

Eagle Hill Online Forum ... April 25th, 2020 ... With a lead-in presentation by Richard Aishton

The NECEC (The New England Clean Energy Connect (Corridor) ... Is this good for Maine?

The New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) is a proposed, for-profit project to be implemented by Central Maine Power Company (and its parent companies Avangrid and Iberdrola) that requires a power line with 90' towers to be constructed from the Canadian Border just north of Dennistown, 53.5 miles long and 300' wide through forested land to Moxie Gore (crossing the Kennebec gorge), then 90.5 miles to Lewiston along an existing right-of-way (that will need to be widened) where it then connects to a power station in Lewiston, and, then, directs the electricity (produced by Hydro Quebec (HQ)) to Massachusetts. CMP responded to a Request for Applications (RFA) by the State of Massachusetts to compete for putting in this power line Right of Way (RoW) and HVDC power line. Maine will receive no electricity from this line because of a contractual agreement between HQ and Massachusetts. Further, Maine is a net exporter of electricity and does not need this power. The cost of this project is approximately \$900 million + and provides CMP with a monthly profit of \$5 million and HQ with ~\$40 million/month. Maine will not pay any of its own monies for this project. CMP has dedicated \$258 million to the State of Maine over a period of 40 years for this project. \$140 million is dedicated to rate payers, and the remainder will fund heat pump installation, electric car charging stations, broadband connection, and support to elderly and poor consumers.

Governor Janet T. Mills, during her campaign, stated that she was against the NECEC but right after her election she met with CMP officials and shortly thereafter declared her support for the NECEC. 25 towns along the corridor pathway have officially come out against the corridor and several towns are passing an official moratorium on electric transmission lines. Recently grassroots groups combined their efforts to gather 75,000 signatures in order to put the approval for the NECEC to a statewide referendum in November 2020. Looking forward to an interesting discussion.

Pro NECEC information

Clean Energy Matters (<https://www.cleanenergymatters.org/corridorbenefits>)

New England Clean Energy Connect (<https://www.necleanenergyconnect.org/benefits>)

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/projects/necec/index.html>

Ethics

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/say-no-to-necec/maine-anti-corridor-group-hit-with-ethics-complaint-that-could-force-it-to-disc/621457518610588/>

Opposition to NECEC

Facebook Pages:

“Say No to NECEC”

“Stop the Corridor”

<https://www.nrcm.org/news/cmp-spends-staggering-amount-campaign-boost-controversial-corridor/>

<https://www.nrcm.org/news/lupc-decision-cmp-corridor-ignores-harm/>

<https://www.nrcm.org/news/mainers-call-for-fairness-army-corps-review-cmp-corridor/>

<https://www.nrcm.org/programs/climate/proposed-cmp-transmission-line-bad-deal-maine/>