 rights to their, you know, native lands, land that
6 they've been there for, as Mr. Dana said, 12,000 years.
7 Those negotiations took place in a spirit a lot like
8 negotiations with native tribes in the United States, a
9 great disparity of power and, you know, the tribes
10 managed to get a settlement out of it and they have had
11 some benefits, but it was not their idea that they
12 should be taken off their land.

13 In fact, when they were negotiating some of
14 the initial contracts, they would -- the construction
15 was supposed to stop during the negotiation, but it
16 went right on. So, you know, everything is connected.
17 We're all in the same biosphere here, Quebec and Maine,
18 and if we go ahead with this project, I think that, you
19 know, people in Maine will be complicit in the
20 destruction of more habitat and Quebec and then will be
21 responsible for creating more demand to build more
22 dams. That's all I have. Thank you.

23 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

24 TROY HULL: My name is Troy Hull. I am
25 a resident of Starks and a local business owner. I

1 graduated from Bassett College and chose to live in
2 western Maine because, like many, I love this land and
3 the people of this area.

4 The NECEC corridor will damage the integrity
5 of the western Maine landscape and experience and set a
6 precedent for further development. The east coast of
7 the United States is largely developed and more so
8 every day. Western Maine and its working forest are to
9 protect, especially from a false solution to climate
10 change and a skewed interpretation of public need.

11 NECEC evolved out of an RFP from
12 Massachusetts for energy that would help reduce global
13 greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The problem is that
14 Hydro-Quebec can shift power from existing markets in
15 Ontario, Quebec and other parts of Canada as well as
16 New York and New England to feed Massachusetts. Those
17 markets will then be forced to compensate with fossil
18 fuels.

19 Further, Hydro-Quebec sources some of its
20 power from fossil fuels and the language of the
21 contract does not preclude them from using those fuels
22 for NECEC. Both the Daymark and limited economic
23 studies are cited as bashing the greenhouse gas
24 reduction's argument, but both are limited and have
25 clear disclaimers. The LEI disclaimer states in part,

1 quote, LEI's analysis is not intended to be a complete
2 and exhaustive analysis. All possible factors of
3 importance have not necessarily been considered. There
4 can be substantial variation between assumptions and
5 market outcomes analyzed by different organizations,
6 end quote.

7 In cross-examination an LEI expert witness
8 was also a former Hydro-Quebec employee was quoted as
9 saying LEI is confident Hydro-Quebec will have to
10 redirect sales from other markets to supply the NECEC.
11 In cross-examination of the Daymark study, their expert
12 witness said there was not enough information to
13 confirm that Hydro-Quebec wouldn't have to shift power.

14 The town of Caratunk brief from February 1st
15 states that other various intervenor experts stated
16 Hydro-Quebec doesn't have the ability to supply
17 Massachusetts with one hundred percent clean energy and
18 that they don't even have to given the flexibility they
19 were able to negotiate in the contracts.

20 CMP argues that Hydro-Quebec had an excess
21 electricity and last year even had to spill water from
22 some of its dams; however, going forward, the existing
23 markets are growing. They will need more power. Visit
24 the Hydro-Quebec web page, their strategic plan for
25 2016 and 2020 reads, quote, Quebec's capacity needs

1 will increase over the next 15 years driven mainly by
2 growth and residential demand, unquote. Existing
3 markets will need more power than Hydro-Quebec can get
4 you.

5 The conviction that NECEC will lower global
6 greenhouse gasses is baseless. No study has yet been
7 done that is exhausted, which is why thousands like
8 myself support LD640, a bill to have the DEP carry out
9 a much more exhaustive study.

10 MS. MILLER: I need to ask you to wrap
11 up, if you can, please. Thank you.

12 TROY HULL: Let's see, I'll wrap up with
13 the conclusion here that keep in mind that NECEC is an
14 elective transmission upgrade. It is not the result of
15 a need for more power that CMP is trying to say and it
16 will crowd out the market for real renewals. At the
17 very least, we need to hold off until we look at
18 Maine's renewable energy development options and pass
19 LD640. Hydro-Quebec isn't going anywhere and neither
20 is Massachusetts. We can plug in any time within two
21 to three years of the decision if we really need to.
22 Meanwhile let's begin designing and developing our own
23 renewable energy resources while preserving our natural
24 heritages that is priceless to so many.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

1 TIM BRYANT: Good evening, my name is
2 Tim Bryant. I'm here tonight representing the Mile 10
3 Owners Road Association and to submit information from
4 our board of directors. The board of directors of the
5 Mile Ten Owners Road Association has voted on a
6 resolution in opposition to the Central Maine Power New
7 England Clean Energy Connect proposal. The Mile Ten
8 Owners Road Association has 70 members, all of whom are
9 private landowners between Mile 5 and Mile 10 of the
10 Spencer Road near the proposed power line construction
11 corridor.

12 As an association we are compelled to oppose
13 this project for the following reasons, Massachusetts
14 and Canada are the main beneficiaries of this project.
15 Rather than providing clean, more affordable energy for
16 Mainers, the environmental damage created by clear
17 cutting thousands of acres in one of the last remaining
18 forests in the United States east of the Mississippi
19 River is irreversible and opens the door for future
20 large scale projects.

21 This project would have a negative impact on
22 our members' property values. Most of our owners,
23 myself included, enjoy the pristine wilderness views
24 that will be destructed with a direct line of sight
25 with the proposed project. The cost of this project

1 could suppress new investment in clean renewable energy
2 such as land or solar power in Maine.

3 The 140 mile project would be harmful to
4 native brook trout habitat and other wildlife as it
5 clears through 263 wetlands, 115 streams and 12 inland
6 waterfowl wading bird habitat areas. We as a board
7 endorse this resolution to oppose CMP's NECEC proposal
8 enjoyment groups such as Maine's Environmental and
9 Natural Resources Committee, Maine's Energy Utilities
10 and Technology Committee, the Natural Resources Council
11 of Maine and many other property owners in the area.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Matt Marks,
14 Susan Clary, Lincoln Jeffers.

15 SUSAN CLARY: Hi, I'm Susan Clary. I
16 apologize, the only class that I ever didn't pass was
17 penmanship. I'm a resident of Livermore Falls. I am
18 in support of the New England Clean Energy Connect
19 project for many reasons, two of which lower
20 electricity costs for Mainers and clean hydropower to
21 displace carbon living fuel sources. In addition to
22 Maine, consumers saving \$40 million per year over the
23 next 20 years, the project will establish \$140 million
24 rate relief as well as providing \$50 million to assist
25 Maine low-income customers.

1 The most important feature of the lower
2 electricity costs associated with this project is that
3 the New England Clean Energy Connect will displace
4 1,200 megawatts of fossil fuel energy production with
5 clean hydropower energy. The clean hydropower will
6 reduce emissions in New England by 3 million megatons
7 annually and Maine's carbon emissions will be reduced
8 by 265,000 megatons annually.

9 Taking steps today to reduce greenhouse gas
10 emissions is essential for the future of Maine and the
11 world. Greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil
12 fuels like coal, oil and gas for electricity production
13 releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It is
14 wildly known that releasing carbon dioxide into the
15 atmosphere has a direct correlation on climate change
16 and health of all citizens.

17 Supporting the New England Clean Energy
18 Connect project is just one way that Maine can step up
19 and help lead the nation in taking steps to reduce
20 greenhouse gas emissions. This project not only helps
21 protect the air we breathe, Maine consumers will also
22 benefit from lower electricity costs. Thank you for
23 the opportunity to speak tonight.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

25 MATT MARKS: Good evening, my name is

1 Matt Marks. I'm a life-long resident in Maine and I'm
2 here today in my capacity as CEO of the Association of
3 General Contractors of Maine. Since 1951 AGC Maine has
4 represented nearly 200 commercial contractors,
5 suppliers and service providers throughout the entire
6 state. The Maine construction industry is still
7 recovering from recent recession devastated our
8 members. We lost about 10,000 workers throughout the
9 state.

10 Our workforce and many families rely on a
11 healthy economy. We lost a tremendous amount of
12 knowledge when this four year project dragged, much
13 needed consistency to the firms and those families who
14 are supported by the construction. Projects of highly
15 technical skills are increasingly attractive as college
16 debt becomes a serious issue for Maine families. When
17 construction of projects are a long-term schedule, they
18 provide an opportunity to train new skilled workers in
19 the field and the classroom, which we believe that will
20 be a major public benefit.

21 Maine, along with five other are states are
22 responsible for the generation of New England's 32,000
23 megawatts of power, more than 5,200 megawatts for oil,
24 coal, and nuclear power plants will have to have
25 retired from 2010 to 2022 and another 5,000 megawatts

1 for coal and oil fired generation could be retiring in
2 the coming years. We do not -- and they're all
3 connected, which is very important.

4 We need to replace these plants, 1,200 of
5 megawatts clean reliable hydropower delivered to
6 Lewiston, Maine with the region's largest source of
7 electricity from clean energy. As contractors we
8 certainly prefer to build generation, transmission and
9 delivery. However, we also recognize that a project
10 that immediately connects Maine to existing clean
11 hydropower, especially if it's an escape towards growth
12 is essential for the New England grade. I would add,
13 we are long-term advocate for green energy and that
14 includes solar and wind. We also recognize that that
15 still needs power to get to the marketplace.

16 This project will provide 1,700 construction
17 jobs on average for a four year build and 3,500 jobs at
18 peak. A four year project will attract new skilled
19 workers for the market. To help with recruitment and
20 training, an educational fund will be established for
21 vocational training programs in Franklin and Somerset
22 Counties as well as scholarships and internships for
23 the University of Maine Farmington right here.

24 Clean Energy Connect will deliver one billion
25 dollars in jobs, taxes and other benefits in Maine, not

1 Massachusetts. The construction of a transmission
2 delivery system would continue to occur throughout
3 Maine as we build additional generation, or in this
4 case, tie into an existing source.

5 Maine contractors have excelled in
6 environmentally sensitive construction techniques much
7 learned through the MPRP. I believe part of the
8 regulatory compliance, but also it's their belief that
9 each of us enjoy the precious landscape that we've been
10 blessed with in the state. As you know, this project
11 has little disturbance of the tremendous amount of
12 energy to live in our market. The 53 miles of
13 commercial would be forest and 94 miles of existing
14 corridor.

15 Because we've all heard so much from
16 television and radio ads about the curse of this
17 project for the New England highway, I think it's a
18 important to address. The New Jersey Turnpike has 12
19 foot wide lanes, 10 foot wide shoulders, in some
20 sections 12 lanes and that doesn't include buffer.
21 This project will be close to 50 yards of width, which
22 is about half a football field. That's a small
23 footprint for 1,200 megawatts. Maine has the
24 opportunity to provide clean energy, clean energy jobs
25 and a bright future for the next generation with this

1 project. I appreciate the chance to speak tonight.
2 Thank you.

3 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

4 LINCOLN JEFFERS: Good evening. My name
5 is Lincoln Jeffers. I live in Freeport and in the
6 interest of full disclosure, I also work for the city
7 of Lewiston, but I am here tonight not on Lewiston's
8 behalf, but simply as a citizen.

9 As a paddler, hiker, skier, former river
10 guide and a number of --

11 MS. MILLER: Can you speak into the
12 microphone, please.

13 LINCOLN JEFFERS: As the debate over
14 whether this project is good for Maine is played out,
15 one significant point seems to have been forgotten. We
16 need the clean energy future. To suggest that the
17 status quo is okay is a matter of sticking one's head
18 in the sand. The long-term viability of the plan
19 depends on a carbon-free future. If steps are not
20 taken slow, carbon emissions, the visual impacts of
21 power lines and potential habitat fragmentation will be
22 the least of our worries. There will be wholesale
23 negative changes in our climate and the ecology of our
24 plan.

25 This project is a good deal for Maine.

1 Massachusetts rate payers will pay a billion dollars to
2 bring existing clean hydroelectric power from Canada
3 into New England. It will become a part of New
4 England's electric supply when it's converted from
5 direct current to alternating current in Lewiston.

6 We know that one-third of New England's
7 generated capacity will retire over the next decade and
8 that capacity needs to be replaced. There is clean
9 hydroelectric power in Canada for the taking. Clean
10 Energy Connect will reduce wintertime natural gas price
11 spikes and provide price stability. Opponents want an
12 independent study of what the greenhouse gas emissions
13 for this project will be. They're choosing to ignore
14 the fact that two such studies have already been done,
15 one by CMP as part of their application and one by the
16 Public Utilities Commission as part of the review of
17 the project. The studies came to similar conclusions.

18 Clean Energy Connect will reduce emissions in
19 New England by 3.6 million metric tons annually, which
20 is the equivalent of taking 767,000 cars off the road.
21 To demand another greenhouse study is to deny science.
22 We shouldn't bog this project down with demanding a
23 study. It's not necessary. The evaluation has been
24 done. We also should not be changing the rules of
25 development review in the middle of the game. It was

1 set forth as here's the policy, here's how you're
2 supposed to be doing it and CMP has played by the rules
3 and trying to change the rules late in the game is just
4 not appropriate. It's really not the Maine way.

5 There will be impacts with this project.
6 There are places where the power line will be visible
7 where it is not today, places where wetlands and
8 streams will be crossed; however, those impacts must be
9 measured against the benefits. Gas, oil and coal all
10 have emissions, getting them out of the ground is a
11 dirty business. Maine is on the end of the tail pipe
12 for fossil fuel burning power plants west of us. This
13 project will help stop those negatives. People will
14 not stop coming to Maine, hiking the Appalachian Trail,
15 running the Kennebec Gorge or taking advantage of other
16 tourism events because they may catch a glimpse of a
17 power line. Repeating untruths will not make them
18 true.

