



View from Summit #5, which CMP transmission line would cross. Photo by Todd Towle.

## CMP Line Is A Bad Deal for Maine

### TOP 4 REASONS THE CMP TRANSMISSION LINE IS A BAD DEAL FOR MAINE

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, harming brook trout, deer, other wildlife, and the tourism economy.
3. Jeopardizes the construction of new in-state renewable energy projects and clean energy jobs.
4. Generates billions of dollars of profit for Central Maine Power and Hydro-Quebec while offering very little to Maine people and businesses.

### CMP Line Is Bad for Our Climate

- **CMP's transmission line would do nothing to reduce climate-changing pollution because it will result in no new renewable energy being created.**
- **The proposed project is not about climate. It's about making CMP more money. It's a shell game to sell existing hydropower to Massachusetts because they've agreed to pay more for it.**
- **Maine needs investments in renewable energy projects with real environmental benefits, not a massive and harmful transmission corridor that lines CMP's pockets.**

To reduce harmful climate pollution, we need to generate more new renewable power. Hydro-Quebec and CMP stated in their application that **no new generation capacity will be built as part of this transmission project**. Instead, the line through Maine would take electricity Hydro-Quebec now sends to customers in places like New York and Ontario and redirect it to Massachusetts. Customers in these regions would then need to purchase electricity from other, dirtier sources, likely fossil-fuel power plants. This means there would be potentially no overall reduction in air and climate pollution from NECEC.

It is even possible the project could *increase* carbon pollution. For example, Hydro-Quebec could buy cheap energy from fossil fuels to send to its current customers, and then sell its existing hydropower at a higher price to Massachusetts. This "buy low, sell high" business model would allow the company to create a façade of providing clean energy, when in fact it is engaging in greenwashing dirty electricity.

CMP and Hydro-Quebec have also made grossly misleading claims that they need the new transmission line for "wasted power" in the form of water spilling over their dams. This is not true.<sup>1</sup> Hydro-Quebec lacks sufficient hydropower turbines in its existing dams to create more power, and it's not building any new ones for this project. The reality is that Hydro-Quebec has enough capacity to export all the power it produces—it just wants to make more money by selling it to Massachusetts.

1 See, for example, EASI Power LLC. 2016. Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts: New Class I resource vs. Existing Large Hydro. Pp. 1, 5. Accessed at [granitestatepowerlink.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ESAI-GSPL-CO2-Analysis-9-13-17-FINAL.pdf](http://granitestatepowerlink.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ESAI-GSPL-CO2-Analysis-9-13-17-FINAL.pdf).

## Large-scale Destruction and Disruption in Maine's North Woods

**CMP's transmission line would permanently damage undeveloped forests in Maine's North Woods, harming wildlife and causing destruction that reverberates beyond the gash created by the power line.**

CMP's proposed project would cut 53 miles of new transmission line corridor, as wide as the New Jersey Turnpike, for new power lines through undeveloped parts of Maine's North Woods. The damage would fragment the largest contiguous temperate forest in North America and perhaps the world.<sup>2</sup> It would also disrupt animal migration routes and the ability of the forest to respond to climate change.

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*"An overwhelming percentage of our members are opposed to the NECEC corridor...Therefore, we hereby rescind our support of this project."*

*—Sportsman's Alliance of Maine*

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This destruction would clear trees and plants through 263 wetlands, across 115 streams, and near remote Beattie Pond. It would disrupt 12 areas that provide critical protection for inland waterfowl and wading birds. According to Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, CMP's transmission line would also harm Maine's deer herd by blocking access to deer winter shelter and feeding areas. It could also completely block the ability of deer to move through these areas to find food or escape predators when snow is deep.<sup>3</sup>



TODD TOWLE

*Maine Heritage Brook Trout Waters would be harmed by this project.*

## Harms the King of Maine Sport Fish: Brook Trout

**CMP's transmission line would cut right through the heart of Maine's brook trout habitat, including areas where public agencies and private citizens have spent many millions of dollars and thousands of working hours to protect the brook trout.**

CMP has refused to provide protection for brook trout that state agencies have requested. CMP's proposed transmission line would cross 724 lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Roads associated with the project would cross 184 streams.<sup>4</sup>

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has stated that CMP must provide 100-foot vegetated buffers for all streams in order to protect brook trout.

Brook trout use both permanent and intermittent seasonal streams for habitat, and they need trees and plants along the streams to keep the water cool. Despite the clear evidence that these buffers work, CMP continues to refuse to provide 100-foot vegetated buffers for all streams as part of their project.

<sup>2</sup> Janet McMahon. 2016. Diversity, Continuity, Resilience—The Ecological Values of the Western Maine Mountains. Maine Mountain Collaborative. P. 1. Accessed at [mainemountaincollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Ecological-Values-of-the-Western-Maine-Mountains.pdf](http://mainemountaincollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Ecological-Values-of-the-Western-Maine-Mountains.pdf)

