



MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM

March 12, 2010

Kathleen Hutchins
Chairperson, Canton Planning Board
9 Staples Hill Road
P.O. Box 669
Canton, Maine 04221

RE: Permitting for Transmission Line Upgrades Proposed as Part of the Maine Power Reliability Program

Dear Ms. Hutchins:

Thank you for meeting with me on March 4, 2010 to discuss permitting for the Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP) in the Town of Canton. I write to confirm our understanding of the permitting process for the MPRP in Canton.

Project Overview

The MPRP is a Central Maine Power Company (CMP) project to upgrade Maine's bulk power transmission system. As we discussed, the MPRP proposes to co-locate a new 115 kV single pole line in the existing transmission line corridor that traverses the Town from the Canton-Jay border in a southwesterly direction towards the Canton-Dixfield town boundary. This new Section 243A, 115 kV line will be built on single-pole structures. In addition, the existing Section 229, 115 kV H-frame transmission line will be removed and rebuilt utilizing single-pole structures. (See Exhibit 1 for a project overview and Exhibit 2 for a view of the corridor cross section).

The typical aboveground height for these single-pole structures is 75 feet, however, pole heights will vary due to topographic constraints and the need to achieve spans that will avoid or minimize impacts to natural resources. (See Exhibit 3 for specific information on the heights and types of each proposed pole, and Exhibit 4 for maps depicting the location of natural resources and the approximate location of proposed new poles in the project area).

All of the proposed work in Canton will occur solely within the existing CMP transmission corridor.



MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM

Town of Canton Shoreland Zoning and Floodplain Management Ordinances

The Town of Canton's Shoreland Zoning and Floodplain Management Ordinances govern land use activities within certain designated areas within the town. The MPRP traverses a Stream Protection District (SPD) as designated in the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance at Section 3 (4). Any project that is within 75 feet from the high water mark of Ludden Brook is subject to the provisions contained within the Ordinance (See Exhibit 4, Maps 4 and 5). The MPRP meets the definition of "essential services" as defined in Section 17 of the Ordinance. According to Section 14 (21) of the Ordinance, essential services projects are permitted in all Shoreland Zoning Districts with the approval of the Planning Board. Essential Services projects are also subject to the specific requirements of Section 15 (1) & (2) of the Ordinance.

As we discussed, while the transmission lines span this Stream Protection District, the associated poles are located outside of the SPD; there will be no new structures located within this district. Additionally, there will be no material clearing of vegetation to accommodate this project other than the possible selective removal of species that are capable of growing tall enough to interfere with the transmission lines (so-called "capable species"). The removal of capable species in transmission corridors is a common maintenance practice that already takes place within the existing transmission corridor. This practice is necessary to ensure that transmission lines function in a safe and reliable manner, and is not solely a MPRP project related activity. Due to the fact that neither poles nor temporary access ways will be placed within the SPD, and no significant clearing of vegetation will be necessary in order to accommodate these improvements, you and the Planning Board concluded at our meeting on March 4, 2010 that this project would not need Planning Board approval in order to be constructed in the Town of Canton. However, if a substantial change in the project scope were to occur, for example if pole locations were moved into a shoreland zoning district, then the MPRP project could not proceed without first seeking a permit from the Canton Planning Board.

As discussed above in relation to the Stream Protection District, the MPRP also spans an area that is designated as an area of special flood hazard by the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA). Article II of the Floodplain Management Ordinance requires that a permit be obtained from the Planning Board before any construction begins within any area of special flood hazard. Again, you and the Board determined that a permit was not necessary under this ordinance because no poles are going to be located within the 100-year floodplain (area of special flood hazard); and no activities other than selective clearing of capable species of vegetation are planned to take place in any area of special flood hazard within the Town of Canton. The



MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM

overhead lines associated with these transmission structures, while crossing the floodplain, are not at risk from flooding, nor do they raise flood levels.

If I have made any omissions or misinterpreted our conversation, please notify me as soon as possible at 620-3851 or at dschneider@trcsolutions.com. Otherwise, we would appreciate the Planning Board's and Code Enforcement Officer's signatures on a copy of this letter, confirming that the statements made above are correct. I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of the signed letter to me. If there are any changes to the project that alter the anticipated activities within Canton, I will contact you to ensure that a permit is still not needed.

Thank you again for your time. I found our meeting to be extremely helpful.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Schneider



MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM

Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that I have read this letter and the information it contains is correct.

Town of Canton Planning Board

Kathleen Hutchins
Signature: Kathleen Hutchins, Chairperson

03/18/2010
Date

[Signature]
Signature:

3/18/10
Date

Thomas Adley
Signature:

3-18-10
Date

[Signature]
Signature:

3-18-10
Date

Bernard Adams
Signature:

3/18/10
Date

[Signature]
Signature:

3-18-10
Date

Signature:

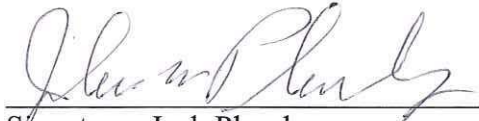
Date



MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM

Town of Canton Code Enforcement Officer



Signature: Jack Plumley

22/3/10
Date