19 Will we say no to every project? We can't.
20 Where would we be a hundred years ago if Maine said no
21 to fisherman who wanted to litter up pristine and
22 picturesque coastal waters with ropes and buoys? I
23 encourage your approval of Clean Energy Connect. Thank
24 you for your time and consideration.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Andrea Bowen,

1 Eliza Donaghue, Cynthia Stancioff and Paul Stancioff.
2 Put all the paperwork on the chair right next to you.

3 ANDREA BOWEN: I'll leave my statement
4 because I understood you had a three minute limit. My
5 name is Andrea Bowen. I'm a former state
6 representative from Sanford. I am here to add
7 information on the discussion of whether CMP's
8 compensation and mitigation plan adequately compensates
9 the impacts of the grid expansion on Maine's
10 environment. It really doesn't.

11 I offered the first legislation in the nation
12 past to address the risks to our electric power grid
13 from the severe large spread solar farms and manmade
14 electromagnetic weapons. Either could take down our
15 grid in Maine, the whole northeast, the nation beyond
16 for weeks, months or years.

17 A recent white house executive ordered
18 targets to this issue as an executive order under
19 former President Obama. This project heightens threats
20 to life in the economy because CMP does not harden its
21 grids against them as it could. In order to sensibly
22 compensate for that, CMP and Hydro-Quebec should either
23 provide on, off ramps or add substations so towns along
24 the way can have their own resilient micro grids
25 powered by solar winds like geothermal allowing them

1 not to have to worry about the grid passing.

2 Compensation might add an additional
3 \$100 million. People along the route really deserve to
4 be healthy. They help their wealthier friends, so.
5 Recovery from a blackout would be another cost for the
6 public because CMP is protected from liability in such
7 an instance. Hydro-Quebec experienced a severe solar
8 storm outage in 1989. Their grid was down for only
9 nine hours, but the recovery costs were about \$2
10 billion and economic costs generally throughout Quebec
11 was several billions more. Like Quebec, we need
12 billions, not millions set aside to take on that risk
13 because the public would be paying for us having to --
14 a severe solar storm is one hundred percent probable.

15 A recent report of the Electric Power
16 Research Institute shows Maine to be
17 particularly vulnerable, especially along its coast and
18 northwest border, and I provided attachments for you to
19 look at from that report. This proposed line running
20 between those most vulnerable points would allow for a
21 high powered antenna into the sky attracting more
22 electromagnetic solar and energy costs.

23 Adequate power is critical to the security of
24 the New England electric grid and Maine is a part of
25 it, but placement of an unhardened high powered

1 transmission line in a risky location is not a good
2 design. It threatens life and our ability to care for
3 it and it has high costs, so you really would need to
4 consider that realistically there should be a whole lot
5 more in mitigation compensation if we go forward with
6 that.

7 This line comes from one of the hottest spots
8 in the country on the western border and comes down to
9 our coast, the Maine coast being one of the hottest
10 spots in the country because the combination of our
11 geology and the coastal effect that we have here. It's
12 really been something tremendously serious and I hope
13 you'll consider putting more money in the budget for
14 mitigation compensation if you put that through. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

17 ELIZA DONAGHUE: Good evening. My name
18 is Eliza Donaghue and I represent Maine Audubon and our
19 30,000 members and supporters. Maine Audubon has long
20 been a strong supporter for renewable energy projects
21 believing that Maine and the nation must always look
22 for opportunities to reduce our collective alliance on
23 fossil fuels. At the same time we must ensure those
24 projects are sited and implemented responsibly to avoid
25 and minimize environmental impacts and that truly

1 unavoidable impacts are adequately compensated for.

2 We feel strongly that as proposed the
3 applicant has not adequately avoided, minimized and
4 compensated for impacts to wildlife and wildlife
5 habitat. We recognize that progress has been made
6 since the applicant submitted the project for review
7 and this indicates to us that it is practicable to
8 build and manage the project in a manner that is
9 sensitive to wildlife.

10 We recommend to the Department and we will
11 have submitted detailed comments that the applicant
12 applies similar practices in more areas within the
13 corridor. For example, to facilitate movement across
14 the corridor by area sensitive and wide ranging
15 wildlife species.

16 In addition to taking further steps to
17 minimize direct impacts to wildlife and wildlife
18 habitats, we believe that the applicant must do more to
19 compensate for cumulative impacts and impacts
20 associated with habitat fragmentation, both of which
21 are considerable in the proposed project.

22 Our comments include specific recommendations
23 such as avoiding additional habitat impacts by burying
24 or pole locating corridor, increasing vegetative
25 buffers to one hundred feet for all streams, not

1 allowing refueling near wetlands, increasing vernal
2 pool compensation rate to at least a hundred percent of
3 the eight to one significant wildlife habitat ratio,
4 increasing the inland wading birds and waterfowl
5 compensation to one percent of the eight to one
6 significant wildlife habitat ratio, retaining the
7 forest canopy and one hundred feet adjacent to all
8 brook trout streams, increasing funding for culvert
9 replacements, using alternative vegetation management
10 techniques, creating additional wildlife corridors and
11 finally truly compensating for the project's
12 significant habitat fragmentation impacts.

13 By our calculations, we estimate that segment
14 one of the proposed corridor would impact more than
15 5,000 linear acres of habitat applying eight to one or
16 twenty to one multiplier, similar to that used for
17 wetlands compensation would suggest compensation of
18 approximately 40,000 to one hundred thousand of acres
19 of protected lands to offset impacts associated with
20 fragmentation.

21 The project, if approved, would set
22 significant precedent for the likely many renewable
23 energy projects that would soon come to Maine. It is
24 vitally important that if it's done, it's done right
25 and as proposed, we don't believe that the project has

1 been done right quite yet. Thank you.

2 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

3 CYNTHIA STANCIOFF: Hi, I'm Cynthia
4 Stancioff from Chesterville. I'm an environmentalist
5 and so it may surprise many to hear that my testimony
6 is basically in favor of the project. I might have
7 many things to say in the context of global climate
8 emergency, our children's legacy and it's not in my
9 backyard syndrome and importance of fact based rational
10 policy analysis, but instead I will confine my
11 testimony to the DEP hearing criteria.

12 Criteria in A3, recreational and navigational
13 uses, businesses have argued that their clients will
14 react strongly to the points along the recreational
15 routes implying that customers will go out of business,
16 be it snowmobiling or rafting. This to me does not
17 seem likely. While longtime snowmobilers may
18 experience a visual change, they will not give up
19 riding, nor will they go elsewhere in protest. In a
20 short time they will be replaced by new riders who are
21 very impressed with the view which still abounds.

22 Kennebec rafting offer an illusion of
23 untouched nature with an exploded landscape working
24 just beyond the riverside beauty strip. Rafters are
25 there for a thrilling ride, something that is not

1 threatened here.

2 Putting aside the irony of hydropower
3 dependent rafting, it must be acknowledged that
4 customers will not likely keep coming despite seeing
5 one more power line on their way here from
6 Massachusetts or Connecticut.

7 Criteria B2, wildlife habitat and fisheries.
8 While the idea of a threat of brook trout survival
9 certainly caught my attention, it has become evident to
10 me that if the thousands of 10 to 30 acre of clearcuts
11 comprising our working forests landscape are not
12 decimated the brook trout, how could a 150 foot
13 strip following the same wide buffer do so? I do
14 strongly oppose herbicide use and I do encourage all
15 alternatives in development for this project.

16 On the subject of B3, habitat fragmentation,
17 I hardly agree that fragmentation is bad and should be
18 minimized; however, there currently exists so much
19 fragmentation due to our Maine working board as
20 paradigm that it is difficult to address this issue
21 with a straight face. It is this very plan with Google
22 Earth view. How about you consider imposing some new
23 limits to the legal devastation of the vast swathes of
24 the forest on a continuous basis for the profit of out
25 of state investment concerns, solar entities, which --

1 our economy -- this power line will be constructed with
2 wildlife corridors, tapered vegetation, and underground
3 segments.

4 The bigger concern should be the working
5 forest waste land that's a stone's throw away from any
6 given spot on the main portion of the corridor and
7 beyond that straight up to the northern border of the
8 state. Thank you.

9 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

10 PAUL STANCIOFF: I'm Paul Stancioff from
11 Chesterville. I teach physics here at UMF including a
12 course about energy and its use and its relation to the
13 environment. I personally don't have particularly
14 strong feelings about this power line, although my
15 tendency is to favor it because someone who studies and
16 teaches about it and issues relating to energy use in
17 the environment, I do know that if we want to address
18 climate change, we need to change how we use energy.

19 While efficiency and conservation are part of
20 the solution, we're going to need abundant amounts of
21 renewable energy to replace the 85 percent of our
22 energy that we currently get from fossil fuels, that is
23 if you want keep using stuff anywhere close to the
24 amount you do now.

25 Small scale generation, such as rooftop --

1 and hot water heaters and Maine solar farms will
2 contribute significantly, but in the long run
3 electricity on a smart grid will be the most efficient
4 effective way of distributing energy. Like many here
5 arguing against the power line, I am a committed
6 environmentalist, but I feel like we need to look at
7 the bigger picture and weigh some of the costs with the
8 benefits.

9 The costs that are of concern to this
10 committee, as I understand it, are the environmental
11 impacts of the power line. I wish I understood the
12 ecology of the so-called working forest better than I
13 do so that I could make a more informed judgment there,
14 but I don't, but I do want to say something about the
15 scenic impact. When I look out from the tops of the
16 mountains that I climb in western Maine, what I noticed
17 the most are the vast areas that have been heavily
18 forested. I also see wind turbines in a number of
19 different locations, and I know the power lines are out
20 there as well, but they didn't really stand out so
21 much, unless you're pretty close to them.

22 I have heard that some folks were concerned
23 with the impact of this project on the Appalachian
24 Trail. The trail crosses the project corridor at the
25 south end of Moxie Pond, a section that already has

1 power lines from Harrison Dam. The closest the new
2 section comes to the Appalachian Trail is about
3 five-and-a-half miles away and most of that is much
4 farther than that. That's from the top of Pleasant
5 Pond Mountain.

6 In a cost benefit analysis, I feel like the
7 relative cost to the scenic character of western Maine
8 are outweighed by the need for a solution to climate
9 change. Thank you.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Before I call
11 anyone else's name, I'm going to periodically have to
12 swear everybody in again because there are people that
13 have come in that are new faces and there may be just
14 some folks that haven't been here from the beginning.
15 Anybody who intends to speak tonight who has not been
16 sworn in, I'm going to ask you to stand up and raise
17 your right hand. Do you swear or affirm that the
18 testimony you are about to give is the whole truth and
19 nothing but the truth?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: I do.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay, Bill
22 Harmon, Noah Hale, Marge Taylor.

23 MARGE TAYLOR: Hello, my name is Marge
24 Taylor and I live right here in Farmington, Maine. I'm
25 opposed to the corridor because I feel the loss of the

1 trees and the views from our mountains and all of that
2 will be lost and will not be the same. Habitat
3 destruction and herbicides spraying are much more
4 harmful to Maine now and into the future than any
5 proposed benefits CMP is saying we will get.

6 On a more personal note, there is a little
7 trail system I use right here in Farmington that this
8 corridor will run right through. Right now the lines
9 are not that big. Do we fully understand at what point
10 the lines become dangerous to humans or especially
11 vulnerable animals like our salamanders, our frogs, our
12 moths and bats?

13 I would also hear that this corridor would be
14 the first step in industrializing a very special region
15 of Maine. This would change that area forever and
16 we'll never get it back. I think most of my friends
17 and neighbors feel the same way as I do about this
18 project. We do not understand why all these negatives
19 are happening when we see very little benefit to Maine.

20 Please consider that once approved there is
21 no going back. We all want a cleaner environment.
22 This is just not the best way forward. Thank you for
23 the opportunity to speak.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

25 BILL HARMON: Good evening, my name is

1 Bill Harmon and I'm from the Benton area and I'm
2 also me. It's very difficult for me to make my
3 presentation for this reason, I want to be able to use
4 that map and a couple maps I put together myself, but
5 the area that I want to talk about actually goes off
6 the map at the top. I'm here for three main reasons.
7 One is I'm not in favor, nor against the proposal
8 itself and the route except for one aspect. Where the
9 line makes the jag due west, if you continue going
10 north, you could continue up Route 201, I believe it's
11 also 8 and 16 highway that goes across into Canada, why
12 does the route have to make that jag due west going
13 through wilderness area? Why can't it just continue on
14 up 201, which is already destroyed habitat, destroyed
15 property. It's an existing road. Use those existing
16 facilities and continue up there.

17 When you look at a map of Hydro-Quebec and
18 existing transmission lines from Canada and where they
19 come down from in the State of Maine, where the western
20 boundary of the proposed western extension is proposed
21 now versus where Route 201 crosses into Canada, that
22 junction is about halfway in between those two things
23 and about equally distant from the Maine border. What
24 I'm asking is consider an alternative route. If you're
25 not going to consider that as an alternative, because

1 it already exists, you minimize any further
2 destruction. If you're going to go west, I hear
3 there's gash, slash and burn.

4 I hear it's destroying everything along the
5 way. I've spent considerable hours going through maps
6 documenting where existing roadways are. There are
7 dirt roads where they criss cross that area. This 150
8 foot wide, half the length of a football field
9 corridor, with transmission lines, it's not going to
10 destroy that area. That's a working woodland. The
11 deer are not going to be impacted. They'll cross from
12 one side to the other. The part that I will get to are
13 the use of the insecticides in that area.

14 So basically I'm here to suggest, agree with
15 the proposed, but going north. I think it would avoid
16 a lot of opposition here, but if you are going to go
17 west, minimize the impacts by minimizing the amount of
18 roadway, roadways exist, and where you put the
19 transmission towers.

20 The last thing I wanted to emphasize is this,
21 Hydro-Quebec is a Canadian province covering. If they
22 want to make money off Maine, if they want to make
23 money off New England, let them pay more money than
24 what they're already offering, you know. Central Maine
25 Power will only transmit the electricity. They're not

1 generating it. So that's all I really wanted to say.
2 Thanks very much.

