

Town of Caratunk

Office of Selectmen

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Re: Comments on CMP's Application permit for the New England Clean Energy Connect ("NECEC") from Québec-Maine Border to Lewiston and Related Network Upgrades

To whom it may concern,

Please accept these comments regarding Central Maine Power Company's application for the New England Clean Energy Connect project. The Town of Caratunk is within the project boundaries and is, therefore, directly and indirectly affected.

On March 21, 2018, a CMP representative pitched a brief, overview presentation to the Caratunk Selectmen regarding this project. The representative was looking for a letter of support for their application. Later that week, Caratunk sent in a general letter of support. However, since that time, much information has been brought to light. The Selectmen share great concerns for the welfare of Caratunk residents as well as the State of Maine should this project be brought to fruition.

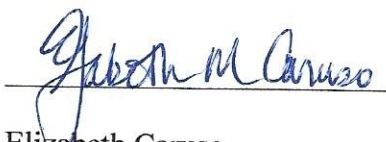
1. The Town of Caratunk has had no representation in this mitigation proceedings. The Town of Caratunk wants to participate and be represented in permitting decisions for this application because the Town is within project boundaries.
2. The Town of Caratunk has not been contacted or asked to be on the board of the LLC handling the mitigation funds. CMP's presentation stated that the Town and community would receive benefits, yet instead, a few CMP representatives privately negotiated only with a few isolated business owners.
3. Should this project go forth as stated, Maine energy would be locked up and prevented from engaging in any future renewable energy generation projects. Caratunk has already twice supported NextEra for a solar farm within its boundaries. This DC line blocks access to solar or other energy projects in Caratunk and Somerset County. One such solar project lost in direct competition to this NECEC. The valuation benefit from CMP's additional transmission lines does not even compare to a large solar project in Caratunk. Caratunk is against the NECEC project if it prevents future renewable energy opportunities that provide for a huge tax benefit to all landowners and significantly increase the Caratunk valuation. Therefore, Caratunk sees this project as reducing its tax revenue.
4. This project is forcing 1000' of transmission lines across a Scenic and Wild River, the Kennebec River, where Caratunk residents make their livelihoods in the whitewater rafting, fishing and hunting tourism industry. Tourists from all over the country travel to

the Kennebec for world class whitewater rafting and kayaking and remote fishing through the Kennebec gorge. Removing the Scenic and Wild and remote wilderness aspect of our area is a direct detriment to Caratunk residents and businesses.

5. Additionally, this corridor is negatively impacting native Maine nature and wildlife as many environmental groups and DIFW have attested.
6. This project is not benefiting the Maine ratepayer with lower rates or cleaner energy. In fact, it may increase greenhouse gas emissions. The Town of Caratunk and its citizens have an interest in lower energy costs and clean energy sources.
7. Evidence regarding Hydro-Quebec's hydro intentions and practices suggest that the profits HQ intends to make on the NECEC would greatly influence its energy production or lack thereof for the grid and negatively impact Maine ratepayers. Caratunk opposes a project within its boundaries that is bad for Maine taxpayers and ratepayers
8. This project is not financially beneficial to the Maine economy or its residents.
9. Independent PUC consultants have found that CMP's project application boasts inflated economic and financial benefits. Similarly, our assessor, an instructor for Maine Revenue Services, confirms that CMP overinflates the proposed valuations in their presentations and that the lines are never assessed that high for tax purposes. Therefore, the tax property increase for Maine towns/cities is far less than CMP's proposal advertised.
10. Green and environmental agencies, DIF&W as well as the Maine Legislature's Committee of Environmental and Natural Resources and the Maine Legislature's Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology have stated valid and alarming concerns on this project.

We see this project as benefiting Hydro-Quebec and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the expense of Caratunk and the State of Maine. This should not be so. **We ask that the DEP, LUPC, PUC, and Massachusetts DPU not be pressured into allowing this project to go forth.** New Hampshire and Vermont protected their states from harmful and devious corporate overreaches. **The Town of Caratunk opposes this harmful project, retracts its prior letter of support sent to the 83D selection committee, and asks the DEP, LUPC, PUC, and DPU to stand up for the Maine ratepayers, business owners and citizens by rejecting this proposed transmission line.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in these proceedings.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Caruso
Select Board Chair
On behalf of Neil Katz, Garret Booth