

## MEMO

To: The File

From: Jim Beyer

Subject: June 27, 2019 Site Visit NECEC

Date: June 28, 2019

On June 27<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Jerry Reid, Presiding Officer Susanne Miller, Project Manager Jim Beyer, and Assistant Attorney General Peggy Bensinger did a site visit of several locations along the route of the proposed project, the CMP NECEC transmission line.

The first location viewed was at the proposed crossing of Cold Stream near the Capital Road. We viewed the proposed corridor route from where it would cross Cold Stream from the existing Capital Road, from the old Capital Road and from the snowmobile bridge over Cold Stream. We then went to the intersection of Tomhegan Stream and the Wilson Hill Road, several hundred feet downstream of the corridor. While on the Wilson Hill Road, we stopped and viewed the location of the proposed corridor. Here we placed stakes in the approximate location of the 150' clearing limits, a typical pole location, and the edges of the wire zone. We also measured and observed the areas where 15-foot tall vegetation would be allowed to grow, the areas where 25-foot tall vegetation would be allowed to grow, and the areas where 35-foot tall vegetation would be allowed to grow. This allowed staff and the Commissioner to visualize how much vegetation would be cut during initial clearing, and the width of differing height vegetation if the applications were approved and tapering were required.

We then proceeded down the Spencer Road, stopping at Rock Pond. While at Rock Pond, we reviewed the applicant's photo-simulations from that area although not from the precise location utilized in the photo-simulations. We attempted to go to Beattie Pond but due to a miscommunication with the landowner were unable to get to it. We went to The Nature Conservancy parking lot at the base of the trail up Number 5 Mountain and the campsite on Whipple Stream. During this portion of the visit, staff observed the forestry activities apparent in the landscape in some places in the area. There were areas with older forest, early successional forest, and recently clear-cut areas.