

**TOWN OF CHELSEA, MAINE
PLANNING BOARD**

**DECISION REGARDING
CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE WORK**

Procedural Background

By letter dated October 23, 2009, Central Maine Power Company (CMP) submitted a shoreland zoning permit application for the portion of the proposed Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP) located in Chelsea, which involves the following work:

- Installing a new 345 kV transmission line (Section 3025).
- Rebuilding the existing 115 kV transmission line (Section 60).
- Rebuilding the existing 115 kV transmission line (Section 88) in the vicinity of the Chelsea – Augusta municipal boundary. (No new structures associated with Section 88 will be located in the shoreland zone.)
- Rebuilding the existing 34.5 kV transmission line (Section 19) and distribution circuit (263D1) where the two lines cross the Kennebec River. (No new structures associated with Section 19 or the distribution circuit will be located in the shoreland zone.)
- Expanding the width of the existing transmission corridor by between 15 and 65 feet through the acquisition of a legal interest in this adjacent property and clearing within the expanded corridor.

The project is further described in the application package dated October 2009.

The Town of Chelsea Planning Board considered the application at its November 10, 2009 meeting. A public hearing was held as part of the November 10, 2009 Planning Board meeting. Public notice of the public hearing was mailed to abutters. Representatives of CMP presented the application and answered questions at the November 10, 2009 public hearing and Planning Board meeting.

Findings of Fact

The Planning Board adopts as findings the factual information contained in the application and its accompanying materials and related submissions.

Conclusions of Law

The Planning Board adopts the conclusions contained in the application and its accompanying materials and related submissions with respect to the land use standards and the approval standards.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, CMP's application is APPROVED, subject to the following conditions:

1. This permit shall not take effect until CMP has obtained the following state and federal permits required for this project: Maine PUC Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Maine DEP Site Location of Development Law, Maine DEP Natural Resources Protection Act, and Army Corps of Engineers § 404 Clean Water Act. CMP shall promptly submit copies of such permits to the Town, and the date of the submission of the last of these state and federal permits shall be considered this permit's effective date and the "date of the permit" as that term is used in Section 16(E) of the Ordinance.
2. If no substantial start on construction is made within one year of the date of this permit, the permit shall expire. Due to the nature and scope of the MPRP project, the Planning Board recognizes that a one-year timeline to begin construction of that portion of the MPRP in the Town of Chelsea may not be achievable. Therefore, the Planning Board orders that, to expedite review, if no substantial start has been made within the first year after the effective date of this permit, this permit shall be extended for one additional year, provided that CMP submits a letter to the Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officer at least 30 days prior to the initial expiration of this permit certifying that all information contained in its application and presented to the Planning Board is still materially correct and complete.

Any person aggrieved by this decision may appeal by filing a written notice of appeal to the Board of Appeals within 30 days of the date of the Planning Board's decision.

All concurring.

DATED: 11/10/09



Chair




