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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
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December 21, 2017

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Sent by electronic mail only

**RE: *Central Maine Power's New England Clean Energy Connect Project (NECEC)
Request for public hearing***

Dear Ms. Donoghue, Mr. Voorhees, and Ms. Bernard:

At its December 19, 2017, regular business meeting in Bangor, Maine, the Commission considered your request for a public hearing on the allowed use portion of the NECEC project submitted on December 11, 2017 (copy attached). The Commission voted and decided that it will allow a public hearing on this matter on a date to be determined following consultation with Commission staff and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

The Commission staff will provide additional information regarding the scheduling and logistics of the public hearing once available. Please direct inquiries related to the Commission's certification of this project to my attention.

Regards,



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Request for Public Hearing

Appalachian Mountain Club, Maine Audubon, Natural Resources Council of Maine

December 11, 2017

RE: Central Maine Power's New England Clean Energy Connect Project, Request for Certification

Dear Ms. Horn:

On behalf of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Maine Audubon, and the Natural Resources Council of Maine, please accept this request for a public hearing on the allowed use determination portion of the Commission's certification of Central Maine Power's (CMP) New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) project. Our organizations feel strongly that a public hearing would assist the Commission in their evaluation of whether the portion of the NECEC located in P-RR (Recreation Protection) and P-WL (Wetland Protection) subdistricts will satisfy the special exemption criteria necessary to make an allowed use determination. See Chapter 10, Sections 10.23,I,3,d,8 and 10.23,N,3,d,9.

Specifically, we desire to offer evidence on the conservation, scenic, recreational, and wetland resources impacted by this project—information that is likely very different from the information presented by CMP. CMP's primary function and expertise is the operation of poles, wires, and other infrastructure that makes up the electricity grid. In contrast, the staff and members of our organizations have decades of experience working to understand, improve, and protect the conservation, scenic, recreational, and wetland resources in Maine and in the part of the state impacted by this project in particular.

As recommended by a Commission staff memorandum dated December 7, 2017, we request that the hearing be coordinated with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Respectfully submitted,

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