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Public comment , to Maine PUC, referring to, New England Clean Energy Connect,  
Proposed CMP Powerline Corridor,

Reference to NECEC CMP , Hydro Quebec power line corridor that would forever scar an iconic viewshed of, and from the summit of Coburn Mountain and the North Shoulder.

The summit of Coburn Mt. on lands owned by the Maine Dept of Conservation is 3,718 ft. and is the highest point of elevation between Bigelow Mt. in the Longfellow Range to the Southwest and Mt. Katahdin to the northeast, a distance of nearly 90 miles. From the observation platform at the narrow summit the iconic views are a full 360 degrees to the horizon. The only small line of manmade pavement that can be seen is "Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway" 2.5 miles down and away. It is not uncommon to have hundreds of snowmobilers a day experience the climb to witness the Coburn Mt. viewshed. It is the highest maintained snowmobile trail in the east that I am aware of. Although it seems unimaginable the next highest point of land looking north to northwest is beyond the Boundary Mountains, over the curvature of the Earth, all the way across Quebec and the North Pole until you reach the Volcanos of Northern Siberia. The wind in your face up there has its own uniqueness. Someone long ago appropriately named this place the Upper Enchanted Township and the old ski area "Enchanted Mountain". Four miles southwest is a glacial pocket nestled between 800 foot cliffs called Enchanted Pond.

Nearly the entire length of the new 53 mile CMP corridor with giant stanchions will cut through the Boundary Mountains straight toward Coburn Mountain, up and over the North Shoulder of Coburn, then back in a u-turn to go around the western slope of Johnson Mt.. From there

another u-turn toward Cold Stream Mountain and the southern end of Misery Ridge and Chase Stream Mt.. These are the mountains that were set aside by the Plum Creek Moosehead Lands Project that were being considered for Wind Farms over 15 years ago. That zigzagging doesn't appear to be coincidence. It is the Perfect Storm for the second half of the 300 ft corridor to deliver electricity from future wind farms and the end of the wilderness aspect that feeds our recreational based tourism. No one wants to drive 10 hours from New Jersey to be back in New Jersey when they get here. Northern and Western Maine sell outdoor recreation based on spectacular lakes and mountain viewsheds that Maine has worked to protect for the 198 years of our Statehood. This is no time for our community and state leaders to stand down.

The Morning Sentinel stated that over 85% of the profits from delivering power from Quebec Hydro nonstop to Massachusetts, clogging up Maines own electrical infrastructure goes to conglomerates in Spain. "Iberdrola" which is the parent company of CMP is the number one wind energy producer across the globe (using their own words). A primary shareholder of Iberdrola is "Avangrid" which operates companies such as CMP who deliver power as well as separate companies who create power primarily through wind energy (using their own words). On top of that NECEC is not clean power for Maine. There's nothing written in stone that says Quebec Hydro has to be Hydro, in fact it is more likely that it can't be. Under drought conditions or extreme freeze conditions, overuse brownout conditions or any number of unseen events Quebec Hydro could and will fire up electrical plants that run on gas, coal or tar sands for unlimited amounts of time. The nasty emissions from these plants will be carried on west northwest prevailing winds down over the Boundary Mountains into Maine and Northern New England while Mass gets clean air.

The clever use of keeping CMP as a shell name by a company in Spain is not what Walter Wyman had in mind for Maine. This is not the old home grown CMP that Iberdrola is trying to market to Mainers. These companies see massive profits waiting to be had from the exploitation of our precious treasures, the mountains, rivers and viewsheds which makes up the wilderness character of Northwest Maine.

**WHAT ARE WE THINKING !!**

Much of the major damage to the viewshed on Coburn Mt. is not confined to the summit. The tabletop of the ridgeline on the North Shoulder of Coburn is three to four hundred feet wide and will likely require at least two stantions because of the drop-offs on either side. Topo maps and GPS show coordinates 45 degrees N 29' 8" x 70 degrees 6' 3" to be 2,670 ft. My GPS reads 2,690 ft at the CMP yellow painted site or depending where you stand on the 300 ft wide corridor. The tops of these stantions will be approaching 2800 ft. or higher which is in FAA country. Higher than is commercially allowed by the LUPC without further permits. The stantions will be 4 times the height of the tallest trees along the ridgeline and unless I am

wrong, will require strobes and night lighting by FAA.. CMP stated they would avoid ridgelines and lighting. It seems their deceptions are endless.

The high ridges of the Appalachian Trail expose day hikers and through hikers to views of Coburn Mt. from Bigelow Mt to Gulf Hagas Mt. on the far side of Greenville. Yet none of those ridgelines are higher than the North Shoulder of Coburn where CMP will cut a 300ft wide corridor with two stations (possibly, eventually a cluster of stations) with 24 hour strobes and night lights. All this in the direct viewshed of Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway little more than two miles away.

CMP has chosen the site of the corridor to go over the top of the North Shoulder directly over the ITS 89 snowmobile trail. Typically the snowmobile club would just move the trail. But in this case ,topographically there is nowhere to move it except to go around the entire mountain. I know this because I am the person who laid out and built those trails 18 years ago for the Kennebec Scenic Snow Riders. The viewshed from the 2700 ft ridge is hard to compare with any other ITS in Maine. Tens of thousands of snowmobilers have experienced those views because ITS 89 over Coburn is the only major trail in the last 18 years that links northern Franklin County with Northern Somerset County. The Coburn Mt. trail system in northern Somerset County is a major destination point if not the number one destination in this part of Maine. The Coburn Summit Riders will likely lose those trails to construction or at the least severely compromise them for one or two seasons. Make no mistake that the quality of the experience of witnessing those unbroken viewsheds will be lost for a lifetime. Those snowmobilers and hikers who visit Coburn will not be so quick to return.

The ongoing deceptions and backroom deals that may be common business practice when dealing with these huge energy projects may be acceptable to companies like Iberdrola and pop up LLCs like Western Mountains and Rivers Corp trying to take advantage for their own gain but it is wholly unacceptable to the vast majority of residents and land owners in northwest Maine when the stakes are this high. The up or down voting that's now going on in those northern communities shows an unmistakable trend and domino effect of how the more Mainers learn about the CMP corridor the more they understand how deceptive the whole project is and simply bad for Maine.

