



MAINE Environment

CMP Transmission Proposal Puts Corporate Profits Ahead of Our Environment and Climate

BY DYLAN VOORHEES, NRCM CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT DIRECTOR



“This project would be a bad deal for Maine, harming our woods, waters, and wildlife—and the people and businesses that depend on them. It would do nothing to reduce climate pollution.”

—NRCM’s Dylan Voorhees

The Natural Resources Council of Maine opposes Central Maine Power’s (CMP) massive, proposed transmission line across western Maine. It would harm Maine’s environment, economy, and way of life—and do nothing to reduce climate-disrupting pollution. It’s a bad deal for Maine.

CMP proposes to build a 145-mile, high-voltage, direct current transmission line from the Quebec border across Maine to deliver power from Hydro-Quebec to Massachusetts customers. The line would connect with the existing electric grid in Lewiston. The project would also require expanding transmission infrastructure in Durham, Windsor, and Wiscasset to prevent the new line from destabilizing the grid. About 53 miles of the route would be a brand new transmission corridor, requiring clearing of a large, undisturbed swath of Maine’s North Woods. It would cross 263 wetlands, 115 streams, and 12 inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat areas, and disturb many recreational resources such as Beattie Pond and the Kennebec River. CMP deceptively calls the transmission line “New England Clean Energy Connect” (NECEC).

Threats to Wildlife

CMP has tried repeatedly to downplay the value of the landscape where the line would cut through northern Franklin and Somerset Counties. But residents and visitors alike now enjoy the area for its abundant recreational opportunities that are important for our Maine way of life and livelihoods in the region. The outstanding natural resources and the outdoor activities they provide drive local economies. Among many important concerns is its harm to wildlife. The project is bad news from the broad, landscape level down to the damage it would do to individual streams. The proposed corridor bisects a globally significant swath of undeveloped forest. NRCM and other conservation organizations are very concerned about the threat the line poses to this large tract of intact habitat.

Along the way, CMP’s transmission line would harm wetlands, vernal pools, and cool, clear brook trout streams. Cutting for both new and expanded transmission corridors would remove shade trees that keep the region’s excellent brook trout streams cool, harming brook trout habitat and fishing opportunities—especially troubling since Maine is the only state with extensive intact populations of wild brook trout. Clearing for the power lines would also keep deer from winter shelter and feeding areas. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife raised very strong concerns about both of these issues in its official comments on the project.

Transmission lines are necessary parts of a system to deliver the electricity that we all rely on, and similar types of impacts can arise with any big transmission line. However, CMP is siting this project through remote western Maine, choosing the cheapest route instead of co-locating along existing roads.

Line of Deception

Perhaps the most cynical aspect of the proposed power line is the misleading claims by CMP that the project is needed in

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Sally Mountain has a stunning view of the Upper Moose River basin, but this part of the North Woods would be bisected by CMP’s proposed power line.

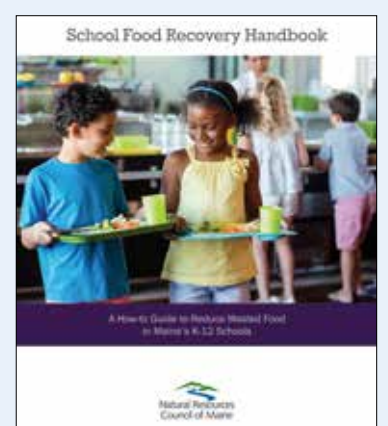
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NRCM’s School Food Recovery Handbook

Maine’s K-12 schools generate seven million pounds of food waste annually, according to NRCM estimates. This staggering number reflects the larger, global problem of food waste. Tragically at the same time, one in four Maine kids is experiencing food insecurity. These numbers highlight a missed opportunity for schools to maximize student potential by feeding hungry students, while saving money and protecting our natural resources. To address this issue, NRCM created our *School Food Recovery Handbook*. Hundreds of Maine schools are composting and engaging in other food waste reduction activities. If you want to learn more about school food waste reduction strategies, request your copy of the Handbook. It tailors strategies popular in the field of food recovery to meet the unique circumstances found in the school setting. Contact Chrissy Adamowicz, Sustainable Maine Outreach Coordinator, at Chrissy@nrcm.org or (207) 430-0144 or download it at our website at nrcm.org.