3 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

4 NOAH HALE: Hello, Commission, thank you
5 for allowing me this time to speak. Again, I don't
6 envy your job tonight. I got to take it from all -- my
7 name is Noah Hale. I was born and raised in Jackman.
8 One side of my family is from Quebec, the other side is
9 from Wilton. I live in West Forks, so the pristine
10 wilderness that's in question, that area is my house.
11 I'm also a white water kayaker, hunter, fisherman,
12 outdoorsman in this area and I've been involved and
13 kind of have a unique outlook on this since April of
14 last year was when we had our first informational
15 meeting in The West Forks, so I've seen this go from,
16 you know, one governor we're going to push it right
17 through, you know, kind of avoiding this outcry of the
18 project to the we have to be proven a little bit more
19 about CMP from another governor and then the next week
20 they're on board with it.

21 So what I've experienced started in April of
22 last year and I was approached by Western Maine
23 Mountain and Rivers and their mitigation had already
24 been done at that point in the process. This is the
25 first informational meeting to the people of The Forks

1 in the area, The West Forks, so they took it upon
2 themselves to not contact any of us, including people
3 that had been doing business and living in that town
4 long before they ever arrived, the other people on this
5 board, generations. Let this sink in for a minute. So
6 to join that, you had to support the corridor to be
7 part of that group. You couldn't be in opposition and
8 join that group and have a say in this mitigation.
9 That's another point I wanted to make.

10 And then there's a conflict of interest part
11 of it that I didn't really want to be a part of. The
12 county commissioner was already involved without
13 contacting us. They looked us in the eye for a year.
14 The brother of now standing governor at that point was
15 running for governor was on the board and they
16 mitigated this without telling us. Information was
17 purposely withheld for a great period of time and
18 that's something, you know, as a community divided, a
19 unique community divided, we now have to look each
20 other in the eye and say well, thinking back two years
21 ago you knew that whole time and kind of put the dots
22 together. So basically their credibility was lost
23 amongst all of us and, you know, then other, I guess
24 you could say frauds and class action lawsuits and, you
25 know, ratepayer mishaps just snowballed all of that

1 together into what we see today. The company is
2 probably arguably the most questionable company in
3 Maine dealing with a project this sensitive is
4 concerning to say the least.

5 So, you know, the nuts and bolts is -- we say
6 CMP, but it's -- a Spain based company creates wind
7 turbines, they have a big alternate interest in this
8 section of, this very poor section of Maine.

9 MS. MILLER: Can you wrap it up, thank
10 you.

11 NOAH HALE: So it goes on, Spain, Quebec
12 Massachusetts and then Maine gets a benefit, right?
13 But the thing that people forget is this is already
14 permitted to be buried in Vermont, so the need is not
15 really that great. And it's 300 feet wide for an
16 alternate use and that's windmills, so that's what it's
17 about. It's a 300 feet wide buffer for other lines,
18 and that information has been purposely withheld.

19 And I still think that with 60 to 90 percent,
20 we should have a vote and your jobs are super important
21 because you're going to set a precedence in this state
22 that goes beyond all of our lives and beyond your
23 positions and I would just really recommend just
24 consider how important what this is and that it's
25 already permitted in Vermont. Thank you.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Susan Theberge,
2 Nancy Walters, Bruce Baker.

3 SUSAN THEBERGE: Hi, good evening, my
4 name is Susan Theberge. I live in Jay, Maine and I am
5 opposed to the NECEC corridor. My most compelling
6 objection to this project is the new 53 and a half
7 miles of corridor that will permanently scar unique
8 globally important and sensitive habitat in the north
9 Maine woods for every disrupter, the ecosystems
10 changing the very character of Maine.

11 Despite statements that this project has a 40
12 year projected life span, which at the end of that
13 time, if it is of no further use due to changing
14 technology, it will be decommissioned, quote, the poles
15 removed and lines rolled up, unquote, yet there is no
16 decommission plan or decommission monies set aside to
17 achieve this. Remember this new corridor will occupy
18 the south side of the 300 foot wide right of way
19 instead of running down the center leaving open room
20 for expansion.

21 It is becoming increasingly evident there are
22 plans for something else to occupy this corridor in the
23 future and for many generations moving forward, most
24 likely AC lines to accommodate even more gigantic
25 inefficient and environmentally destructive wind

1 turbines. There's no need to bring this corridor
2 through what remains of the world's largest remaining
3 contiguous forest, the very lungs of the northeast, a
4 place of beauty and respite when potentially less
5 destructive options is this, running these lines
6 underground along an already industrialized route such
7 as Route 201.

8 What we will be leaving future generations
9 will not be the complex problem with climate change,
10 but a constant haunting remainder of our failure in
11 this place and time to protect and preserve the
12 precious place we Mainers like to call home. Thank you
13 very much.

14 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

15 NANCY WALTERS: My name is Nancy Walters
16 and I'm a resident of Wilton. My family has been in
17 the Franklin County for nine generations so my roots go
18 deep here. I am against the corridor and I would just
19 like to say that there is bipartisan statewide
20 opposition to the irreversible impact on the
21 environmental treasure that is -- that are unmarked
22 continuous in land Maine woodlands. The widely held
23 objection to the CMP corridor is not merely a case of
24 local decent or nimiety, as it is commonly called.

25 The forest is one of the few treasures that

1 provide a healthy year-round tourism industry, which is
2 especially crucial in this less well-to-do area of the
3 state far from the coast and southern Maine. It also
4 provides many native sustainable industries and jobs,
5 which work in harmony with the forest, all of which
6 could be negatively impacted by the corridor.

7 And I'd like to just add that many of those
8 cutting industries that harvest the wood, the wood is
9 allowed to grow back and be sustainably managed, unlike
10 the corridor in which the herbicides would prevent that
11 regrowth.

12 We wish to keep that final stretch of the AT
13 a jubilant and pure wilderness experience. Many here
14 are suspicious of claims that the herbicides, which
15 will be used permanently along the corridor, will be
16 environmentally harmed, which is a claim that I had
17 heard somewhere along the line. And in addition, the
18 persistent lack of foliage will impact the extreme
19 temperatures for trout fishing, which is another draw
20 for local people and tourists, which has already been
21 mentioned.

22 This area is part of a clean water shed with
23 fish and various wildlife and Maine people want to
24 protect it as such. Desperate times do call for
25 desperate measures, but no one from CMP or their

1 affiliates have been able to prove that the corridor
2 isn't anything but the cheapest and dirtiest way to
3 maximize their profits at Mainers' loss without
4 reducing -- without reducing less -- without reducing
5 less clean emissions, but merely shifting them from one
6 customer group to another. And this is what concerns
7 me when they talk about it's the same as taking this
8 many cars off the road, as someone mentioned. Their
9 price for out of Canada exports of the power is higher
10 and I've heard that the energy that they send out
11 through this corridor, their current customers in
12 Ontario may be forced to use their energy, so that
13 isn't being factored into the equation of what might be
14 greener in our direction.

15 MS. MILLER: Can you wrap it up, please.

16 NANCY WALTERS: Yes, it is difficult to
17 justify damaging forests to combat air pollution. If
18 the day comes when this forest must be sacrificed in
19 the name of climate change, then it must be for a
20 purely scientifically based reason and not merely for a
21 profit driven one. Thank you.

22 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

23 BRUCE BAKER: Good evening, my name is
24 Bruce Baker. I wasn't really prepared to speak this
25 evening. I was going to be speaking for other people

1 who couldn't come, but I will leave these on the chair.
2 I'll just make a few observations. I live in Fryeburg.
3 I've moved away and come back to Maine three times.
4 Both of my children were born here. I am speaking in
5 opposition to the line.

6 Just a couple of other observations,
7 Massachusetts has struggled to create their own clean
8 energy, most notably on Nantucket Sound, a very
9 much negative situation. I don't see anybody here from
10 Massachusetts speaking in favor of this plan or saying
11 thank you to the State of Maine or to the residents of
12 the State of Maine for consideration of this plan.

13 As has been pointed out, Vermont has already
14 approved this corridor, which is mostly buried. New
15 Hampshire had its chance and said no and now it's
16 before us. I don't think that there's a certain
17 fairness to the State of Massachusetts to be dumping on
18 its northern New England neighbors. I was born in
19 Massachusetts by the way. My name is Baker and I'm not
20 related in any way to the president.

21 And the last thing I'd like to point out is
22 that I moved to Fryeburg from Portland this past year,
23 basically occupying my home as of August and since that
24 time through today, I've had seven power outages.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Before we go

1 any further, I just want to let everyone know I am
2 going through these lists in the order that we got them
3 so I know some of you I can see are getting a little
4 restless and want to speak. That's why it's really
5 important for everybody to please keep your testimony
6 concise so that everybody in this room has an
7 opportunity. I have a pretty thick stack of papers to
8 go through tonight, and I'd like to give everyone the
9 opportunity to speak, so please be precise and try not
10 to be too repetitive, okay? I appreciate that. The
11 next person on the list is Wendy Huish, Monica McCarthy
12 and Paul Robinson.

13 PAUL ROBINSON: Thank you for being here
14 this evening. My name is Paul Robinson. I'm a
15 resident of Lewiston. I'm here tonight to speak in
16 favor of approving the Clean Energy Connect project, a
17 healthy vibrant future for Maine must include clean
18 energy. That includes wind, solar and hydropower.
19 Each of these power sources have impacts and
20 limitations. They all have visual and environmental
21 impacts, whether it is turbines on ridges or off shore,
22 land being consumed by acres of solar or behind dams.
23 Wind and solar are weather dependent. Hydroelectric is
24 a steady supply, so long as it rains it will be water.
25 If we want to have the lights come on long into the

1 future when we flip a switch, all these sources of
2 clean renewable power should be developed and
3 supported.

4 A recent article in the Franklin County Daily
5 Bulldog Newspaper written by an employee of
6 Hydro-Quebec noted that over the last 15 years the
7 company has added 13 more generating stations to their
8 portfolio. Half of these generating stations have
9 large reservoirs behind them that are filling up
10 allowing them to generate clean and renewable power
11 long into the future. Hydro-Quebec is planning for the
12 future, so should Maine.

13 Hydro-Quebec has a surplus supply of energy
14 that are prepared to deliver to New England. Power can
15 be delivered on demand; however, that energy needs to
16 get to market and that is where Maine comes in. CMP
17 has been very careful in the siting of the proposed
18 transmission corridor, 17 percent of it is in the
19 existing right of way with the 50 miles of new right of
20 way running through a working forest. Recognizing the
21 value of viewsheds, sensitive habitats and recreational
22 areas, CMP did their best to thread the needle through
23 these resources. They listened to residents,
24 stakeholders, the area impact and adjusted their plans
25 to address concerns raised.

1 No doubt this project will have impacts.
2 Power lines will be visible where they are not today.
3 Habitat boundaries will change, but animals and plants
4 will adapt. They always have, as they will currently
5 and have been doing in a working forest.

6 Change is hard; change is difficult, but
7 critical for our future. To have a future, a clean
8 energy future is imperative. The benefits of this
9 project far outweigh the negatives. I encourage your
10 approval of the Clean Energy Connect project. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

13 WENDY HUIISH: Good evening, panel and
14 audience. My name is Wendy Huish. I have lived in
15 Farmington, Maine for the past 43 years. I'm here
16 representing myself and my entire family, children and
17 grandchildren. I speak to you tonight as a mother,
18 grandmother of five, environmentalist, nature and
19 animal, tree and forest lover, bird and loon watcher,
20 hiker and fishing for pleasure person. I have been
21 opposed to the CMP corridor since day one. With
22 respect and sincerity and in a friendly way I ask the
23 panel members how many of you have been up north 201
24 and beyond to Bingham, Caratunk, The Forks and on up to
25 the Jackman Mountain area? Well, I have. I've

1 traveled there each spring and summer for the last
2 30 years to a magical place 40 minutes south of Jackman
3 in Upper Enchanted territory. It's nine miles in from
4 201 on lumber dirt roads and the end result is Bulldog
5 Camps. It's on, imagine that, the name, Lake
6 Enchanted.

7 So, it is a beautiful pristine mountain and
8 forest to hike in and to enjoy. The lake is pristine.
9 Now I speak as a -- and here I will present to you
10 pictures and you can see it's a pristine forest. And
11 the last picture is my family on top of Shutdown
12 Mountain. They climbed up Shutdown Mountain and you
13 can see Lake Enchanted at the bottom.

14 Now I speak to you environmentally. There
15 will be extensive cutting of trees and destruction of
16 forests for the 150 to 300 foot wide corridor. People
17 for the corridor keep saying oh, it's been logged up
18 there, it's not pristine, it's a working forest.
19 Excuse me, look at the pictures. Indeed it is pristine
20 because there is a huge difference between logging.
21 After you log, the growth grows back, but with cutting
22 and destruction for the proposed corridor, that part of
23 the forest will be gone forever, vacant of trees due to
24 the herbicide sprays.

25 Oh, so herbicide sprays all along the

1 corridor in our Maine mountains, it has great potential
2 for doing tremendous harm to animals and bird life
3 surrounding the geographical area. As the spray seeps
4 into the soil, it can erode and travel to nearby
5 streams, lakes and ponds, so how many animals, fish,
6 birds, loons, etc., will be affected?

7 MS. MILLER: Can you wrap this up,
8 please.

9 WENDY HUIISH: Sure.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

11 WENDY HUIISH: I am also amazed that it
12 will travel -- the corridor will travel near the
13 Appalachian Trail. The Appalachian Trail has been
14 thought of as a wonderful wilderness adventure
15 contacting with mother earth in the wilderness.

16 In closing, I ask that the members of each
17 representative panel seriously consider the end result.
18 Our Governor Mills said the corridor will not cost the
19 taxpayers in Maine anything, but I tell you indeed it
20 will cost us a major piece of our spirit. Thank you.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

22 MONICA MCCARTHY: Honorable Chair and
23 Commissioners, Monica McCarthy from Rome and I thank
24 you for the opportunity to comment specifically on DEP
25 review criteria this evening.

1 Regarding scenic character and existing uses,
2 the applicant CMP has not demonstrated that NECEC will
3 not unreasonably interfere with the scenic character or
4 existing scenic aesthetic recreation uses and that the
5 development will become limited in the natural
6 environment. The Visual Impact Assessment was
7 conducted with a land public data from 1991 to 2001.
8 The 2017 data was available for most of the project
9 area and was disregarded by the firm that conducted the
10 VIA.

