

## Peaslee, Doris L

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**From:** Kim Lyman <klyman9672@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2018 8:11 AM  
**To:** DEP, NECEC  
**Subject:** Concern about the CMP NECEC Project  
**Attachments:** view of where the power line will go.jpg

Dar Jim Beyer,

My name is Kimberly Lyman. Earlier this summer, I became aware of the project called NECEC, or New England Clean Energy Connect. I've lived in Caratunk, which is a tiny town near The Forks, for the last 21 years. I am a whitewater raft guide, but also an all around enthusiast of not just the outdoors, but of sharing it with people from away who don't have the everyday privilege of connecting with the outdoors.

I think that there is a huge problem with this project and the way it has been planned. I'm not against hydro energy at all, I'd like to make sure you know that. I'm not against business either. Up here, our business IS this 'great outdoors', and we want to stay open for business for a long time. To do that, we need to make sure that our lands continue to have the same allure, and health that has brought generations of people here in the first place. I'm aware that there is no forest like the ones in our area left in the country that are this large and mostly undisturbed. As I would expect the DEP to know, Logging is not what CMP is inaccurately depicting it to be, to make their case look favorable. Logging is done within state guidelines, it is sustainable, it does not do to this area what this CMP line would do. I have friend who is a forester and we've had lengthy discussions about the logging rules that must be followed to protect our resources, and she reassured me that the logging companies follow those rules.

My husband is a fishing guide. He takes people in the Kennebec Gorge. It's a very special place. They catch and release native brook trout, and salmon. I'm not an expert on the fish, but I have heard my husband say many times that it is a very delicate balance that keeps the fish healthy, and here. These are not 'stocked' fish. They need the many tributaries of the river to stay healthy in order to survive.

As a guide, I have driven along the Indian Pond road to the Harris Station Dam many times this year. This year the existing CMP power line corridor that runs parallel to the road was sprayed to keep foliage growth down. That entire area was brown with dead foliage for many weeks after that. Last week, I asked the environmental expert that CMP has had at their public info meetings, Jerry, I believe his name is, what herbicide they are using, and was he aware that they are not 'spot' spraying as he claimed in a previous meeting when that question came up, but literally spraying everything. He also told me he did not know what herbicide is used. He is their environmental representative. He should know these details. There were dead alders immediately next to water. They can claim what they want from their desks, but they are not regulating what their people are doing out the field with these herbicides. Another friend who works on the river just about every day of the summer said he could smell the difference in the Kennebec River down at the Carry Brook access after CMP sprays. That's because the streams that are up around the power line meet and eventually flow into the river right at Carry Brook.

CMP is a company under great scrutiny at the moment, and as a person running a separate business, not 'just' a raft guide, I don't do business with a company that already has a questionable track record and very little public support and just 'hope for the best'.

My other job is in sales and marketing of logo'd products to the collegiate industry, representing a large number of vendors who provide these products. My familiarity with sales and depicting your product accurately, and backing your product and the importance of those factors if you want continued respect in the business community is strong. CMP is blatantly putting inaccurate facts out to the public assuming that many of them will not know the difference. They are depicting this area as 'heavily logged and damaged'. At their info meetings they show a photo of a clear cut and insinuate to people not familiar with this area that is what it looks like up here, which could not be farther from the truth. Too many of us know the difference and we've decided to stand up and fight that. CMP owns the lands they want to do this project on. I understand that. But I also own acreage, right on the Kennebec River, and I am keenly aware that I cannot do just whatever I want with this land. If I planned to do an environmentally devastating project on my land, I would have to appeal to the same boards and commissions that CMP has to appeal to, and without the money to create large pockets of support towards my project, I would likely be denied permission to use my land as I wished. I think that CMP should have to follow those same rules. Their project is aimed on 'going cheap', with truly little regard for what they will do not only to the environment, but to the entire tourism industry in this area. The trade off of their tax dollars, and their 'mitigation' dollars is not worth sacrificing the ever-growing demand of our 'product' - the healthy environment. The more technologically advanced our world gets, and the more developed our more populated regions become, the more valuable this area becomes. We have seen that in recent years, as there are more people coming up here than ever before to 'unplug'. It is honestly not rafting creating the draw anymore. It's about getting outside and finding the best place to do it.

I think CMP should not be allowed to do this, regardless of the money talk. There is not money big enough to buy what this forest is back to what is is now. They should have proposed a much less devastating plan, and work with the actual people of this area, and I don't just refer to the Kennebec River area, I mean all of this area from Caratunk on North to Jackman, whose way of life and businesses will be greatly affected by this project, not with the group of people from this area that they used their own hired person to collect and create a coalition to 'represent' the area people, without any of us knowing about it.

I've attached a photo I took two days ago, when I was guiding on the river. This photo is taken looking directly where the power line they propose will go across the river. CMP has inaccurately depicted their power line. They show faded out simulated pictures, and make it look very inconsequential, but it is not. It's a HUGE deal and will make a huge impact. I care about the effects of this proposed job from top to bottom of this corridor, but I highlight this picture because CMP's blatant lies to all of the people they are selling this project to are not being highlighted. I've attended meeting after meeting. Their simulation photos, meant to make people 'feel better', showing that 'hey, the destruction is minimal' are a farce, they are just about the most inaccurate photos you'll ever see. They are on par with Kim Kardashian's instagram when it comes to 'fake'.

I appreciate your time in reading my concerns. I have other concerns, opinions and thoughts, but I hope this gives you a glimmer. If you have questions, or would like to learn more about what is going on 'out in the field', I'm happy to host any person who would like a window into what treasure we truly have here in Maine, that should not be squandered.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lyman  
cell: 617-840-3288