

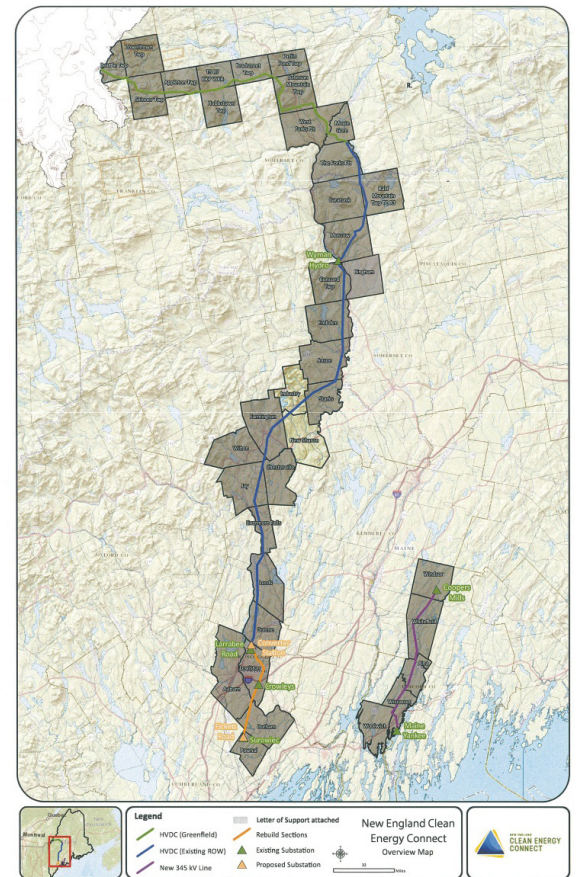


# CMP's Transmission Line: A Bad Deal for Maine

Maine people, our economy, and our environment are interdependent. Decisions that affect our natural resources affect all who care about and live in Maine. Central Maine Power (CMP) is proposing to build a 145-mile transmission line through Maine, called New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC), to connect Massachusetts electricity users to hydropower in Quebec. The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) opposes this project because it would harm Maine's environment while providing no new renewable energy and no reductions in climate-disrupting carbon emissions. While very lucrative for CMP and Hydro-Quebec, NECEC is a bad deal for Maine and New England.

## Some Problems with CMP's Transmission Proposal:

1. **Won't reduce climate-changing pollution, and may actually increase it.**
2. **Cuts 53 miles of new transmission lines through undeveloped forests in Maine's North Woods.** Massive towers and wires would fragment the globally significant North Woods.
3. **Threatens wildlife.** CMP's transmission line would harm wetlands, vernal pools, and cool, clear brook trout streams. It would block deer from winter shelter and feeding areas.
4. **Jeopardizes the construction of new in-state renewable energy projects and clean energy jobs.** Energy experts say that dumping this huge amount of Canadian hydropower onto the New England electricity grid is likely to crowd out opportunities for new and existing renewable energy development and block access to markets.





## Environmental Impacts of CMP's Transmission Line:

### Damages Maine's North Woods without Reducing Climate Pollution

CMP's transmission line would do *nothing* to reduce the pollution that causes climate change. We need to generate *more new* renewable power to reduce harmful climate pollution. CMP's line would transmit *no new* renewable power. Instead, the line through Maine would take electricity Hydro-Quebec now sends to customers in places like New York or Ontario, and send it to Massachusetts instead. Consequently, customers in those places would need to purchase electricity from other sources, such as coal or natural gas. This would increase air and climate pollution, especially in the winter when Quebec has to *import* dirty power to cover its own demand as well as its exports to other provinces and states (power that the company calls "clean").



### Jeopardizes Clean, Renewable Energy for Maine

Energy experts have found that dumping huge amounts of existing hydropower from Canada onto the New England electricity grid is likely to crowd the market and prevent existing and future new renewable energy resources from getting access to energy markets. Developing *new* renewable energy resources in Maine and New England would provide significant climate and economic benefits. CMP's power line would *not*.

### Threatens Maine's North Woods

The proposed CMP transmission line would cut 53 miles of *brand new corridor* through currently undeveloped parts of Maine's North Woods, damaging the scenic beauty of these places and the economic benefits its wilderness qualities provide.



### Threatening Wildlife and Habitat

This proposed CMP line would require the widening of another 92 miles of transmission line corridor, including clearing vegetation through 263 wetlands, across 115 streams and 12 inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat areas, and near remote Beattie Pond. This cutting would remove shade trees that keep the region's excellent brook trout streams cool, harming brook trout habitat and fishing opportunities. The transmission line would also harm Maine's deer herd by blocking access to deer winter shelter and feeding areas.

For more information, contact Sophie Janeway, Climate and Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator (207) 430-0142, [sophie@nrcm.org](mailto:sophie@nrcm.org), or visit [www.nrcm.org/projects/climate](http://www.nrcm.org/projects/climate).



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