11 MS. MILLE: Can you slow down a little?
12 I know I asked you to be concise, but we also want to
13 get this on record, thank you.

14 MONICA MCCARTHY: Sure. Do you want me
15 to go back at all? We can't credibly rely on visual
16 representations using data bits two decades old. The
17 firm that conducted the Visual Impact Assessment has
18 not provided sufficient data to establish acceptable
19 mitigation of impact on viewsheds either. Their team
20 stated under oath that none of them has ever seen a
21 self-weathering steel monopole used in a project, so
22 they can't claim to understand what NECEC would look
23 like when complete, let alone attest to it.

24 Further, the simulations they offer do not
25 represent the full range of existing uses and

1 approaches to the viewsheds in four seasons from
2 vantage points above as well as below the proposed
3 project. Their representations were largely limited to
4 a single season from vantage points below the project,
5 which minimize the extent to which the viewshed is
6 impacted.

7 You've heard a number of wildlife habitat and
8 fisheries experts over the last couple of days
9 testifying the unreasonable harm that will come to
10 wildlife and fisheries and the likely impact of habitat
11 fragmentation from NECEC. You may also have drawn the
12 same conclusion I did, that the areas offered by the
13 Applicant CMP for conservation were chosen north of the
14 proximity to lands and businesses owned and operated by
15 the members of Western Maine Mountains and Rivers
16 Corporation than they were for their strategic
17 importance and wildlife habitat and fisheries.

18 It's been clearly established in the record
19 that WMRC was created with a \$250,000 donation from CMP
20 and the legal fees including their participation in
21 these proceedings are paid for my CMP. And there's
22 ample evidence that the CMP and/or their counsel
23 prepared the testimony of the WMRC members who appeared
24 before you, that WMRC is involved in no activities
25 today other than supporting this project.

1 The NECEC support is a condition of their
2 memorandum of understanding with CMP that provides
3 their funding and that they have engaged in no other
4 fundraising activities to date. There are no Maine
5 environmental organizations that support NECEC.

6 The reasonable alternative to this project is
7 to site it where the power is required. Maine DEP has
8 no obligation to find a way to permit a project that
9 compromises Maine's natural resources in order for
10 another state to meet their public policy goals to send
11 billions to a global energy conglomerate based in Spain
12 and to richly reward CMP, who's already providing some
13 of the worst service and reliability in the country and
14 overbilling us for the privilege as well as consciously
15 conducting a misinformation campaign about greenhouse
16 gas emissions reductions from NECEC, which they have
17 consistently opposed having to discuss or approve
18 because they know from their experience in New
19 Hampshire that they cannot.

20 NECEC was not proposed to address
21 climate change. If it were, it stands to reason that
22 there would be some reference to addressing climate
23 change and greenhouse gas reduction in their
24 application.

25 MS. MILLER: Can you wrap it up, please?

1 MONICA MCCARTHY: Yes. In closing, this
2 fear of mitigation is to help compensate for
3 unavoidable negative impacts of human action on the
4 environment. NECEC is entirely avoidable. It meets no
5 public need in the constituents you serve and you are
6 the last line of defense for the unique natural
7 resources that would be negatively impacted by this
8 project and for enjoyment of those natural resources
9 that stand close to it. Thank you very much.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Steve McCarthy,
11 Pamela Prodan and Nancy Prince.

12 STEVE MCCARTHY: Good evening, thank you
13 for having us, Steve McCarthy, I live in Rome. And
14 again this evening I'll be speaking to facts, not
15 fiction, not my feelings, but straight up facts.

16 The area that Hydro-Quebec has flooded to
17 make these dams is the equivalency of 30 million acres,
18 the size of New York. So when they talk about carbon
19 sequestering from trees, that's gone. That number is
20 not taken into account. The State of Maine
21 economically gets \$3.5 billion a year from tourists.
22 That number equates to 52,000 jobs. That number is
23 dependent upon the pristine areas that people come to
24 visit and see that they don't have in their own
25 backyard.

1 Restoration of a damaged lake or pond is very
2 expensive. Allowing this project would allow numerous
3 places that the restoration would have to take place.
4 There's no money for that. There's no money mitigated
5 if there's a spill from one of the chemical tanks that
6 they use. Upon a body of water you need to have
7 250 feet of horizontal line from the average high water
8 mark in the State of Maine that you can do any work.
9 You can't build a house. You can't build a camp. You
10 can't cut the trees 250 feet unless there's a building
11 there, so all of these bodies of water, they're going
12 to be allowed to cut up to within 250 feet. All of
13 those areas would be created from nonconforming law.

14 One of the mission statements in the DEP is
15 to make the lots as conforming as possible. Protecting
16 fish spawning grounds is a major thing. Removal of
17 natural vegetation is not in the best interest of the
18 Maine people. All of these facts that I've just listed
19 you can find on the DEP website. Nowhere on the DEP
20 website where there was a picture showing Maine
21 depicting our wilderness is there a power line. Every
22 single picture is a pristine beautiful area because we
23 want to invite people here.

24 In closing, I will say that at the Wiscasset
25 meeting when John Carroll was pressed, he gave us a

1 long roundabout answer, but the final answer was CMP
2 cannot guarantee any carbon footprint reduction from
3 this project. It's on the recording. I don't have
4 that for you, but it is on the YouTube recording under
5 the Wiscasset town office meetings. Thank you.

6 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

7 PAMELA PRODAN: Good evening, my name is
8 Pamela Prodan, and just by way of background, some
9 people may know that name, may remember me or not. I
10 was elected to be treasurer of Franklin County in 2015
11 and my term goes through 2022. I say that because I
12 speak for myself tonight and no one else appearing
13 before this tribunal, but I speak from my own
14 experience and firsthand knowledge.

15 Before being elected treasurer, I had a prior
16 career as an advocate and some of my advocacy work
17 started in environmental advocacy about 32 years ago
18 when I helped start No Thank You Hydro-Quebec to oppose
19 CMP's power line back then. Eventually we in the
20 organization came to work with Quebec because our
21 issues are very closely related.

22 And I know that the corridor is wrong for a
23 lot of reasons, but I just want to speak to three
24 points tonight. First on the impacts of the corridor.
25 I feel they are truly sickening. I did read Janet

1 McMann's testimony until I had to put it down and I
2 think anybody who's been to remote places in western
3 Maine mountains and the north woods without a money
4 making motivation for being there knows that this
5 quality of remoteness is what makes these places unique
6 and they're worth cherishing and protecting.

7 I don't buy the argument that rivers and
8 roads already fragment the landscape. I also don't buy
9 that forestry is a type of development that's
10 equivalent to a permanently de-vegetated power line
11 corridor.

12 I want to speak to the alternatives and
13 compensation briefly. As part of my work I was able to
14 interview Bill Namagoose, the executive director of the
15 grand council of The Crees about 20 years ago. He
16 said, and I quote from my interview, Hydro-Quebec gets
17 its greatest motivation from the hunger of the
18 American's for energy. The projects they're
19 promoting they're not saying they need them for Quebec;
20 they say they are needed to sell to the Americans. The
21 American people, especially in New England states, need
22 to be aware that they are pawns for Hydro-Quebec.
23 Quote, deregulation is coming and we can stop blaming
24 American utility or customer in the states, quote.
25 Quote, they are really, really power hungry. Quote,

1 that's the image portrayed in Canada. That's the end
2 of his quote there.

3 About a month ago I read in the Boston Globe
4 that the governor of Massachusetts proposes in his
5 budget to divert money away from current energy
6 efficient programs and put that money toward climate
7 mitigation instead. These funds come from the regional
8 greenhouse gas initiative and energy efficiency
9 currently how Massachusetts spends the tens of millions
10 of dollars it receives from the program. Perhaps the
11 only real reasonable alternative to this corridor is
12 for Maine to say no and that could force Massachusetts
13 to adopt more energy efficient measures as well as
14 local generation alternatives.

15 MS. MILLER: Can I ask you to wrap up,
16 please?

17 PAMELA PRODAN: We don't want the
18 compensation, Matthew -- said in 1989. Why would we
19 want to exchange for something that doesn't last? The
20 land has more wealth than anything you could compensate
21 for. And also from my interview with Bill Namagoose,
22 we don't want to be compensated, compensation applies
23 to something terrible has happened to you; therefore,
24 you should get compensation. It's true, something has
25 happened to our land and our people have been

1 displaced; therefore, they get compensation. It's not
2 honorable to get compensation. There's no honor or
3 dignity in that. The word compensation is demeaning;
4 it's degrading. Thank you.

5 NANCY PRINCE: I think you've had your
6 fill of gray-haired ladies, haven't you? My name is
7 Nancy Prince. Hello, I'm so glad to be this close to
8 you and this is coming straight from my heart as you
9 can see, this is what you see. This is what we see.

10 MS. MILLER: I need you to address me
11 and not the audience, please.

12 NANCY PRINCE: Oh, sorry about that, I
13 didn't realize. I am here to speak for the wilderness.
14 I stand as a conservationist to safeguard the treasured
15 forest, the hills and mountains, lakes and rivers,
16 wildlife and wildflowers, fields and waterfalls of our
17 honored State of Maine and I call out no to the
18 devastation proposed by the CMP corridor.

19 And if all this is preservation of the world,
20 a familiar quote from the man who spent many, many
21 years and hours in the north woods of Maine, Henry
22 David Thoreau. Let us preserve the north woods of
23 Maine. Thank you. Please hear me.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Brian Bickford,
25 Sharon Hamilton, Stanley Koski.

1 BRIAN BICKFORD: Hi, my name is Brian
2 Bickford. I live in Fairfield, Maine, Somerset County
3 my whole life. I am an avid snowmobiler. I don't
4 represent anybody, just myself and I have my own
5 plumbing and heating company. We do a lot of heat
6 pumps and water heater heat pumps, which is a high
7 efficiency electric saver, so.

8 As a snowmobiler, going through, I go through
9 The Forks a lot, I kept seeing these signs no corridor,
10 I'm like what -- I don't live on this corridor, but I
11 kept bumping into it and even on the snowmobile trails
12 I'm riding, stop the corridor. I couldn't figure out
13 why. I want to thank everybody here expressing why
14 they're against it and I appreciate that, but I still,
15 you know, in snowmobiling I probably do 3,000 miles a
16 year through all those logging roads everybody talks
17 about, climbed every mountain, climbed every hill you
18 can climb with a snowmobile, go to the Canadian border
19 where it's all cut and I see -- every year we ride the
20 trails and you come to a stop and it's totally clear, I
21 mean, it's clearcut. Anybody that says it's pristine,
22 they're standing next to a lake because it's not
23 allowed to be cut there, but other than away from the
24 lakes, it's mind boggling how much of this state gets
25 cut up as it is.

1 This little piece of cut through here, when
2 we go snowmobiling, you can go through the Coburn Gore,
3 but you can't go any further. There's no way on a
4 snowmobile to get to Jackman from there. You can't.
5 It's kind of an off -- I've been everywhere in the
6 state, every county, every place, but this particular
7 area where this cut is, except for near the Kennebec
8 and Parlin Pond up towards Coburn Gore, there's no way
9 to get there. I've never seen this land. I don't know
10 how to -- to me it would be intriguing to have this
11 open up and make another potential route for
12 snowmobilers to travel from Jackman to The Forks.

13 That's one of my takes on it. The second
14 take is CMP I guess is offering money for Efficiency
15 Maine Program, which support -- I work a lot with
16 Efficiency Maine Program, which gives money for the
17 water heaters. Right now I know they give \$750 per
18 water heater, high efficiency heat pump water heaters.
19 My company has probably put in 400 of them, so to me
20 it's, you know, I'm disconnecting an oil, I'm putting a
21 heat pump water heater in saving electricity for
22 everybody that lives in the State of Maine. You can go
23 to the store and buy a water heater for \$250 because
24 Efficiency Maine is paying \$750 towards it and it's \$15
25 a month electricity bill to run the water heater.

1 Everybody should have it, I think it's a great program,
2 so that's my second point.

3 MS. MILLER: I need you to wrap up.

4 BRIAN BICKFORD: Thank you. That's my
5 second point and I want to thank you guys for doing
6 this.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

8 SHARON HAMILTON: My name is Sharon
9 Hamilton from Augusta and thank you for this
10 opportunity to talk about this project. My family has
11 always enjoyed the outdoors and the Maine way of life.
12 We've had our hardships, but we also have been blessed
13 with many good things. I'm here tonight to support
14 this Clean Energy Project. I have learned a lot about
15 it over the past year and have read both the good and
16 the bad. I've been to another hearing and witnessed
17 the anger and the fear.

18 I believe that this project is very important
19 to our future. We must move towards a cleaner energy
20 future, a future that will protect our natural resource
21 and allow for the wildlife to thrive. I'm angry and
22 afraid too, but my reasons for feeling this way are not
23 because this project threatens me, but because if we
24 don't do this project, then we will maintain the status
25 quo and accept the idea that there's nothing we can do

1 to change -- to stop climate change and all devastating
2 impacts on our children and grandchildren. That's all
3 I wish to say. Thank you.

4 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

5 STANLEY KOSKI: Good evening, my name is
6 Stanley Koski. I'm a lifelong resident of Augusta,
7 Maine. I really didn't come here fully prepared with a
8 good presentation, but I'll make this brief. I am an
9 advocate of this project. Prior to my retirement a few
10 years ago, I was a licensed, and I am still a licensed
11 professional electrical engineer and worked in the
12 power industry for 44 consecutive years, so I am very
13 familiar with how the electric network functions here
14 in New England. I served on many committees and task
15 forces at the ISO New England, which is called -- had
16 different names back then.

