



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

Maine Project Office
442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 350
Augusta Maine 04330

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: November 1, 2019
File Number: NAE-2017-01342
In Reply Refer To: Jay L. Clement
Or by e-mail: jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING New England Clean Energy Connect

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from: **Central Maine Power Company, 83 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04336**

By this notice we are announcing a public hearing and requesting comments in writing, or orally at the hearing, on this application.

Date: December 5, 2019
Time: 4:00 PM EDT Hearing Registration opens
4:00 PM EDT Informal Public Information Session will commence
4:30 PM EDT Formal Public Hearing will begin
Location: Lewiston – Ramada Inn & Conference Center
Address: 490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, Maine

The work proposed by Central Maine Power Company, known as the **New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC)**, was the subject of a Public Notice issued by this office on March 26, 2019. The notice described the applicant's intent to place temporary and permanent fill in numerous waterways and wetlands between Beattie Township at the Maine/Quebec border and Lewiston, Maine in order to construct a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electrical transmission line and related facilities capable of delivering up to 1,200 megawatts of electrical power from hydroelectric sources in Quebec to the New England Control Area, specifically in response to a Request for Proposals for Long-Term Contracts for Clean Energy Projects from the State of Massachusetts.

The original public notice, with more specifics on the proposed work by Central Maine Power Company, can be viewed on the Corps website at:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/regulatory/PublicNotices/2019/NAE-2017-01342-PN.pdf>

The application for a federal permit was filed with the Corps in compliance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which provide for federal regulation of any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the U.S. and for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S.

PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center at Lewiston, Maine. Hearing registration will start at 4 p.m. and there will be an informal public

information session also starting at 4 p.m. The formal public hearing will start at 4:30 p.m. The applicant and Corps-sponsored information session at 4 p.m. will allow members of the public to ask questions and obtain information about particular aspects of the project from the project proponent, as well as, obtain information from the Corps of Engineers about the permit evaluation process. The formal hearing will conclude approximately 6:30 p.m.

Public hearings are held under the authority of 33 C.F.R. Part 327. The purpose of the hearing is to acquire information or evidence which will be considered in evaluating a proposed permit action and to afford the public with an opportunity to present their views, opinions, and information on such permit action.

Any person shall be able to submit oral or written statements concerning the subject matter of the hearing, to call witnesses who may present oral or written statements, and to present recommendations as to an appropriate decision. Please note that the time allowed for oral comments will be limited and there will be no opportunity for questions and answers; the purpose of the formal hearing is to receive public testimony only. Anyone wishing to submit written comments in lieu of or in addition to oral testimony may do so at the hearing or directly mailing the Corps of Engineers by the deadline of Jan. 6, 2020 when the hearing record is closed to public submissions. Written comments should be addressed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Maine Project Office, Attn: Jay Clement; at the address noted above or by email at jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil. All comments received in response to this notice, as part of the hearing record, or submitted in response to the previous Public Notice will be considered equally by the Corps. ***Consequently, if you have already submitted comments, there is no need to resubmit them as part of this proceeding.*** Subsequent to the hearing the transcript will be available for review at our Maine Project Office, or may be purchased directly from the stenographer.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which may reasonably accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Once a final decision is made on this permit action, a copy of our final decision document, including the appropriate NEPA documentation, will be available upon request.

OTHER APPROVALS: Construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of the proposed transmission line facility at the proposed location for the U.S. – Canada international border crossing at Beattie Township will require authorization from the US Department of Energy (DOE) in the form of a Presidential permit. For information concerning the Presidential permit application (DOE Docket No. PP-438) or DOE's review process, please contact Ms. Julie Smith, NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Electricity; U.S. Department of Energy; 1000 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20585; Office: 202-586-7668; email: juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov **The Corps anticipates that representatives of the DOE will also be in attendance at the public hearing.**

For additional information relating to the Maine state regulatory processes, refer to:

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/projects/necec/index.html> (Maine DEP)

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/lupc/projects/site_law_certification/slc9.html (LUPC)

For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.



Frank J. Del Giudice
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME: _____