• THE BIG PICTURE • Let's Get Going Again

The elections are now behind us and it's time to get going again. NRCM is committed to working with the new Mills Administration and all new (and former) legislators to move forward. We are excited to start making serious progress protecting our environment. We have spent too much time in the past eight years just trying to save the environmental laws that generations of Mainers have worked hard to put in place. We have successfully held the line, and made a few gains, but we need to do so much more.

The impacts of climate change continue to worsen. Solar installations have proceeded very slowly because Maine has neglected opportunities to help solar users get going, while our neighboring states with supportive solar policies are charging ahead. The Land for Maine's Future program has run out of funds to conserve lands that could be enjoyed by families everywhere. Our oceans are being filled with plastics at a dire rate; a recent study predicts that by 2050, there will be more tons of plastic than fish in our seas. As of the election, 19 Maine towns have passed ordinances to reduce the use of single use plastic bags, but last year we had to defeat a measure that would have blocked towns from passing ordinances about another environmental issue: pesticide use.

It's time to move forward. The latest United Nations climate report warns that consequences could be drastic with "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes" if we don't act quickly and intensively to address global warming by 2030. The majority of Mainers want our state to take charge, do our part, and increase renewable energy and efficiency. We need a serious commitment to replenish Land for Maine's Future's funds, to be able to conserve places that are special to citizens and communities throughout Maine. We need to help towns do more to lead through example on plastics and other sustainability issues, so that other towns can follow. We need to support these efforts, not block them at every turn.

NRCM is dedicated to protecting Maine's environment. We look forward to working with the Mills Administration and Legislature so we can all get going again.

Help Stop the CMP Transmission Line! HERE ARE SOME ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE:

- ✓ **Sign our petition** nrcm.salsalabs.org/opposenecec
- ✓ **Join our Action Network** to get e-alerts: www.nrcm.org/take-action
- ✓ **Submit a public comment** to the Public Utilities Commission
- ✓ **Write to your legislator** to tell them that this is a bad deal for Maine.
- ✓ **Send a letter-to-the-editor** of your local paper about why this is a bad deal for Maine.

Thank you for caring about Maine's environment!

CMP - from Page 1

order to combat climate change. In recent memory, few have been more hostile to renewable energy and energy efficiency than Central Maine Power. Given this history, NRCM and others are rightly skeptical of CMP's claim that its massive transmission project would help achieve Maine's climate and clean energy goals.

NRCM has invested considerable time and resources to really understand the details of how this project would affect climate-disrupting carbon pollution. One thing is clear: There will be just as much climate pollution produced whether the line is built or not. In fact, the line could even cause an increase in climate pollution.

The line would not result in any additional renewable energy production. CMP's permit proposal explicitly states that Hydro-Quebec would not construct any new generation resources to supply energy to Massachusetts through a transmission line across Maine. Hydro-Quebec and CMP have tried to distract Mainers with misleading and vague statements about generation upgrades and dams already under construction. At the end of the day, Hydro-Quebec plans to supply the line mostly from power plants that are already providing their power to someone (in or out of Quebec). In addition, Hydro-Quebec may even import cheap, dirty fossil fuels so that the company can make more profits by selling its "hydropower" at a premium to Massachusetts.

The truth is, CMP's proposal is likely to hinder Maine's efforts to develop in-state renewable energy sources, which actually *would* reduce carbon emissions. Such an investment would also create jobs and economic opportunities for Maine people. Independent experts have also discredited CMP's exaggerated claims for job numbers and property tax payments. We need to measure clean energy solutions based on whether they deliver real benefits, not on whether they will deliver \$60 million a year in profits to shareholders of CMP.

Building Opposition

NRCM is pleased that Maine people and organizations are recognizing the threats CMP's proposal poses to Maine's environment and economy. Momentum is turning hard against the corporation's proposal as individuals, businesses, and communities learn more about the harm and true cost to our state. This is a testament to the power of citizens organizing, even in the face of well-financed, well-connected, multi-national companies like CMP, whose parent company is in Spain.

The public outcry was overwhelming at the three public hearings held by the Public Utilities Commission, the first agency to consider whether or not to grant the project a permit.

