

Proposed Chapter 90: Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance  
under Maine's *Act to Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution*,  
38 M.R.S. § 1614

Comments of the Hitachi Energy North America

Hitachi Energy appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments in response to Maine's Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed rule for notification requirements, sales prohibitions and currently unavoidable use determinations for products containing intentionally added PFAS under Maine's Act to Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances [PFAS] Pollution (the "Proposed Rule"). Hitachi Energy and grid technology providers will likely be adversely affected by the proposed changes being considered.

Hitachi Energy is a global technology leader that is advancing a sustainable energy future for all. With our North American headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, the company employs more than 6,300 in both manufacturing and office locations throughout the region, serving customers in the utility, industry and infrastructure sectors with innovative solutions and services across the value chain. Together with customers and partners, we pioneer technologies and enable the digital transformation required to accelerate the energy transition toward a carbon-neutral future. Hitachi Energy is proud to have proven track record and unparalleled grid technology installed base in more than 140 countries.

We request a modification of the exemption to include **power grid technologies** alongside the current definition, ***"Nonconsumer electronics, nonconsumer power grid equipment, and nonconsumer laboratory equipment not ordinarily used for personal, family or household purposes."***

Without this inclusion or clarification that power grid technologies apply in the exemption there is a **potential impact to grid technology providers ability to deliver the equipment needed to ensure a reliable and resilient grid.**

The following bullets are some of the key points on power grid equipment which need to be considered in the regulation process.

**Power Grids Are Essential for the Functioning of Society:**

- Power grid products are critical for the reliable and efficient transmission and distribution of electricity, which is fundamental to the functioning of modern society.
- Imposing restrictions on PFAS in power grid products could undermine reliability of critical products and lead to significant disruptions in the power supply, affecting both residential and industrial consumers.
- Power grid products support essential services such as healthcare, emergency services, as well as everyday conveniences like lighting, heating, and communication.

**Lack of Viable Alternatives:**

- Non-consumer power grid infrastructure must meet international safety requirements due to extreme operation conditions (e.g., high voltage, high current, extreme temperatures, adverse weather conditions, etc.). PFAS materials are used in non-

consumer power grid infrastructure due to the unique properties of these materials, such as high thermal stability, chemical resistance, and electrical insulation, which are crucial for the safe operation of electrical infrastructure.

- Currently, viable PFAS-free alternatives that can match the safety, performance, and reliability, standards required for non-consumer power grid infrastructure are extremely limited despite ongoing R&D programs, it is very likely that for some applications no suitable alternatives can be identified.

#### **Trained Professionals and Safety Protocols:**

- The maintenance and operation of power grid products are carried out by highly trained professionals who follow stringent safety and environmental protocols. This ensures overall efficacy and reliability of the grid.
- The useful life of equipment and components is very long, often exceeding 40 years with appropriate maintenance. This contrasts with single-use and/or limited-life consumer goods, which reach their end-of-life sooner.

#### **Support for Renewable Energy Transition:**

- Non-consumer power grid infrastructure plays a crucial role in integrating renewable energy sources into the grid.
- To utilize any renewable energy technology, it must be connected to the electrical network through non-consumer power grid infrastructure. Any legislation or regulation impacting non-consumer power grid sector will greatly impact the availability and accessibility of renewable energy.
- Our ecofriendly circuit breakers utilize 3.5% of C4-FN, a **PFAS not classified as toxic**, by using this small amount of PFAS gas to replace SF6, the global warming impact is reduced by 99% compared to the only other commercially available high voltage transmission switchgear system on the market.

We stand ready to partner with you in the implementation of this critical legislation, to provide further information on the current technology available for power grid technologies, and other discussions on advanced research to support development of new viable alternatives.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with DEP staff to address our comments, provide additional technical information on our products to ensure transparency, and to assist in refining the Proposed Rule prior its finalization.