



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

February 8, 2021

Philip L. Bartlett, II
Maine Public Utilities Commission
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0018

Dear Chair Bartlett:

I have read with dismay recent reports that more than 100 Central Maine Power (CMP) substations may now require costly and unexpected modifications in order to interconnect hundreds of megawatts of new solar projects across our state.

It is especially concerning that some of these problems relate to facilities that are already built and ready to operate, and it is deeply regrettable that CMP apparently did not anticipate these issues at the time they entered into these interconnection agreements. I understand that CMP is discussing this matter with the developers and operators of the projects; however, I believe the public, consumers, policymakers, and the renewable energy sector will all benefit from an objective review of the matter.

In order to properly analyze the genesis of this problem, in order to avoid future challenges with interconnection of distributed energy resources, and in order to avoid costs to Maine consumers, I ask that the Commission open an investigation into this matter at your earliest opportunity.

In addition to this immediate issue, I request that the Commission commence a broader review to ensure that Maine's electric utilities have the systems and planning in place to accommodate the growth of renewables and distributed energy resources that will allow our state to reduce our historically high dependency on high cost fossil fuels.

Thank you and the Commission for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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