17 But anyway, based on my knowledge of how the
18 electric system works here in New England, I am
19 convinced that this is a beneficial project that should
20 be approved. So without going into gory details beyond
21 that, please mark me down as an advocate of this
22 project and I hope it moves forward successfully.
23 Thank you very much.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Noah Robidoux,
25 Clarence Ayotte, Sheryl Harth and Leslie --

1 LESLIE MCALLISTER: McAllister.

2 MS. MILLER: McAllister, thank you.

3 NOAH ROBIDOUX: Hi, I'm Noah Robidoux.
4 I'm going to go through this a little differently. I'm
5 going to go through A, B, D, C, okay, sorry. This
6 project appears to -- I'm from Ellsworth, Maine. This
7 project appears to violate at least one tenant in every
8 section. For A we see the buffering for visual impacts
9 and Visual Impact Assessment. The point of this is
10 that whole line has to be dead in order for that line
11 to be put through. They have to put down the
12 Glyphosate in order to make room for the power line to
13 go through, so it is just going to be one dead strip
14 through the whole section.

15 And B, we see the endangered species, brook
16 trout habitat and buffer strips and for D, for the cold
17 water fisheries habitat, outstanding -- back to the
18 Glyphosate, we actually see this -- we've seen this in
19 Virginia too, the runoff from farms to the fertilizers
20 and such that heavy rain storms, they bring the
21 chemicals into the water and those have adverse effects
22 on the wildlife there. So what would eventually happen
23 quite quickly would be that the Glyphosate would end up
24 seeping in the water table and into the ponds and that
25 would have a negative impact on the life -- water life

1 in those areas.

2 As well as the habitat fragmentation would be
3 a series of problem too, as it would again just be
4 cutting the woods in half. And for C for an
5 alternative analysis, there are -- and please don't --
6 do not hesitate to correct me if there's some reason
7 you can't do this, but is there a way that there could
8 be a state bond towards solar panels being put up and
9 it could be a public utility and would just generally
10 reduce people's electric bills? Yeah, that's all I
11 have to say.

12 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

13 CLARENCE AYOTTE: Hi, my name is
14 Clarence Ayotte. I live in North Anson within two
15 miles of where the proposed power line is going to go
16 there, or possibly go, and I have a camp up in Moxie
17 within two miles of where it's going to be tied into
18 the new or the existing line.

19 I am a lifelong hunter, fisherman and I have
20 trapped for several years. Over the years I have
21 learned most hunters are somewhat lazy. If you can't
22 drive to the area, they won't hunt or fish there. By
23 putting the corridor through it, it will open up a
24 massive amount of land making it more -- making the
25 more remote areas accessible for many four wheelers,

1 ATVs and other vehicles. At present these remote
2 waterways, wooded areas and trails are protected.

3 People have asked to put the line
4 underground; however, to do that, we'll have a similar
5 or the same effects aside from seeing the towers.
6 Herbicide will still need be used to maintain the
7 growth. Access roads will need to be kept up as well
8 so there will be no regrowth regardless over --
9 overhead power lines.

10 Allowing a foreign company to forever destroy
11 the beauty of Maine's forest, mountains and waters is
12 shameful. These companies is willing to tell us
13 everything we ask, well, provided we are of a certain
14 status, for billions of dollars in their pockets.

15 My third grade teacher told us, she kind of
16 had a favorite saying for us boys, sit down and shut up
17 and you may learn something. So since I first learned
18 about this last August when I became aware of this
19 project, I did listen. I asked questions when
20 appropriate to people who have not been as involved in
21 this also and found out what their thoughts -- several
22 dozen people all told me they do not want this
23 corridor. Several public polls showed a majority of
24 Maine people do not want this corridor.

25 Our wildlife, our forest, our fish and our

1 mountains need us to speak for it. Our children and
2 grandchildren need us to protect Maine's heritage.
3 This entire project needs to be scrutinized.

4 The backroom deals should have made this
5 project null and void from the get go. I feel that we
6 need to make these power grids smaller, not larger. We
7 don't need to go through what we've gone through ten
8 years ago where these companies are too big to fail.

9 And to respond to some pictures that were
10 brought here earlier, if them are the same pictures
11 that were handed to the town a couple years ago when
12 they proposed this, most of them pictures seem to be
13 taken during the spring, early spring because you can
14 still ice in some of the ponds and stuff, so you're
15 looking down through trees. Some of it is clearcut,
16 which isn't good, but it's going to grow back. Some of
17 it's hard cut, but a lot of that area through there is
18 hardwood trees that you're looking right down through
19 so then people think that it's all slaughtered and
20 stuff, but it's trees. When the leaves are on, there's
21 trees growing.

22 MS. MILLER: I need to ask you to wrap
23 up.

24 CLARENCE AYOTTE: That's good enough for
25 me. Thank you for your time.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

2 SHERYL HARTH: Good evening, my name is
3 Sheryl Huey Harth. I live in Jackman. I was raised in
4 Moose River, moved out west for 35 years where sadly I
5 watched the rape and scrape of the beautiful Sonoran
6 Desert to bring power from Arizona to California.

7 So now I'm back in Maine and just a couple of
8 years after I come home, this project lands in our lap
9 to bring Canadian power through Maine to Massachusetts.
10 In my opinion Maine gets very little out of this. I
11 hear CMP throwing around hundreds of million of
12 dollars. My understanding is it's going to be doled
13 out through the life of the contract so when you break
14 it down on an annual basis per Mainer, it seems quite
15 insignificant to me what it's going to have.

16 I do not believe this is not just in my
17 backyard project, Jackman is loaded people from
18 Massachusetts who own homes there who come every
19 weekend some of them. Every weekend they drive six
20 hours to enjoy what they don't have at home, silence,
21 clean air, access to our heavily timbered forest,
22 something else I think the DEP could take care of down
23 the road when you have time for that, but I just think
24 that it's very unfortunate that we the people of Maine
25 are supposed to compromise our way of life to

1 accommodate Canada, Massachusetts and Spain.

2 Now I keep hearing people talk about this
3 being an industrial forest, yes, it is. I really would
4 like to know how many people on the regulatory bodies
5 of the three agencies that are making this decision
6 have actually stepped foot on the territory west of
7 Route 201 that everybody keeps saying is already
8 compromised by industrialized logging. No one is going
9 to deny that we have logging. It's been now since the
10 beginning of time when the first big landowner came in
11 and bought out big tracks of land.

12 My great grandfather moved here from Ireland.
13 He got a little bit of land from someone he served in
14 England, starting in Canada, moved to Lowelltown,
15 currently owned by the Pasamaquoddy Tribe that
16 graciously worked with CMP to give them a little corner
17 of Lowelltown to continue on through. In my opinion
18 every individual that sold or traded with CMP for their
19 own wallet for their own acreage did not give much
20 thought to how this was going to impact their neighbor.
21 They didn't give much thought about this impacting our
22 economy, our very way of life.

23 I am a retired public health nurse. I worked
24 with the psychiatric community. I took people with
25 incredible anxiety to the woods, if I could get them

1 out of their house and in my car for a little ride to
2 an avocado grove, a citrus grove, just some place in
3 San Diego where they could get out from all of the
4 busyness. I watched them relax; I watched them
5 decompress; I watched them release. And I watched them
6 recharge and that's what our region has been offering
7 people since my great grandparents operated sporting
8 camps on Heal Pond and Long Pond. Both those camps are
9 still running pretty much the same way they did back
10 then. There may be a few more conveniences, but it
11 still offers pretty much the same experience that the
12 folks from Philadelphia and Boston and New York took
13 the train and then took a rough ride into the woods to
14 experience. Their great grandchildren --

15 MS. MILLER: I need you to wrap up,
16 please.

17 SHERYL HARTH: The great grandchildren
18 are still coming to witness our wilderness.

19 In closing I would like to say that we, the
20 people of Maine, are asking you to put us before
21 Canada, before Spain and before Massachusetts. We
22 celebrate our bicentennial next year, we're no longer
23 holding to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you. No clapping,

1 please.

2 LESLIE MCALLISTER: Hello, my name is
3 Leslie McAllister. I live in Bridgton, Maine. I'm a
4 retired teacher. My testimony is simple. I oppose
5 this project. My reasons are many, but you've heard
6 them all over and over again.

7 I would ask that I be allowed to use this
8 time to ask some questions. These are things that I do
9 not have the knowledge of or the access to information
10 to answer. I hope you have or will consider them in
11 your deliberations.

12 What are the probable impacts on the dozens
13 of small streams and brooks that will be crossed? Will
14 this open these water sources to more pollutants,
15 sediments and increase the chance of these courses
16 being shifted or ultimately dried up? Will the
17 moisture that they carry evaporate before it reaches
18 area that are presently supplied by them? How will
19 this affect the broader environment of areas well
20 beyond the path of the clearing? Will this newly open
21 swathe of land from the Canadian border to Lewiston
22 that presently is mostly forest, we all know it's
23 forested, but it is very deep, will this allow evasive
24 plants and insects at boulevard to travel into the
25 center of this forested area? Emerald, bittersweet,

1 hemlock and others have a more direct avenue to the
2 center of this wilderness area starting in Lewiston, if
3 not in Canada.

4 As much as having the wires buried under the
5 Kennebec Gorge is -- excuse me, Gorge. My dyslexia is
6 showing. Anyway, Gorg is aesthetically desirable, the
7 impact of horizontal directional drilling seems to be
8 far more likely to be a cause of serious negative
9 impacts on the environment. It seems to be usual and
10 accepted standards of this process that leaks spills
11 and accidental releases of drilling mud are
12 unavoidable. Also the standard procedure that I had
13 researched and found in fresh water inland settings is
14 to dig reservoirs, pump the used up mud, quote,
15 unquote, into these reservoirs, let it dry, cover it
16 with dirt and then it sits there.

17 This allows the synthetics and heavy metals
18 that make up these compounds is allowed to leach into
19 ground and ultimately into the water system and down
20 into the river. Will the mud under pressure under the
21 gorge be pushing up in the river bed or changing
22 movement through the ground? Will it be filling the
23 fissures that are in the granite that this is going to
24 be drilling through, which I'm guessing is not the
25 easiest process in the world.

1 There are specific studies which clearly show
2 resulting fish morbidity with exposure to mud.

3 MS. MILLER: Can you wrap this up,
4 please?

5 LESLIE MCALLISTER: I will. It is clear
6 that the impact of clearing and blasting the right of
7 way for the power line will be, what's the impact to
8 the access needed for construction, tote roads,
9 landing, storage sites for materials, realizing that
10 the State of Maine will benefit by upgrading certain
11 roads, does this not benefit first and foremost by
12 allowing the construction.

13 Finally, what is the mitigation plan for all
14 the areas that are disruptive? My time is up and there
15 are no questions, but these were the ones that I felt
16 were the most important. Thank you.

17 MS. MILLER: Thank you. So, I just want
18 to let everyone know that it's 9 and we do need to
19 leave by 10. We have over 30 people who want to speak,
20 so I really encourage everyone to be precise and
21 concise in your comments. Elwin Churchill, Fenwick
22 Fowler, Jeff Kerr. I do want to remind you folks too,
23 if you don't want to speak tonight, or if you want to
24 submit your comments in writing instead of speaking
25 tonight, you know, the window is open for quite some

1 time on that as well.

2 FENWICK FOWLER: Good evening, my name
3 is Fenwick Fowler. Thank you very much for coming to
4 Farmington. This whole process over the last six
5 months has been very educational and I appreciate being
6 part of it. I live about -- pardon me?

7 MS. MILLER: Can you speak --

8 FENWICK FOWLER: I've lived in
9 Farmington for 45 years. I live about a mile from here
10 and one of the greatest joys I have in the home I live
11 in is the back part of my house borders a 45 acre wood
12 reserve called Clifford Woods and the woods is open to
13 the public and just a wonderful place year round, take
14 a walk and see nature. The woods is actually bordered
15 by a power line by CMP. It's nonintrusive and for the
16 last 45 years I've really enjoyed hiking in the woods
17 all times of the year and have got some raspberries and
18 blackberries.

19 Last year I retired and I had an opportunity
20 to scout out where the berries were and so I started
21 early in July looking to see how the blackberries were
22 doing and they were doing great, this is going to be a
23 better year and I would have really liked that because
24 we make blackberry jam and use it all winter long.

25 What I found was when I entered the woods in

1 August when it was great blackberry picking, about two
2 weeks prior to that CMP had come in sprayed the area
3 and eradicated the vegetation and killed all of the
4 blackberries that were there. Unfortunately for me it
5 was just I was losing a delicacy. It really made me
6 wonder about what I had seen over 40 years of nature
7 using that vegetation. I had seen deer. I had seen
8 bear. I had seen hundreds of birds in the area, then I
9 really began to think about what was the impact on that
10 nature on using that herbicide and how was that going
11 to affect their living through this winter.

12 I know this is hard to quantify and it's
13 essential for the environment, yet I saw over the years
14 and what I believe now we can do better. This does not
15 need to happen. We do not need to use those
16 herbicides. I know that there's a state law that if a
17 town wants to use something different than herbicides,
18 they can negotiate with CMP and at the town's expense
19 go in and eradicate the vegetation that's necessary for
20 CMP in order to have the lines maintained properly.

21 I also know that really this shouldn't be the
22 way things have to happen. It shouldn't be -- the cost
23 of doing business in Maine should protect nature, not
24 leave to it to the taxpayers to save nature because I
25 really appreciate that you're going to consider this

1 impact on our environment and consider what herbicides
2 would do to that entire northern part. Thank you very
3 much.

4 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

5 JEFF KERRY: Hi, my name is Jeff Kerr
6 and I guess I'm here for two points. Last year they
7 were going to make a solar project behind my house and
8 everyone in Farmington gathered there and thought the
9 same thing as this. And I went through that property,
10 it's right behind my house, and you wouldn't believe
11 the noise that comes from the person that's chopping
12 down the trees until it's just flat as a pancake all
13 because of this solar project.

14 The second point is I worked on the
15 Appalachian Trail. I learned so many things up there
16 that it's not even funny. It made me probably the
17 person I am today.

18 The third point is -- the third point is my
19 father came here -- my father came here from a big
20 university down in Massachusetts and he moved here
21 because of the nice mountains and it was small. And I
22 was thinking and I was telling my -- this guy that's
23 living with us, I call him my son, I was telling him I
24 know you're an avid fisherman, but you better get used
25 to taking those pictures of the mountains and liking

1 those fish now because you're not going to have them
2 pretty soon when this project goes through. Thank you.