Additionally, at least five towns have voted so far to oppose the project or retract their earlier statements of support, which were made before the details of the project were well understood. Hunters, anglers, and wilderness guides are becoming outspoken about the problems the power line would inflict on them and their livelihoods.

Permitting processes are underway at the Public Utilities Commission, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC). A large number of opponents have intervened in each proceeding, and we expect public hearings at the DEP and LUPC early next year.

This project would be a bad deal for Maine. It would harm our woods, waters, and wildlife—and the people and businesses that depend on them. It would do absolutely nothing to reduce climate pollution.

NRCM Board Updates

Welcome to our new board members! At its September 2018 meeting, NRCM's Board of Directors elected five new members who will begin one-year terms effective at the November meeting:



Emily Beck (Seal Cove) is a recently retired attorney who moved from New York to Seal Cove in 2005. Until 2017 she was an owner and partner of Young Beck LLP, a general practice firm whose practice included Non-profit law and Land Use and Conservation. She has been a director of the MDI Historical Society and editor of its annual magazine, *Chebacco*. Emily is currently a director of Friends of Acadia and a member of the MDI Lands Committee of Maine Coast Heritage Trust.



Charles Culbertson (Alna) is a microbial ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Augusta who began his USGS career in 1978 with the National Research Program (NRP) in Menlo Park, CA. He spent 21 years on research topics including microbial transformations of arsenic, selenium, mercury, chlorofluorocarbons, and hydrocarbons. He now works for the USGS New England Water Science Center on fresh and estuarine water quality issues, as well as on the occurrence and distribution of arsenic in drinking water supplies.



Kathryn Olmstead (Caribou) moved to Maine in 1974 and has served as regional representative for US Senator Bill Cohen, journalist for the *Aroostook Republican and News*, and as a *Bangor Daily News* correspondent. She has taught journalism and photography at UMaine in Fort Kent and Presque Isle. For 25 years she was a journalism faculty member at the University of Maine—six as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She co-founded *Echoes*, a quarterly journal of rural culture. Kathy is a trustee of Maine Public and a member of the Maine Community Foundation Gannett Scholarship Committee.



Stephanie Smith (Camden) summered in Maine as a child and moved here after serving as Director of Parent Services at Matrix Parent Network & Resource Center in California. Before that, she worked as Director of the Child Life Department at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Stephanie is passionate about conservation and sustainability issues. She headed up the effort to pass the plastic and paper bag ordinance in Camden. She serves on the Camden Conservation Commission.



Edward Simmons (Cousin's Island in Yarmouth) is a partner at Hightower Advisors in Portland. He began his career as a teacher for Lawrenceville School in New Jersey and the American International School in Vienna, Austria. He served as headmaster at Dunn School in California and at Sun Valley School in Idaho. In 1987 he became a Senior Vice President at Merrill Lynch in Portland. Ed is an active outdoors person and has volunteered for Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation, Friends of Casco Bay, and the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, among others. He is a summer resident of Rangeley.

The Board of Directors also re-elected the following:

First three-year term	Second three-year term	Retired from the Board of Directors this fall
Maria Gallace	Tom Carr	Didi Manns
Peter Millard	Sally Oldham	
Liz Rettenmaier	Tony Owens, MD	
Bonnie Wood		

Congratulations to Our 2018 Conservation Leadership Award Recipients

On October 17, we had the honor of presenting five outstanding individuals with our Conservation Leadership Award, which we give each year to people or groups who have made an extraordinary contribution to the protection of Maine's land, air, waters, or wildlife. This year's event was held at the First Universalist Church in Yarmouth and included special musical performances by the Women in Harmony Outreach Ensemble and NRCM's Carly Peruccio. We are so pleased to congratulate this year's award recipients:



Back row l and clockwise: Lisa Pohlmann, Robin Robinson, Ole Jaeger, Daniel Hildreth (accepting for his father), Bill Mook, and Sandy Jaeger.

