

Kirkland, April

From: Bill Vaughan <bcvaughan54@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2019 11:24 AM
To: Beyer, Jim R
Cc: Bill Vaughan; Christine Vaughan
Subject: DEP public hearing on CMP's proposed transmission line-written comments

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Mr. Beyer,

I fully support all efforts to improve our environment and to make Maine a "Greener" state for our youth and future generations to inherit. However, this proposed powerline project by Central Maine Power (CMP) is not one of those efforts. First, it is causing over 50 miles by 150-foot-wide clear cut through northern Maine. What is the impact on our air and water as a result of the loss of those woodlands on the carbon equation and siltation of our rivers and streams...over a duration of ___? This loss does not reduce Maine or New England's (NE) carbon footprint. I have seen interviews of Maine residents on TV concerning the project. One stated that "shorter" trees would be planted under the power lines within the corridor. I don't know if that statement is true or a misconception. However, I have lived on property in NH that was crossed by a power line right of way. The power company routinely sprayed or chopped down all brush and small trees. Keeping the area clear is required to maintain the corridor and protect the lines. There is no such thing as "short" trees.

CMP is proposing this project to improve their profit line not the environment. A better effort by CMP for Maine and all of NE is for them to invest in their infrastructure. It does not take a hurricane to cut off our electricity any more. Because of these frequent power losses, homeowners are investing in back-up home generators. Add that exhaust to our current carbon problem. These generators typically do a test run every week for about 15 minutes. That contribution needs to be included in the mathematics.

Although these may appear as generalities, I challenge our state government to do the math and generate the true numbers (loss of trees/vegetation and generator carbon emissions), impacts caused by maintaining the corridor and assess what the cost is for the loss of the forest to "Vacation land". Once these are added to the overall assessment, then the CMP carbon reduction would evaporate. Please investigate this project thoroughly.

Sincerely,
William H. Vaughan
Freeport, ME