3 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

4 ELWIN CHURCHILL: Good evening, my
5 name's Elwin Churchill and I was born in West
6 Farmington and raised here and always hunted and fished
7 all my life, and one thing I can tell you is that that
8 corridor is going to ruin everything that it touches up
9 there. It's going to ruin the fishing. It's going to
10 ruin the hunting. It's going to ruin the experience
11 that the people from Massachusetts whose power was
12 we're supposed to be supplying through this project,
13 they're not going to come up here anymore to see those
14 things because they don't -- they want a true
15 wilderness experience for the most part. They don't
16 want to be looking at power lines. If they did, they'd
17 stay home. There's places down there to go
18 snowmobiling.

19 But I find it kind of ironic that your group
20 is called the Maine Department of Environmental
21 Protection and you're even debating this. You should
22 be protecting this state. You should be protecting the
23 interest of people that live here. I bet nine out of
24 ten people who have talked here tonight have talked
25 against this project. I bet if they voted in this

1 state, they'd vote it down. I can't see making the
2 Spanish any richer; they're already rich enough. I
3 can't see making the stockholders of CMP any richer;
4 they're already rich enough. And I can't see us
5 supplying power to Massachusetts and making the people
6 in Quebec a little richer.

7 As far as the pollution, the air pollution
8 that we're experiencing, very little of that comes out
9 of Massachusetts. As one person already here
10 mentioned, we're at the end of the tail pipe. Most of
11 the air pollution we're getting comes from out in the
12 midwest, coal fired plants. It doesn't come from
13 Massachusetts.

14 So whatever power we're sending down there,
15 it's going to make those people very happy. It's going
16 to destroy this state. Thank you.

17 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Del Reed,
18 Harold Klaiber, Cory King.

19 HAROLD KLAIBER: My name is Harold
20 Klaiber and I live in Waterville. I also own a small
21 piece of land in the unorganized territory subject to
22 the LUPC restriction, but not in this specific area. I
23 have a personal interest in this hearing and my
24 testimony is that I only have -- based on my personal
25 knowledge of the area.

1 I have a bachelor degree in forestry, a
2 master's degree in science from Syracuse University and
3 I am a retired professional forester. Because there
4 was a time limit for making verbal statements, I will
5 present summary of my personal comments with the
6 understanding that this written testimony will follow.

7 My summary, my personal education, employment
8 as a forester for both Scott Paper Company for 27 years
9 and Central Maine Power Company for 10 years have
10 resulted in my being a strong advocate for appropriate
11 multiple use of relatively large areas of a privately
12 owned corridor.

13 My 20 years of employment as a forester for
14 Scott Paper Company has provided firsthand knowledge of
15 the history of the area and Scott Paper timber
16 harvesting and road construction in Appleton, Raytown,
17 T5R7, Hobbstown, Spencer Road and Johnson Mountain,
18 Capital Road in the logging truck area.

19 I am also a former U.S. Navy communications
20 officer who has significant experience in composing and
21 reviewing communications between Navy ships at sea and
22 shore-based commands. One basic premise of successful
23 communications is that they provide accurate, very
24 specific and easily understood information. I'm
25 disgusted by the amount of emotional, inaccurate and

1 often misleading information in communications being
2 provided by opponents to the project, and specifically
3 through the 150 foot widening, clearing.

4 This location is not wilderness. There are
5 only two designated wilderness areas in Maine, the
6 Allagash waterway and Baxter State Park. Also, the
7 hundred foot clearing is not part of the north Maine
8 woods, which is located northerly from the entire
9 project.

10 Comment two, the NECEC transmission line is
11 commercial use and also provides multiple recreational
12 uses that are compatible with the transmission line
13 location while including strong environmental
14 protections required by the Department of Environmental
15 Protection.

16 Comment three, I accept Governor Mills'
17 analysis that it will require 35 square miles of land
18 to produce an equivalent amount of electric energy from
19 solar farms. These farms are essentially single
20 purpose land use. The current large soil raised in
21 organized townships are surrounded chain link fences.
22 They effectively exclude any recreational or public
23 use. Current large -- in organized towns, any
24 recreational use of other public use on those areas is
25 prohibited. Compare that to the total 2.76 square

1 miles of land included in the entire 150 miles of the
2 NECEC transmission line from Beattie to Lewiston that
3 offer numerous opportunities for multiple recreational
4 and agricultural use.

5 MS. MILLER: I need to ask you to wrap
6 up, please.

7 HAROLD KLAIBER: I will. Point four,
8 the extensive personal knowledge of history and use of
9 the area, I submit that the NECEC proposal is a
10 logical, wise and long-term solution. We're supplying
11 the clean emission electric energy and addressing
12 climate change and providing the opportunities for
13 compatible long use for recreation and agriculture
14 transmission line. Thank you.

15 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

16 DEL REED: My name Del Reed. I live
17 where I grew up in the Freeman Township, which is just
18 15 miles north of here on several hundred acres of
19 working forest. My wife and I live in the Maine woods
20 with our children and grandchildren and we share the
21 same views that many have expressed about our scenic
22 beauty and preserving wildlife habitat.

23 I'm a license professional electrical
24 engineer and have spent most of my career right here in
25 western Maine. Some say I'm retired. I like to think

1 I'm between jobs, but I've worked in the forest
2 products industry, I've been an operation manager for
3 Central Maine Power and for the last 20 years I have
4 worked as a construction manager building electrical
5 subtransmissions and transmission lines. I've worked
6 as a CMP employee and as a consultant mostly in Maine,
7 but also in Mass., Connecticut and Maryland. My
8 transmission work has consisted of building new lines
9 and new right of ways, building new lines and
10 rebuilding older lines in existing right of ways and
11 most of this work has been for Central Maine Power.

12 I can show you that Central Maine Power has
13 always insisted on extreme care during all of this
14 construction. In some cases we have flown poles and
15 wires by helicopter in sensitive areas to minimize
16 environmental disturbances. Restoration has always
17 been excellent and in many cases we have left the area
18 much better than we found it. I am very familiar with
19 the Jackman, Caratunk area.

20 During the Ice Storm of '98 I was the
21 operations manager responsible in for this region. The
22 suggestion that this project will lead to an increased
23 fragmentation of the forest and increased development
24 is just plain wrong. The finished product may actually
25 decrease fragmentation.

1 First, the portion of the new line is in the
2 commercial forest. This area is commercially logged
3 and logging roads created decades ago still exist.
4 This isn't a wilderness area or a national park. This
5 is a very large wood lot. Also the majority of the
6 line is being built in central Maine's existing
7 corridors.

8 Secondly, this is a DC line which no users
9 can tie into, unlike an AC line. It isn't like a
10 highway or a railroad intended to attract public use.
11 Instead this is merely an express link from Canada to
12 Lewiston that will not promote other development.

13 But most of all, this project is both
14 reasonable and necessary. It's reasonable because New
15 England is retiring nearly 10,000 megawatts of old coal
16 oil and nuclear plants in the future and will need to
17 replace these with clean power. In fact, the Pilgrim
18 nuclear plant will retire in about six weeks from now
19 after more than 50 years of operation. Now that's 670
20 megawatts of base load capacity that would be gone as
21 of June 1st. In their term natural gas is almost sure
22 to replace it, but if hydro is not the replacement any
23 time soon, ISO New England will need to find other
24 dispatchable sources and they certainly will not be as
25 clean as this project.

1 Additionally, this proposed line is excess
2 capacity for Maine rate base and it's not if it is
3 needed, but when it is needed, it will be available.
4 As a Mainer I urge you to approve this project. It's
5 very good for Maine.

6 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

7 COREY KING: Thank you for the
8 opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Corey King
9 and I'm a Durham resident. I'm an executive director
10 of the Southern Maine Chamber, which covers 16
11 communities in Maine and prior to that I'm in
12 the Skowhegan chamber.

13 MS. MILLER: Can you speak a little
14 slower, please.

15 CORY KING: I'm not here representing
16 either of those organizations, I'm just here
17 representing me.

18 MS. ELY: I'm sorry, Mr. King, are you a
19 board member of the Maine Chamber?

20 CORY KING: I am. But I can't --

21 MS. MILLER: Well, the Maine Chamber of
22 Commerce is an intervening party and as a board member
23 they're already being represented as part of this
24 process so you can't speak right now.

25 CORY KING: Wow, okay.

1 MS. MILLER: Sorry. Can I leave this?
2 Is that okay?

3 MS. BENSINGER: Your views were
4 represented -- are represented in this process by the
5 Maine Chamber.

6 CORY KING: Right, yeah, but I've got
7 some local stuff from when I was in Skowhegan and --

8 MS. BENSINGER: Sorry.

9 MS. MILLER: We can take your comments
10 as comment, written comment.

11 CORY KING: Excellent.

12 MS. MILLER: We've got Lois Howlett, Tim
13 Giddinge, Al Howlett and Dean Look.

14 TIM GIDDINGE: Hi, I'm Tim Giddinge.
15 I'm from Pownal, Maine. I'm a recently retired
16 selectman and assessor for the town of Pownal. I'm
17 here tonight to talk about how CMP's presence and
18 income affects the town. Pownal is a small town on the
19 edge of Cumberland County. Within the town lies
20 approximately seven miles of transmission lines,
21 substation, I believe one of the largest in the State
22 of Maine. The value of Pownal is somewhere just over
23 \$240 million. CMP's current value is right around
24 \$60 million, so that's 25 percent of Pownal's value,
25 which helps a lot obviously. So with this expansion,

1 we're looking at obviously increased value, I'm not
2 sure just how much, but every bit helps and Pownal's
3 mill rate currently is high because we're in Cumberland
4 County, around 18 mills. So with numbers that were
5 presented to us earlier, I figured the mill rate would
6 be going down to somewhere around 16 and a half.

7 So CMP has been a very good neighbor to
8 Pownal. Every time that I've been involved in any
9 permitting process that they've come to the board for,
10 they've been very willing to adapt to any needs that
11 Pownal has, environmentally especially.

12 The substation, by the way, adds zero dollars
13 to the commitment for the town. They need no services,
14 so this is all money that helps the taxpayers of the
15 town of Pownal. The corridor provides many
16 recreational opportunities to the public and to support
17 wildlife habitat. CMP is very good about allowing use
18 such as hunting, snowmobiling, cross country skiing,
19 biking, walking and many other uses on their property.
20 There are approximately 6.5 miles of maintained
21 snowmobile trail -- club trails on the property.
22 They're used by many, including walkers, bikers,
23 skiers, birders and the general public.

24 There's also a multiuse trail connecting
25 Bradbury Mountain State Park to the Pineland Woods in

1 New Gloucester, approximately ten miles and two and a
2 half miles are on CMP's property.

3 There are two farmers that are allowed to use
4 CMP property for hay crop and the CMP corridor provides
5 winter feed for deer and there are many, many deer
6 yards just outside of the CMP corridor, and being a
7 snowmobiler, I see them all the time out there and it
8 really helps the deer in the area.

9 In closing, I'd like to say that CMP is a
10 good neighbor and is good to the residents of Pownal
11 and I support this project. Thank you.

12 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Janet DeVisser,
13 Stephen Ryle, Eileen McGuire, Rebecca Wood. Okay,
14 Darryl Wood, Sheila Lyman, Kenneth Lyman.

15 REBECCA WOOD: Hi, thank you for hosting
16 this tonight. My name is Rebecca Wood and I'm a
17 registered nurse and I live in New Sharon, Maine. I've
18 been enjoying The Forks region in northern Maine for
19 many years and have been drawn to those regions for the
20 lack of development and sense of wilderness. I'm also
21 an avid hiker. We have something special and unique
22 here in Maine as compared to other portions of New
23 England and the Appalachian Trail. We have long views
24 of landscapes not threatened by industrial monitors.

25 I understand the region is working -- is a

1 working industrial forest, but in my opinion this is
2 very different. As you've heard before, forest and
3 trees can grow. Power lines that are sprayed by
4 chemicals cannot. This power line changes everything
5 forever in that region.

6 I've heard a lot about this being a bad deal
7 for Maine and I agree with that on nearly every point,
8 but here's the most important reason why I think it's a
9 bad deal. I have a grandson Sam who is three and a
10 half years old. He likes to go outside and play. He
11 likes to explore. He likes to ride on his snowmobile
12 and swim in our pristine lakes. He's also being
13 introduced to technology and there will be an
14 increasing pull away from this wilderness and
15 rejuvenation from being in the forest.

16 As development encroaches and time spent
17 unwinding become even more important to people's mental
18 wellbeing, to truly be able to relax, I would like to
19 think that the people of Maine are able to prioritize
20 and preserve what we already have for our own mental
21 well-being and for that of the visiting tourists. For
22 once it's gone, it is gone forever.

23 I think the impact of this ought to be
24 considered by the DEP and I implore you to deny the CMP
25 application to build this unnecessary extension cord

1 from Quebec to Massachusetts as there are plenty of
2 other alternatives. Thank you for your time.

3 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

4 DARRYL WOOD: Thank you, and thank for
5 the opportunity to speak again tonight. I was under
6 the impressio I was going to be able to speak, even
7 though I spoke to on Tuesday. I'll be brief. My name
8 is Darryl Wood. I've seen the DEP permitting process
9 for small jobs over streams and I think the DEP has
10 done a good job. It's hard to get a permit even for a
11 small job when you've got the right and it's very
12 important.

13 At Tuesday's hearing somebody made a
14 statement that I disagree strongly with, and that was
15 that it was DEP's role to permit projects to move
16 forward based on meeting the letter of the laws and
17 making sure that all the current boxes were checked
18 off. I disagreed with that because I think lawyers and
19 businesses can learn how to fill out forms and provide
20 testimony in ways that are financially beneficial to
21 them, but do not protect the environment sufficiently.
22 I think the DEP's role is consider all aspects of an
23 application including public and future concerns to
24 make a balance and intelligent determination. I think
25 you guys understanding that process right now.

1 I agree with the person who stated later in
2 the meeting on Tuesday that the DEP will be the last
3 safety net for the environment. Thank you very much
4 for the opportunity to speak tonight.

