

CRITICAL INSIGHTS PHONE POLL ON CMP POWER LINE
CORE SURVEY QUESTIONS
Fielded: March 11 to March 27, 2019

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is _____ and I'm calling on behalf of Critical Insights, a research firm in Portland. We're conducting a very short survey about an important issue in Maine, and we would like to include your views. We're not trying to sell you anything, and your responses will never be connected with you or anyone in your household. It will only take a few minutes.

Core Questions

I would like to ask you some questions about Central Maine Power's proposal to build a 150-mile transmission line corridor through Maine that would deliver electricity generated in Canada to customers in Massachusetts.

1. First, have you seen, read, or heard anything recently about Central Maine Power's plan to build this power line through Western Maine?
 1. Yes **89%**
 2. No **10%**
 3. **(DO NOT READ)** Not sure **1%**
 4. **(DO NOT READ)** Prefer not to say

[IF YES ABOVE, ASK:]

2. Overall, has the information you have seen, read, or heard about the proposed CMP corridor been positive, negative, or neutral?
 1. Positive **7%**
 2. Negative **54%**
 3. Neutral **32%**
 4. **(DO NOT READ)** Not sure **7%**
 5. **(DO NOT READ)** Prefer not to say

[ASK ALL:]

3. Based on everything you may know about the proposed CMP corridor, would you support or oppose its construction? **[IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, FOLLOW UP WITH:** Would you say you *strongly* support/oppose this project or *somewhat* support/oppose this project?]

1. Strongly support	7%	Net Support: 15%
2. Somewhat support	8%	
3. Somewhat oppose	14%	Net Oppose: 65%
4. Strongly oppose	51%	
5. (DO NOT READ) Have no opinion	13%	
6. (DO NOT READ) Not sure	7%	
7. (DO NOT READ) Prefer not to say		

Let me share some additional information about the project. The proposed CMP corridor would require cutting a new fifty-three mile long corridor through forests in Western Maine. The corridor would be 300-foot-wide and would deliver electricity generated by Hydro-Quebec to customers in Massachusetts. Proponents claim the project would create jobs, benefit Maine communities, and help protect the environment, while opponents claim the project would damage Maine's environment, harm renewable energy companies, and primarily benefit residents of Massachusetts.

4. Based on this additional information, would you support or oppose construction of the CMP corridor? **[IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, FOLLOW UP WITH:** Would you say you *strongly* support/oppose this project or *somewhat* support/oppose this project?]

1. Strongly support	7%	Net Support: 15%
2. Somewhat support	8%	
3. Somewhat oppose	13%	Net Oppose: 70%
4. Strongly oppose	57%	
5. (DO NOT READ) Have no opinion	8%	
6. (DO NOT READ) Not sure	7%	
7. (DO NOT READ) Prefer not to say		

[IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSES ABOVE, ASK:]

5. For what reasons do you support/oppose the project? **[OPEN END.]**

6. I'm going to read you two statements, and I would like you to say which one comes closest to your view. **[REVERSE ORDER OF STATEMENTS FOR HALF.]**

1. Overall, the CMP corridor would be a good deal for Maine people	13%
2. Overall, the CMP corridor would be a bad deal for Maine people	72%
3. (DO NOT READ) Not sure	14%

7. I'm going to read you two more statements, and I would like you to say which one of these comes closest to your view. **[REVERSE ORDER OF STATEMENTS FOR HALF.]**
- | | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| 1. Overall, the CMP corridor would do more good than harm to our environment | 16% | |
| 2. Overall, the CMP corridor would do more harm than good to our environment | 68% | |
| 3. (DO NOT READ) Not sure | | 16% |
8. This year, Maine lawmakers will consider a bill that would require the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to conduct an independent review of the CMP corridor project before a permit is granted to determine whether the project would actually benefit the climate by reducing greenhouse gas pollution, as CMP claims. Would you support or oppose a bill requiring the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to conduct such an independent study? **[IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, FOLLOW UP WITH: Would you say you *strongly* support/oppose this bill or *somewhat* support/oppose this bill?]**
- | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Strongly support | 46% | Net Support: 65% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 19% | |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 4% | Net Oppose: 21% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 17% | |
| 5. (DO NOT READ) Have no opinion | 5% | |
| 6. (DO NOT READ) Not sure | 9% | |
| 7. (DO NOT READ) Prefer not to say | | |
9. If your state legislator supported CMP's transmission corridor, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for them in the future, or would it have no impact on your likelihood to vote for them? **[IF MORE OR LESS LIKELY, FOLLOW UP WITH: Would you say you are *much* more/less likely to vote for them or *a little* more/less likely to vote for them?]**
- | | | |
|---|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Much more likely | 5% | Net More Likely: 7% |
| 2. A little more likely | 2% | |
| 3. A little less likely | 10% | Net Less Likely: 43% |
| 4. Much less likely | 33% | |
| 5. No impact | 36% | |
| 6. (DO NOT READ) Not sure | 13% | |
| 7. (DO NOT READ) Prefer not to say | | |
10. Do you believe the governor of Maine should support the CMP transmission corridor, oppose the CMP transmission corridor, or take no position on the CMP transmission corridor?
- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Support | 11% |
| 2. Oppose | 47% |
| 3. Take no position | 23% |
| 4. (DO NOT READ) Not sure | 18% |
| 5. (DO NOT READ) Prefer not to say | 1% |

11. Several Maine towns have voted to oppose CMP's corridor project, but CMP may try to use a loophole in Maine law to override local authority and build the project anyway.

If CMP decides to bypass the will of local towns to build this project, would that make you more likely or less likely to support the project, or would it have no impact? **[IF MORE OR LESS LIKELY, FOLLOW UP WITH: Would you say you would be *much* more/less likely to support the project or a *little* more/less likely to support the project?]**

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1. Much more likely | 2% | Net More Likely: 3% |
| 2. A little more likely | 2% | |
| 3. A little less likely | 7% | Net Less Likely: 68% |
| 4. Much less likely | 62% | |
| 5. No impact | 21% | |
| 6. (DO NOT READ) Not sure | 7% | |
| 7. (DO NOT READ) Prefer not to say | | |

12. Would you support or oppose passage of a bill in the Maine legislature that would prevent CMP from forcing towns to accept the transmission line passing through their town? **[IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, FOLLOW UP WITH: Would you say you *strongly* support/oppose this type of bill, or *somewhat* support/oppose this type of bill?]**

- | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. Strongly support | 52% | Net Support: 62% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 10% | |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 5% | Net Oppose: 21% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 16% | |
| 5. (DO NOT READ) Have no opinion | 7% | |
| 6. (DO NOT READ) Not sure | 9% | |
| 7. (DO NOT READ) Prefer not to say | | |

13. Finally, proponents of the CMP corridor say that one of its largest benefits would be that it would reduce the cost of electricity. According to the Maine Public Utilities Commission, the amount of the savings for the average Maine household would be about one dollar per month. Would such a benefit make you more likely to support, less likely to support, or make no difference on your support for the CMP corridor? **[IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, FOLLOW UP WITH: Would you say it makes you much more likely to support/oppose this bill, or a *little* support/oppose this type of bill?]**

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1. Much more likely to support | 2% | Net More Likely: 4% |
| 2. A little more likely to support | 3% | |
| 3. A little more likely to oppose | 7% | Net Less Likely: 51% |
| 4. Much more likely to oppose | 44% | |
| 5. (DO NOT READ) No Impact | 37% | |
| 6. (DO NOT READ) Not sure | 7% | |
| 7. (DO NOT READ) Prefer not to say | | |