



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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

November 19, 2021

Mr. Thorn Dickinson, CEO and President
NECEC Transmission LLC
1 City Center, 5th Floor
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Mr. Dickinson:

Today, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 19 of the Maine Constitution, I signed the proclamation certifying the results of the November 2, 2021 election, including Question 1, which was overwhelmingly approved by Maine voters. With my signature, Question 1 is now adopted and set to become law in thirty days.

I understand that corporate affiliates of Central Maine Power (collectively, CMP) have filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Question 1, which is within their legal right. I hope that the courts, as an independent arbiter, will act in a timely manner to provide clarity and resolve the legal issues so that we can put this controversy to rest, one way or the other. Ultimately, as I have throughout my career in public service, I will respect whatever decision the court reaches, either way.

I also understand that, in accordance with longtime agency practice, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is soliciting testimony from interested stakeholders, including NECEC and CMP, on whether the vote on Question 1 should result in the suspension of DEP's permit for the project. This process exists to ensure that all sides are considered fairly and in a manner that is free from political interference. I respect this process and its integrity, independence, and fairness, and I will not – nor will I ever – instruct DEP to arrive at a certain judgment. Instead, I expect DEP to reach its own independent conclusion based solely on the merits of the briefs, the facts, and existing law.

While the litigation remains pending before the Maine Superior Court, and while the DEP's independent evaluation proceeds, CMP has elected to continue construction of the project. While it is presently within CMP's legal right to do so, and while I have no legal authority to direct you to stop construction, your decision to forge ahead heedless of the clear will of Maine voters and the pending questions before the court and DEP I believe is disrespectful to Maine people.

I support the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) project because it will usher in substantial environmental and economic benefits for Maine, including reducing carbon emissions driven by fossil fuels and suppressing increases in electric rates. But more than any single policy or project, I support the rule of law that governs our society and the will of the people that informs it.



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While these matters are being considered by the DEP and the Court, I believe CMP should give deference to the will of the voters. On behalf of Maine people, I am asking you to honor their will by immediately halting any further construction on NECEC until the DEP and the Court reach their independent conclusions. While you are not legally obligated to do so at this point, immediately halting construction in a voluntary manner will send a clear message to the people of Maine that you respect their will. I strongly urge you to do so.

In the meantime, I have every intention of continuing to hold CMP and Maine's other electric utilities accountable for their management and service, which continues to fall short. Maine people have ceded to CMP a monopoly and, in return, the people deserve safe and reliable electric service at just and reasonable rates. I will hold you to account to deliver them.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet T. Mills', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Janet T. Mills
Governor of Maine