Horace "Hoddy" Hildreth (Falmouth), *Lifetime Achievement Award winner*, for more than four decades of public service in conservation and as a business voice for the environment

Sandy and Ole Jaeger (Georgetown) for exemplifying an informed and highly engaged citizenry necessary for holding their elected officials accountable

Bill Mook (Walpole) for putting his real-life experience as a shellfish grower and business owner into advocacy work for clean water and a healthy climate

Robin Robinson (Brunswick), *People's Choice Award winner*, for creating a flourishing online educational community of people who share photos and information about all aspects of Maine's wild birds, including threats to their habitats and opportunities to make a difference

"These individuals set an example for each of us, and across generations, about what it means to take care of the Maine we love," says NRCM CEO Lisa Pohlmann. "Congratulations to each of them." NRCM has presented the award for more than 30 years. Past recipients include Senator George Mitchell, natural history author Phyllis Austin, former Baxter State Park Director Buzz Caverly, Olympic champion/clean air activist Joan Benoit Samuelson, and more than a hundred other citizen heroes who have made a difference in their communities and beyond.



► People's Choice finalist Phoebe MacDonald, a third-grader from Portland, presented reusable straws to all of this year's Conservation Leadership Award winners.

◀ Women in Harmony Outreach Ensemble performed two musical selections in honor of the occasion.



Join Us Monday, December 31

11:00 AM 5K run/walk from Back Cove Parking Lot

12:00 PM Polar Bear Dip, East End Beach, Portland

All funds support our work for a clean, renewable energy future for Maine. This is your chance to fight climate change at a wildly fun event! Learn more and register today at nrcm.salsalabs.org/dipdash.



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Catie Wronker

Tax-wise Giving

EVERY gift to NRCM has an impact on Maine's environment. Every single gift. And we thank you.

Some gifts, however, may have a bigger impact on your bottom line. For members who are 70 and a half or older, the Charitable IRA Rollover offers unique tax benefits. The Charitable IRA Rollover has been around for several years, but it is gaining in popularity. It may be especially beneficial to some donors because the tax bill passed late last year changes who can benefit from itemizing their deductions, including their gifts to charity.

The Charitable IRA Rollover enables donors to make a direct transfer—known as a qualified charitable distribution—from an Individual Retirement Account to a charity of the donor's choice. The gift counts toward the donor's Required Minimum Distribution. The donor does not pay income tax on the amount transferred to charity, which could lower his or her tax burden.

Donors may give through a Traditional IRA or an Inherited IRA, though other plans may be used, too.

Donors may give up to a total of \$100,000 tax free during a calendar year using the Charitable IRA Rollover.

We encourage you to consult with your financial advisor to determine whether a Charitable IRA Rollover is right for you. —Gretta Wark, Senior Director, Philanthropy

New from Our Blogs



Squirrel Booms, Wild Turkeys, and Passenger Pigeons in the Year of the Bird Noticed the abundance of gray squirrels in Maine this year? Do you know what squirrels, Wild Turkeys, and Passenger Pigeons have in common? Find out in the latest Year of the Bird blog by NRCM's Allison Wells and husband Jeff, lifelong birders.

My First Visit to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

Read about NRCM member Betty Hartley's first (but not last!) trip to visit the Monument, including how she saved a rabbit's life!

Baby Bats Need Love, Too In her October blog, Deborah Perkins, wildlife ecologist and owner of First Light Wildlife Habitats, sets the record straight and sheds light on these remarkable creatures. She has found that most people value bats as an important cog in the wheel of biodiversity and are keen to know more about their behavior and life history.

The Natural Resources Council of Maine Supports Bag and Polystyrene Bans Did you know that by 2050, researchers predict that there will be more tons of plastic than fish in the ocean? Read our blog post to find out how you can take steps to reduce plastic pollution in your town.

CONNECT TO PROTECT Be a part of Maine's most effective and exciting "social scene" of people like you who care about our land, air, waters, and wildlife—like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram to stay up to date on the latest news and events.



2019 Nature of Maine Calendars Make Great Gifts!

Our beautiful wall calendar makes a great gift, showing gorgeous photos of the Maine you love. Contact us at nrcm@nrcm.org if you'd like more for the holidays. What a unique way to share the beauty of Maine's environment every day!



MY MAINE THIS WEEK



Callie Wronker, of Jefferson and Portland, Maine, is a regular contributor to our My Maine This Week web feature. She has so many lovely photos, we created a slideshow of her images, as we often do with our regular My Maine photographers. We are delighted to showcase her stunning nature and wildlife photos—these are just a sample! Visit our website at www.nrcm.org/my-maine-this-week to view more of her pics of wildlife swimming, climbing trees, or having "conversations" with their neighbors. Also

view beautiful lakes and other images from around the state. Many thanks to Callie for sharing her beautiful photos with us!