5 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Stacey
6 McCluskey, Drew Bates, Clare Ruthenburg, Chloe Rowse.

7 DREW BATES: Thank you all for coming
8 here tonight. My name is Drew Bates. I'm a white
9 water kayaker and a raft guide, Farmington resident.
10 I've worked in the forest for about five years. I've
11 been in a raft or a kayak in just about every ditch in
12 the state whenever I can. I've spent most of the time
13 on the Kennebec River. Before I found my way there, I
14 was living a not so much enjoyable life and I found a
15 lot of purpose being on the Kennebec River in Maine.
16 It's an amazing place. My testimony is just my own,
17 but it's not unique to me. Those areas up there are
18 incredible, as everyone said tonight, it's truly an
19 amazing place.

20 Have you ever seen where the proposed
21 transmission line will go to the Kennebec River?
22 There's nothing that would like more out of place in
23 that particular area than this big ugly power line.
24 It's terribly out of place. It looks like it shouldn't
25 be there and I sincerely hope it won't be there.

1 When you're on the river, you happily forget
2 about everything you leave behind. You connect with
3 the people, experiences, sights, everything around you.
4 It's the best. This is a really important decision. I
5 think we've got two futures ahead of us. At the
6 Farmington meeting, hearing there was talk about future
7 means to like get more power, renewable energy,
8 something like that. John Carroll said it could be up
9 to two or three more transmission lines following this
10 one and the crowd did not like that and I don't like it
11 either.

12 So it seems we either -- if we okay this,
13 we're going to open up the floodgates and completely
14 annihilate and destroy everything that Mainers should
15 stand up for. I think it's very important. I owe my
16 life to the places up there. It's amazing. Or we can
17 leave it be and we can leave this amazing wilderness as
18 it is and as it should be for future generations, but
19 also living long-term for jobs and the forest employees
20 around 40, 50 people each summer and, you know, we all
21 know why they're there is for the rafting industry, the
22 hiking, the fishing, it's, you know, they come here
23 because it's not where they're coming from. It's, you
24 know, I guess that's it. I just think this is a very
25 important question -- very important decision, so thank

1 you.

2 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

3 CLARE RUTHENBURG: Good evening, my name
4 is Clare Ruthenburg. I'm from Portland and I'm
5 extremely grateful that I canoed and hiked in the
6 beautiful western mountains. I begin with this quote
7 from Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish political
8 activist. You say you love your children above all
9 else and yet you are stealing their future in front of
10 their eyes. Our young people are boldly trying to hold
11 the older generations accountable for the wilderness
12 we're in.

13 As a retired teacher of 40 years, I am here
14 for the children and the generations to follow. I join
15 them in demanding action to secure a sustainable world
16 with the least time to our most precious ecosystems.
17 You've already heard substantial economic and
18 science-based testimony outlining the harm this CMP
19 hydroelectric collaboration can bring, so I won't
20 rehash all of the evidence that points to a project
21 that won't reduce climate change, pollution and
22 potentially might increase it.

23 The threats of the project run counter to
24 many things I taught my students across the decades,
25 revere and respect all living things, farmer, people of

1 all cultures. Walk gently on this earth and embrace
2 the sustainability and stewardship. Make informed
3 decisions based on well-researched facts. Creatively
4 and critically problem solve. Define new solutions to
5 old ideas that no longer work.

6 I'm here tonight practicing what I preach to
7 speak out when you see economic environmental social
8 injustice. I urge you to deny the application for this
9 transmission line and I leave you with an American
10 piece of wisdom. We do not inherit the earth from our
11 ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

12 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

13 CHLOE ROUSE: Good evening, thank you
14 for being here. My name is Chloe Rouse and I'm
15 representing myself. I'm an avid hiker and a founder
16 and director of a small Maine-based nonprofit. We run
17 a summer camp for girls here in Maine. My career and
18 my life are rooted in the health of the outdoors in
19 Maine and I'm here to defend that.

20 I was born and raised in Maine and I spent a
21 lot of my childhood in Wilton, just a few miles from
22 here, on the same spot where my great great grandfather
23 built his fishing camp in the early 1900s. My sisters
24 and I grew up swimming and hiking in these mountains
25 and lakes. We developed an appreciation for clean

1 water, mountain tops and the peaceful, pristine
2 serenity of Western Maine. This is something we look
3 took for granted, probably a lot of us do, but then
4 last year I hiked the Appalachian Trail. I walked
5 2,191 miles alone through 14 states from Georgia to
6 Maine, my home. I walked under high voltage power
7 lines and I heard the bzzz as I looked up at the
8 corridor line cutting through the mountains ahead. I
9 saw firsthand how it disrupted the wildlife habitat and
10 scenic character.

11 Maine is different. It was not only my
12 favorite state, but it has the reputation with hikers
13 worldwide for the most authentic, untouched, rugged
14 beauty of the entire trail. Why should Mainers who
15 value beauty and importance of our natural environment
16 allow people from Massachusetts to cut through our
17 forest, to crisscross the Appalachian Trail three times
18 in our state, to litter the undermine, one of the most
19 spectacular rivers in this country, to build a high
20 voltage power lines so they can meet their own
21 self-imposed power requirements?

22 Why did New Hampshire say no to this same
23 idea? Why did our governor tell us she was opposed to
24 this project and then change her mind? Why does it
25 feel like we're being bought? When I ask what Maine

1 gets out of this, all I hear about is money. Are we
2 that shortsighted? Would you give up what defines you,
3 your values, your family, your home, your backyard,
4 what you believe in for money? Mainers are not like
5 that. We are not blind and we cannot be bought. Maine
6 needs to entice more young people like me to come here
7 and to stay here. Our unique natural environment will
8 do that. Now more than ever we need to protect that.
9 Serve the people of Maine. Vote to oppose this project
10 and force Massachusetts to create new alternative
11 energy production rather than simply rerouting existing
12 hydropower from somewhere else.

13 There are a lot of other proposals about how
14 Massachusetts could meet its requirements, but instead
15 they're just trying to pay us off to deal with it. We
16 should not allow it. Mainers value the untouched
17 beauty of our forests, our rivers and our wildlife. We
18 know. We are the stewards of some of the last sections
19 of wilderness in the northeast.

20 I am adamantly opposed to this project and I
21 ask you, if you want young people to move to Maine, if
22 you want to preserve what makes us unique, if you want
23 to motivate the construction of new, alternative energy
24 infrastructure, then vote to oppose this project. No
25 amount of money can recreate or restore our wilderness

1 once it's destroyed. We stand to lose our reputation,
2 our beauty, our heritage and our identity.
3 Massachusetts wins; we lose. I ask you to do what's
4 best for Maine. Thank you for your time.

5 MS. MILLER: Thank you. John Sytsma,
6 Steve Byers, Debra May, Lloyd May, Emily Dingman.

7 EMILY DINGMAN: Hi, my name is Emily
8 Dingman. I came here tonight with my family. It's the
9 first time I've ever --

10 MS. MILLER: Move closer to the mic,
11 please.

12 EMILY DINGMAN: I came here tonight with
13 my family because my two children are very young and I
14 hope some day to be able to experience this wilderness
15 with them, but I'm afraid that if this project gets
16 passed, I won't be able to do that.

17 I grew up in Leeds, Maine. I often walked,
18 ran and skied on the power lines and then I went to
19 college. When I came home, the lines had been widened
20 and it was clear that they were no longer the
21 sheltering trail that they used to be, and this may
22 seem trivial, but now that we face other expansion of
23 the power lines, which not only expand existing lines,
24 it also cuts a path through forest that does not have a
25 road through it yet. It may have logging roads, but

1 that is different. I agree with all of the other
2 people who have spoken about it.

3 I feel it's really important for you to look
4 deeply at this project and consider the greater impact
5 of it on Maine's future and I urge you to decline the
6 application.

7 The energy transmitted by these lines is not
8 proven to be additional renewable energy from -- as
9 many people have mentioned. It will not reduce
10 greenhouse gas emissions and it may actually increase
11 them. We definitely need to see an environmental
12 impact statement. That has to be part of this. I
13 would read it and comment on it again.

14 The transmission line will require clearing
15 53 miles of forest, which people have already spoken
16 about. We know that that will eliminate habitat for
17 wildlife and reduce Maine's appeal to tourism and
18 wilderness experiences, but what we haven't talked
19 about much is that the existing forest itself
20 sequesters as much as 30,000 pounds of carbon dioxide
21 per acre. That's a figure that I found from Cornell
22 University.

23 If 53 miles of forest are cut, we will lose
24 valuable hunting land, habitat and tourism. We will
25 also lose 22,000 pounds of fresh oxygen per acre of

1 forest that is cut. Trees, as we know, absorb carbon
2 dioxide and release oxygen. One square mile contains
3 640 acres, it's all broke down into math. I used an
4 estimation of the width of the path because I don't
5 know the actual numbers.

6 For every square mile that is cut, we will
7 lose 19,200,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year,
8 sequestration that is, and we would lose 14,800,000
9 pounds of fresh oxygen. According to the New York
10 Times article from 2012 trees sequester roughly the
11 same amount of carbon, although some poppers grow
12 faster, thereby provide the carbon dioxide and oxygen
13 exchange sooner than slower growing trees.

14 If anything my estimates of carbon dioxide
15 sequestration and oxygen production are low. These
16 numbers are -- now if you consider this path was a half
17 mile wide and 53 miles long, and this isn't including
18 the expansion through the rest of this state, then
19 that's 320 acres times 53, just 16,970 acres of forest.
20 In one year that much forest has the capacity to
21 sequester 508,800,000 pounds of carbon dioxide in one
22 year.

23 MS. MILLER: Can you wrap this up,
24 please.

25 EMILY DINGMAN: Yes. It will provide

1 373,120,000 pounds of oxygen per year. How much carbon
2 dioxide does this transmission line sequester per year?
3 How much oxygen will it produce?

4 We will release more carbon in the first year
5 than the forest will have absorbed and we won't have
6 the forest to absorb anything. We won't release any
7 oxygen with this transmission line ever and that seems
8 to be an instant loss, a loss that will only increase
9 this deficit annually with no economic or ecological
10 benefit to Mainers worth mentioning.

11 This transmission line is being proposed to
12 fill the obligation of the State of Massachusetts and
13 its people in an effort to reduce their impact on
14 global greenhouse gas emissions. Why doesn't
15 Massachusetts produce this energy locally? Why should
16 Maine be responsible for the transmission of energy to
17 Massachusetts with little benefit to us?

18 MS. BENSINGER: You're talking too fast.
19 The transcriptionist can't keep up with you and we need
20 to have a transcript of you. Can you just wrap up
21 and --

22 EMILY DINGMAN: I have it written, but I
23 do just want to say that I want to know how CMP is
24 going to be held accountable to their promise to
25 convert us to renewable energy. What terms bind them

1 to making that transmission a reality and what is the
2 timeframe? Why is our last move before converting to
3 renewable energy to destroy the forces of the planet --
4 it seems a backward move in a larger scheme. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

7 DEBRA MAY: Thank you. My name is Debra
8 May and I'm a resident of New Gloucester and a property
9 owner in the West Forks. I go to my camp for vacations
10 and on weekends throughout the entire year. I go there
11 to relax, have fun and get away from the commercial,
12 busy everyday life. This area has great value to me,
13 including the scenic views. I'm here to express my
14 strong opposition to this project.

15 This project has alternatives. This project
16 could be underground. CMP made a choice to submit a
17 low bid for the Mass RFP. They did not show enough
18 concern for the Maine environment, the scenic
19 character, fish, wildlife habitat. CMP chose not to
20 consider an underground line in an effort to keep their
21 price below other bidders. Sorry, I'm a nervous public
22 speaker. The other bidders put more thought and
23 consideration into their proposal and chose a higher
24 bid. Maine should not pay for CMP's low bid. My
25 scenic views should not be destroyed because CMP chose

1 to bid their project as low as they did. Thank you.

2 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

3 LLOYD MAY: Lloyd May from New
4 Gloucester, Maine. I'm 59 years old. I have a
5 business, an electrical business. I'm a master
6 electrician. I also am a registered Maine Guide. I
7 have a camp approximately two and half to three miles
8 south of where the corridor will cross on 201. My camp
9 looks at Johnson Mountain. I'm the last set of
10 buildings before you get to the Capital Road, or the
11 corridor. I have a rental property up there that I
12 rent to bear hunters, fisherman and snowmobilers. I
13 have been going to that area -- I'm 59, so I would say
14 49 years that I can remember. I remember before the
15 Capital Road was there. I can tell you that the
16 fishing, since all the cutting has been done and all
17 the roads, have gone downhill, it's still great
18 fishing, but this is just going to add to the problem.

19 Like I said, I've been fishing -- when I
20 started fishing there it was a ten fish limit, you
21 could catch brookies anywhere you wanted. It is
22 different now. I'm also -- I trap. I can tell you
23 when I bought the property, I own a year-round home
24 there, that's a year-round home, it's heated. We're
25 there about every other weekend, if not every weekend.

1 I've trapped and fished and hunted all that area. I
2 can tell you that I've had a camp there for a little
3 over 30 years. I built a new home about six years ago
4 and that the trapping was great 20 years ago, 25 years
5 ago for pine marten. The pine marten have disappeared.
6 There's pine marten there, but it is because of the
7 clearcuts because of what CMP is trying to do. I
8 strongly oppose it. I don't want to see the
9 insecticides. I don't want to see any of that. I
10 understand global warming. There's other alternatives,
11 whether it's underground, or whether it's through
12 Vermont, it doesn't matter. I just -- I feel very
13 concerned because as an avid hunter, fisherman and
14 trapper, I have seen personally, like I said, I'm 59
15 years old, I have seen it go down hill with the
16 clearcuts and this type of stuff that's going to happen
17 up there and it's going to get worse because if that
18 corridor is 150 and they've allowed 300 feet and the
19 windmills come, the less pine marten, the less
20 brookies. It's just going to -- it's not going to help
21 that environment.