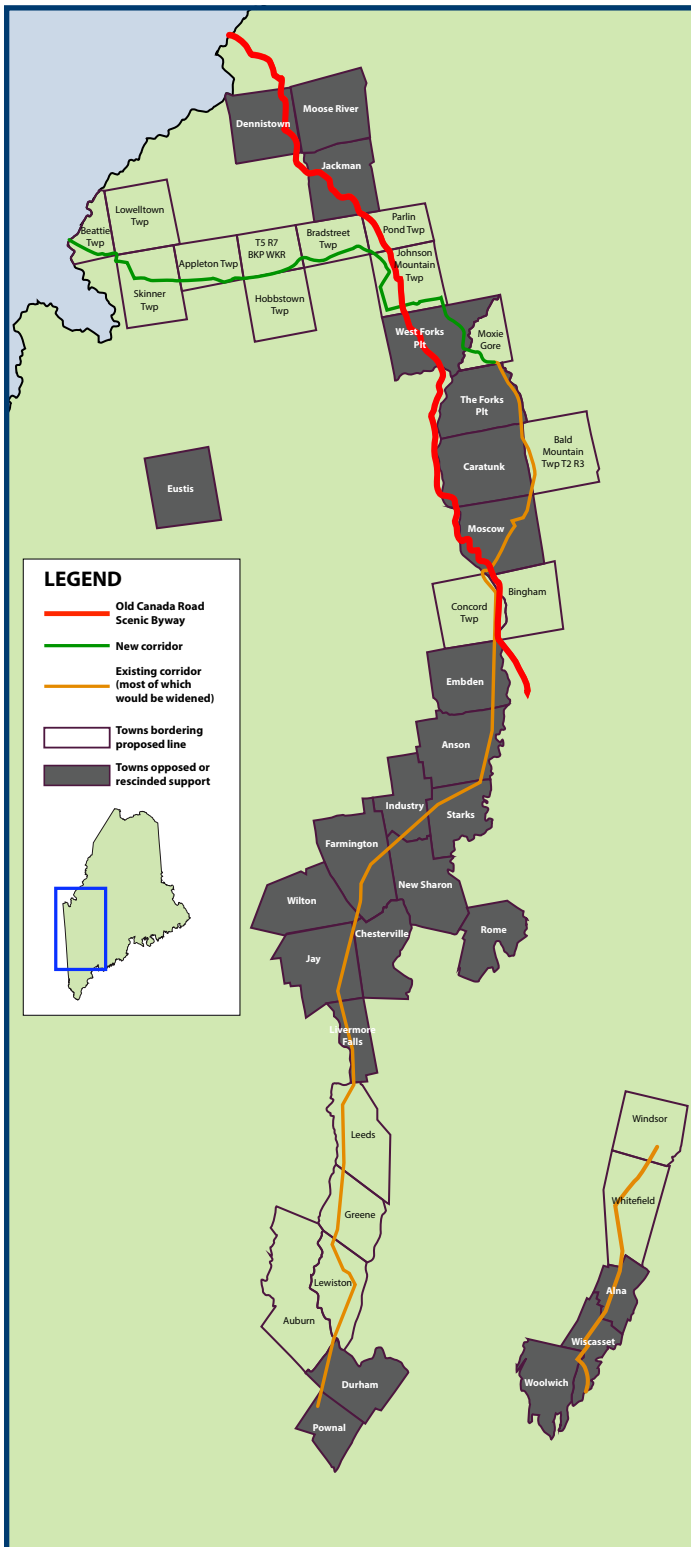
<sup>3</sup> MDIFW. 2017. Information Request - Quebec-Maine Interconnect Project. June 5. Pp. 4-5. Accessed on page 63 of pdf file at [www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/projects/necec/applications/SiteLocation/Site%20Law%20Application\\_Final\\_9.27.17%20-%20Chapter%207-%20Wildlife%20and%20Fisheries.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/projects/necec/applications/SiteLocation/Site%20Law%20Application_Final_9.27.17%20-%20Chapter%207-%20Wildlife%20and%20Fisheries.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Jeff Reardon, Trout Unlimited. 2018. Petition for leave to intervene in NECEC DEP permitting process. Pp. 2-3. Accessed at: [www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/projects/necec/intervenor-requests/2018-07-19%20NECEC,%20TU%20Intervention.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/projects/necec/intervenor-requests/2018-07-19%20NECEC,%20TU%20Intervention.pdf)



**A growing number of towns and plantations in the region have rescinded their support or come out in opposition:**

Alna, Anson, Caratunk, Chesterville, Dennistown, Durham, Embden, Eustis, Farmington, The Forks, Greenville, Industry, Jackman, Jay, Livermore Falls, Moscow, Moose River, New Sharon, Pownal, Rome, Starks, West Forks, Wilton, Wiscasset, Woolwich



DAVID PRESTON

North spur of Moxie Bald Mountain looking west toward Moxie Pond.

*"If Mainers don't unite to oppose this project, these unique places and special experiences will be a memory."*

*—Todd Towle, Kingfisher River Guides,  
Kingfield, ME*

## Impacts on the Scenic Character of the Region and the Tourism Economy

The proposed line would be visible from the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway in many places. The region's tourism economy is dependent on visitors who come to see the beautiful undeveloped forest, not power lines and a 53-mile gash through the forest.



## Jeopardizes New Renewable Energy Projects in Maine

**CMP's transmission line will cost Maine new clean energy jobs by making it harder for local renewable energy projects to move forward.**

Hydro-Quebec's hydropower could clog up Maine's power grid, preventing local renewable energy projects from exporting their electricity. This would make it harder for in-state wind and solar projects to move forward, sacrificing our ability to provide clean, renewable power to all Maine people and communities.<sup>5</sup>

For example, expert testimony before the Public Utilities Commission has shown that the Maine Aqua Ventus offshore wind project would provide many more jobs and economic benefits per dollar spent than CMP's transmission line.

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*"The valuation benefit from CMP's additional transmission lines does not even compare to a large solar project in Caratunk. Caratunk is against the NECEC project because it jeopardizes future renewable energy opportunities that provide for a huge tax benefit to all landowners and significantly increase the Caratunk valuation."*

*—Town of Caratunk Selectboard*

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<sup>5</sup> Tanya L. Bodell. 2018. Prepared direct testimony to the PUC, Docket Number 2017-00232. P. 10 of 41. April 30. [www.nrcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/bodelltestimony.pdf](http://www.nrcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/bodelltestimony.pdf)

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



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