



## MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM

July 14, 2010

Jeffrey Hinderliter  
Director of Planning and Development  
Town of Wiscasset  
51 Bath Road  
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

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

Dear Mr. Hinderliter:

Thank you for meeting with me on December 17, 2009 and May 28, 2010, and then again on July 12, 2010 with the Planning Board to discuss permitting for the Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP) in the Town of Wiscasset. I write to confirm our understanding of the permitting process for the MPRP in Wiscasset.

### **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 replace four transmission structures (Poles 378-8, 378-12, 378-16 and 378-17) in the existing transmission line corridor that traverses the Town from the Maine Yankee substation in a northeasterly direction towards the former Mason Station. These new structures within the existing 345-kilovolt (kV), Section 378, will be of H-Frame construction, not unlike what already exists within this transmission corridor (See Exhibit 1 for a project overview and Exhibit 2 for a pole table showing heights and types of each structure). All of the proposed work in Wiscasset will occur solely within the existing CMP transmission corridor.

### **Town of Wiscasset Site Plan Review and Flood Plains Management Ordinances**

The Town of Wiscasset's Site Plan Review and Flood Plains Ordinances govern land use activities within the town. The existing corridor that is part of the MPRP, traverses the Shoreland Business District and Rural District as designated in Article VI § C and Article VI § J of the Town of Wiscasset Ordinance. However, construction activities are only planned within the Rural District. (See Exhibit 3 for maps showing pole locations and natural resources.). The MPRP meets the definition of "essential services" as defined in the Glossary of the Ordinance. According to Article



## MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM

VI §§ C & J of the Ordinance, essential services projects are permitted in these Districts, but may be subject to Planning Board Review under Article VIII and Article X § 4.

As we discussed, while the existing corridor spans a large area, project activities are only proposed in four select locations. There will be no replacement structures located within any shoreland zoning district, and no temporary accessways will traverse any shoreland zoning 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.

At our meeting on May 28, 2010, you had stated that while project activities were minimal in the Town of Wiscasset that the project would likely need to go through Site Plan Review with the Planning Board. A Site Plan Review Pre-Application was submitted in early July of 2010. This document was discussed at a Planning Board meeting on July 12, 2010.

Due to the fact that that the project only encompasses the replacement of four transmission structures; that the total square foot impact of these replacement structures is 240 square feet; and no significant clearing of vegetation will be necessary in order to accommodate these improvements, the Planning Board concluded at our meeting on July 12, 2010 that this project would not need Planning Board approval in order to be constructed in the Town of Wiscasset. However, if a substantial change in the project scope were to occur, then the MPRP project could not proceed without first presenting this new information to the Wiscasset Planning Board.

As discussed above in relation to Pole 378-8, the MPRP also spans an area that is designated as an area of special flood hazard by the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA). Article X § 4 of the Flood Plains 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 the MPRP was merely proposing the replacement of a pole already existing within the 100-year floodplain (area of special flood hazard) rather than proposing new construction. Additionally, 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 Wiscasset. The replacement structure does not pose any more of risk from flooding, nor does it raise flood levels any more than the already existing Pole 378-8 does.



## MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM

Included for reference are Exhibits 4 and 5. Exhibit 4 is CMP's "Environmental Guidelines for Construction and Maintenance Activities on Transmission Line and Substation Projects" (2010), and Exhibit 5, is the Vegetation Management Plan, which is part of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's permit. The manual (Exhibit 4) was developed in consultation with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is largely based on DEP's *Maine Erosion and Sediment Control BMP's*, dated March 2003, and DEP's Chapter 500, and contains specific Best Management Practices appropriate for electric transmission line and substation construction. Both of these documents will be followed when constructing the replacement structures in Wiscasset.

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](mailto:dschneider@trcsolutions.com). Otherwise, we would appreciate your signature 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 Wiscasset, I or a representative from CMP will contact you to ensure that a permit is still not needed.

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

Sincerely,

Deirdre Schneider

### Acknowledgement:

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

Signature: Jeffrey Hinderliter,  
Director of Planning and Development

19 July 2010  
Date