22 As being a licensed electrician, a company
23 that I've had for 35 years, six employees, we've put a
24 lot of stuff underground, not transmission lines, I
25 understand, but we've put underground lines in for

1 residential houses, two reasons, visually and
2 maintenance. You put it underground, you do it right,
3 you never worry about it 99 percent of the time.
4 Visually when you build new houses, you put it
5 underground, it's because visually they don't want to
6 see it. So it can go a different way. Thank you.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Christian
8 Savage, AJ Soulmief, Will Hughey, Alissa Holden, come
9 on up.

10 AJ SOULMIEF: My name is AJ Soulmief.
11 I'm a student here at the University of Maine at
12 Farmington and first of all, I would like to say I
13 truly admire all of the passion and patience of all of
14 the people in this room. I think that the main reason
15 why so many people have been here today is because
16 they're passionate about mitigating climate change,
17 they're passionate about a preserving a future of our
18 environment for future generations and they care about
19 the wildlife, whichever side they're on.

20 And back in November the intergovernmental
21 panel on climate change produced a report saying that
22 at the current state we're in, since the Industrial
23 Revolution, the temperature of the planet has risen one
24 degree celsius and that by the end of the century that
25 it can rise by four degrees, and so clearly climate

1 change is an urgent issue that needs a solution, not in
2 the future, but now.

3 However, I'm not sure that in its current
4 state that this project would be that solution. That
5 is why I am in opposition to this project and I think
6 before it could go through, we would need a fully
7 comprehensive peer reviewed and non biased
8 environmental impact report that considers the removal
9 of carbon like the trees, that considers the
10 fragmentation of wildlife habitats, that considers the
11 aerial spring of toxic chemicals which creates forest
12 suppression and the loss of biodiversity, which helps
13 to stabilize the environment as a whole.

14 Of course climate change mitigation is
15 necessary. Of course we need clean energy, but this
16 project may not be the answer and so please, we need
17 more research before we just go ahead with something.
18 If the leader of CMP can't guarantee to us that we're
19 actually mitigating climate change and that we're
20 actually reducing global carbon emissions, then it's
21 not the answer.

22 The world is shared by all of us and we
23 definitely do need an answer to climate change because
24 it's a shared resource, and if it's shared, then that
25 is why we should be looking at this more carefully.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

3 WILL HUGHEY: Hello again, I'm back and
4 I'm going to read very important testimony from a close
5 friend of mine in Massachusetts.

6 MS. MILLER: We need you to testify on
7 behalf yourself because you need to be -- the person
8 who's testifying needs to be available for
9 cross-examination.

10 MS. BENSINGER: And needs to be sworn
11 in, but you can submit that as a comment.

12 WILL HUGHEY: Okay. That really sucks
13 after driving a long ways down here again.

14 MS. MILLER: Sorry.

15 WILL HUGHEY: I recommend you all read
16 it because it's a very good view from somebody that's
17 away and has purchased property here now.

18 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay, Ryan
19 Gates, Quinten Anderson, Nathan McCann and Jay
20 Robinson.

21 RYAN GATES: Good evening, my name is
22 Ryan Gates and I'm a current resident of Rockport,
23 Maine. I'm a Unity College alumni. I hold two Maine
24 Guide endorsements, white water recreation. My
25 testimony is my own, but I think others feel the same

1 way.

2 For the past 20 years I considered myself an
3 avid outdoorsman of this area in question. I currently
4 work for a land conservation nonprofit as a stewardship
5 manager looking after and caring for almost
6 12,000 acres of the coast of Maine.

7 Putting all of that aside, I am more
8 importantly a father of two and truth be known, I don't
9 want to be here tonight. I feel that I have to be
10 here. I have to be here for my two kids, for your
11 kids, for your grand kids. I wish I could trust the
12 process, but it seems slightly skewed.

13 My other reason here is to do my job as a
14 concerned resident of Maine. My job is to convince you
15 as the DEP and the panel, the decisionmakers in this
16 process to reject the project as proposed. I stand
17 with all environmental based on profits in Maine and
18 65 percent of the Maine residents against this project.

19 I would like also to ask that the panel
20 members take a mandatory field trip to the area before
21 making such an important decision about the area and
22 its planet. On that field trip I'd like you to think
23 about spraying herbicides from a helicopter as they do
24 to maintain these corridors and think slightly how that
25 fits to what's there.

1 I would like to share with you a quote from
2 Aldo Leopold, we abuse the land because we regard it as
3 a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a
4 community to which we belong, we may begin to use it
5 with love and respect. I have a hard time believing
6 anybody likes the looks of a scar like this corridor as
7 it is proposed. You may like the looks of a scar
8 covered with the proposed band-aids made of money that
9 come with it.

10 Please reject this project as proposed and I
11 ask you to research more alternatives to be explored
12 for the future generations of Maine. Thank you, and I
13 don't have envy your position.

14 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

15 NATHAN MCCANN: My name is Nathan McCann
16 and I live in Freedom, Maine.

17 MS. MILLER: Can you --

18 NATHAN MCCANN: My name is Nathan McCann
19 and I live in Freedom, Maine with my wife and five
20 children. We all oppose this project and we would ask
21 that you deny CMP's application. CMP is owned by a
22 Spanish corporation, I mean, you guys have heard all of
23 the facts, and I trust that you have made yourselves
24 well informed on both sides. You're all sitting here
25 listening to, you know, everybody here that, you know,

1 most of the people that I've heard since I've been here
2 at about 6:40 have all been in opposition. There have
3 been a few that have been for this proposal, but I
4 don't really have a lot new to tell you.

5 A lady a few people before me, she shared a
6 quote that I think that she got wrong. I don't think
7 that we inherit the world from our ancestors, we're
8 borrowing it from our grandchildren, not our children.
9 I'll just leave with you a rough paraphrase of a quote
10 by a 12-year-old girl named Severn Suzuki, she
11 addressed the land emissions conference on environment
12 and development in 1992.

13 And if you don't know how to fix a problem,
14 don't make it -- don't let CMP ruin our state. We
15 don't have the ability to bring it back once it's
16 ruined and this is the only chance, you know, you can't
17 undo the choice that you guys make, so. I've heard a
18 lot of proposals that people have recommended, that
19 this goes to referendum, you just reject this proposal.
20 You have a lot of choices before you. Accepting is
21 only one of them, and I think it's the worst choice
22 that you can make. Thank you.

23 MS. MILLER: Thank you. I have gone
24 through every name on the list that I have, so if you
25 missed hearing your name, now is the time to come up

1 and --

2 JAN COLLINS: I wasn't here to sign in.

3 MS. MILLER: Okay. I'll swear you in.
4 Please raise your right hand. Do you swear or affirm
5 that the testimony you are about to give is the whole
6 truth and nothing but the truth?

7 JAN COLLINS: I do. Thank you and thank
8 you for giving me this opportunity. My name is Jan
9 Collins. I'm from Wilton. I am a Maine master
10 naturalist. As my capstone project for my Maine
11 naturalist program, I studied bats. As a result of
12 that, I am also volunteering every Wednesday night in
13 the summertime at Mount Blue State Park doing bat
14 programs and I do them throughout this area.

15 I am here specifically to speak about the
16 impact of the transmission lines on those who use air
17 space. You've heard mostly about land. I'm concerned
18 about air space. Tall structures such as power
19 transmission lines can have deleterious direct effects
20 and impacts to flying wildlife, not to mention indirect
21 effects caused by air and facility disturbances from
22 infrared sound, noise and lighting barriers and
23 fragmented habitats.

24 It is important to note when we talk about
25 this that the vast majority of take by industry goes

1 uninvestigated, let alone unenforced due to lack of
2 funding, staff and other priorities. In the State of
3 Maine you are probably aware there are three species of
4 bats that are currently listed as either endangered or
5 threatened. Those three species of bats are -- all
6 have separated drastically from white nose syndrome,
7 98 percent of them have perished. It may be higher
8 than that, but we know at least 98 percent have
9 perished.

10 As a result, their survival as species is
11 threatened by any deleterious effects of any type of
12 structures. It's important to know that bats, although
13 most of us think of them as negative, have some very
14 important positive effects. They are in -- all of
15 Maine's bats eat insects. They play a critical role
16 and provide ecosystem services to humanity. Bats alone
17 save billions of dollars each year by protecting the
18 forest parts and agriculture industries. I'm a
19 blueberry farmer so I care about that. The estimated
20 savings range from 4 billion to 53 billion. They
21 consume June beetles, leaf hoppers, etc., lots more.

22 Highly troubling are recent effects due to
23 white nose, which I mentioned was 98 percent.
24 Electrocutions, however, occur primarily at
25 distribution lines and other infrastructures and they

1 also affect bats. In addition to direct impacts, they
2 are impacted by indirect effects of transmission
3 distribution lines, power lines, utility poles, towers,
4 etc.

5 Habitat fragmentation, abandonment
6 disturbance, loss of population, behavior modification,
7 creation of said optimal habitats, loss of refugium and
8 interest specific competitions as a result of those
9 disturbances.

10 MS. MILLER: Can you wrap up, please.

11 JAN COLLINS: Yes, I will do that as
12 quick as I can. The ones that we are most concerned
13 about in terms of the high power lines are the tree
14 bats, which are silver haired bats and the eastern red
15 bats, all of which are attracted to high structures.
16 Over 888,000 are killed every year in the United States
17 when they're attracted to wind turbines, but we also
18 know that they can be attracted to other large
19 structures including transmission lines and they are at
20 risk as a result.

21 So I would urge you to consider these
22 endangered species when you're making your decisions.
23 Thank you very much.

24 MS. BENSINGER: Is there anybody else
25 that maybe I called your name but you didn't hear it?

1 Come on down if that's the case. We want to hear you.

2 BEVERLY HUGHEY: You didn't call my
3 name, but I do believe a gentleman brought it down on a
4 piece of paper.

5 MS. MILLER: I just got you, thanks.

6 BEVERLY HUGHEY: Thank you for allowing
7 us to talk here and to show our opposition, or the few
8 that do -- are aligned with this. I was born and
9 raised in Jackman, Maine. I've lived there most of my
10 adult life. The joy of living in the State of Maine is
11 only lightened by the people that live in the Moose
12 River Valley. I'm not sure if you folks, any of you
13 have ever been there, I don't know if any of you have
14 ever been on the land that's being impacted by this
15 proposed corridor. If you haven't, shame on you. If
16 you have, then you should have some understanding of
17 how special and unique that little corridor is.

18 The ecosystem up there is going to be utterly
19 destroyed by this project if it goes through. Tearing
20 up mountains, crossing streams, vernal pools, etc., the
21 average Joe Blow, myself included, can't touch anything
22 close to waterways, tributary streams, rivers, ponds,
23 lakes, don't touch it. These big businesses, big
24 corporations, Canadian, Spain, they use CMP. We know
25 why they kept the name Central Maine Power, to fool a

1 lot of people that think they're still a Maine company.
2 They are not. They are owned by a Spanish corporation.

3 That corporation has no skin in the game.
4 They don't care about my life. They don't care about
5 the State of Maine. They certainly don't care about
6 that small section of Maine. We hear you're from a
7 little town, little town, little town, we have little
8 towns, but we have a big anchor and we have blood in
9 the game.

10 These have been our homes for generations,
11 working forest, yes, it is. I worked in that forest.
12 I helped scale wood when they developed the Upper
13 Enchanted subdivisions that you had to run through the
14 process because of the scope, the size of it.

15 This monstrosity, and that's what it is, if
16 this gets built, is going to destroy forever, forever
17 some of the most beautiful places. Pristine, that's a
18 word. Come feel why it is so important to keep this
19 land as it is. The woods will come back. They rape
20 them, they scrape them, two years later there's green
21 growth. It comes back. They put this thing through,
22 it's done forever, children, grandchildren, great
23 children, however many generations, done. We've lost
24 it, and when we lose this, if we lose this, we are
25 going to lose a way of life, a way of keeping ourselves

1 in some sort of balance in this crazy world because we
2 are no longer able to get out there, touch some of
3 these trees, put my toes in those waters and generation
4 after generation is going to miss out on something that
5 is so important for 30 pieces of silver that some
6 corporation wants to throw at us. While making pledges
7 and promises of all this money that's coming in, they
8 went to the PUC and they needed a little increase
9 because their shareholders might have been feeling some
10 of the impact of the cost of living increase that we,
11 the people of Maine should not, do not -- I do not want
12 to add to their coffers.

13 This is a battle I don't want to fight, but I
14 am willing to fight because the State of Maine is not
15 for sale. The Moose River Valley should not be
16 compromised to enrich two other countries that could
17 care less about us. Thank you very much. Good luck
18 with this job.

19 MS. MILLER: Thank you. All right. I
20 want to thank you all for your participation and
21 especially with your patience. It's been a long night.
22 I'm going to just go through some closing comments and
23 we can wrap up.

24 Again, thank you for your participation in
25 this hearing. This hearing will conclude after the

1 rest of the party, witnesses and the intervenors have
2 completed their testimony. This will take place
3 May 9th. At that point the record will remain open as
4 follows, for ten days after the close of the hearing on
5 May 9th, members of the public only may submit written
6 statements to the Department and Commissioner. For
7 seven additional days after that, members of the public
8 only may file rebuttal statements to those written
9 statements received in that previous ten-day window.

10 Parties will not be allowed to submit
11 comments after the hearing concludes on May 9th;
12 however, we will accept closing briefs and proposed
13 findings of fact and reply briefs from the parties and
14 intervenors.

15 It's anticipated that the transcript of this
16 hearing will take about 30 days to be completed. This
17 will be provided to the parties and can be made
18 available to the public upon request.

19 I will now officially close this evening
20 portion of the hearing. Thanks again for your
21 participation. For parties and others who might like
22 to be here tomorrow to observe, we will resume at
23 9 o'clock in the morning at the original dining hall
24 location that we started in this week. Thank you.

25 (The meeting concluded at 10:05 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, Lorna M. Prince, a Court Reporter and
Notary Public within and for the State of Maine, do
herby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate
transcript of the proceedings as taken by me by means
of stenograph.

and I have signed:

/s/ Lorna M. Prince

Court Reporter/Notary Public

My Commission Expires: February 6, 2026

Dated: May 3, 2019

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