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November 12, 2019

Ms. Susanne Miller  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
106 Hogan Road, Suite 6  
Bangor, Maine 04401

RE: Proposed alternate NECEC route through Merrill Strip TWP

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on CMP's proposed alternate route through Merrill Strip TWP for the proposed NECEC transmission project.

The proposed alternate route is primarily designed to address zoning criteria under consideration by the Land Use Planning Commission. The proposed alternate route does not change Group 6's conclusion with respect to the Department's evaluation criteria under the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Site Location of Development Act. Specifically, as currently proposed—including with the Merrill Strip alternate route—NECEC would have unreasonable impacts and adverse effects on Maine's natural resources, in particular by fragmenting wildlife habitat. As set forth in the testimony presented and the briefs filed by Group 6, to be permitted, the project must be substantially modified in order to avoid, minimize and compensate for these impacts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Rob Wood, on behalf of Group 6 (The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Law Foundation)

Cc: Sean Mahoney and Phelps Turner