Do you have a photograph of Maine you'd like to share? A short poem? Send your submissions to beth@nrcm.org. Visit "My Maine This Week" online at www.nrcm.org for guidelines and more photos.

Gift Memberships • MAY 1, 2018 TO OCTOBER 31, 2018

David Anderson and Jasmine Inglesmith by Shannon Anderson
Danielle Conway by Gail Balch
Greg Mahler by Henry Mahler

Shirley LeSuer by Lorrie Ferrari and Tony Succu
Nathaniel Smith by Jonathan Smith
Anna Nellis Smith by Jonathan Smith

Honorarium and Memorial Gifts • MAY 1, 2018 TO OCTOBER 31, 2018

Debra Boothby in loving memory of Fippy's family
Mary Elizabeth Curry in memory of her dear friend Helen
Joan Gosnell in memory of Helen Curran
Margaret Cianfarini in memory of Susan Chaffee Welch
Mary H. Cray in memory of Susan Chaffee Welch
Sarah M. Edwards in memory of Susan Chaffee Welch
Sara C. Foster in memory of Susan Chaffee Welch
Eliza N. Miller in memory of Susan Chaffee Welch
Nancy G. Platt in memory of Susan Chaffee Welch
Sandy Rief and Diane Egner in memory of Deanne Roberts
Ruth M. Ryan in memory of Arthur and Abby Ryan

Mary Lee P. Ward in memory of Susan Chaffee Welch
Marion Brown in memory of Helen Black
Friends and family in honor of Rick Johnston on his birthday
Cynthia and Paul Stancioff in honor of the marriage of Silas Leavitt and Emma Morgenstern
Steve Wessler in honor of Jane Rosinski on her birthday
Lorraine Polak in honor of Judy and Alec Watson
Lowell and Joan Freiman in honor of Chuck Acker's 90th birthday
Carolyn Morgenstern in honor of Emma Morgenstern and Silas Leavitt's wedding
William and Marion Wise in memory of Susan Chaffee Welch

Partners in Maine's Future • MAY 1, 2018 TO OCTOBER 31, 2018

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With Your Support, We Will Persist and Succeed

Since 1959, the Natural Resources Council of Maine has worked tirelessly to protect the air we breathe, the waters we rely on, and the forests that are our livelihoods and our solace. We are able to do it all because of you. This legislative session alone, we:



Stacie Haines

- ✓ **Protected Maine's Bottle Bill.**
- ✓ **Stopped a bad pesticide bill.**
- ✓ **Ensured that a food waste bill was enacted.**
- ✓ **Helped to defeat a bill to tax electric vehicles and hybrids.**

These successes are your successes, too. You make all of this possible.

Together, we enter 2019 with what we hope will be a brighter era for Maine's

environment. We hope going forward we can be more *proactive* and less *reactive*. We plan to work with legislators from any political party and are optimistic that legislators will no longer be bullied into voting the way the governor wants but will vote for what is best for the state.

We can't thank you enough for weathering the storm with us. But while optimistic about our state government, our fight continues to protect the nature of Maine from corporations that would destroy our treasured land for profit. We are in an all-out effort to stop Central Maine Power's proposed 145-mile high-voltage transmission line through western Maine, and we know that other threats may be lurking on the horizon. United, we can do what no one person can accomplish alone.

Enclosed is a postage-paid envelope to enclose your year-end charitable donation to protect the nature of Maine. Thank you for caring about the environment as much as our staff and board do, and for putting your trust in NRCM to turn your gift into meaningful action.

During this season of giving, thank you for protecting the nature of Maine. Throughout the year, please know that you make a significant difference protecting our land, air, waters, and wildlife. You make so much good happen. Thank you!

—Stacie Haines, NRCM Membership Director

Tip of the Day



Beth Comeau

LEAVE LEAVES. Fallen leaves provide great foraging places for birds and bugs, and when they rot, they help the soil. If you must rake them, shred and mix them in to your compost bin for use in the spring. *For a green tip of the day every day, visit NRCM's website at www.nrcm.org.*

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