



## MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

A CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY PROGRAM  
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December 3, 2009

Steve Ochmanski  
Code Enforcement Officer  
Town of Litchfield  
2400 Hallowell Road  
Litchfield, ME 04350-9725

RE: Transmission Line Upgrades Proposed in Litchfield as Part of the Maine Power Reliability Program

Dear Steve:

Thank you for meeting with me on November 17, 2009 to discuss Central Maine Power Company's (CMP's) Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP). I write to confirm that no permits are required for the portion of the MPRP in Litchfield under either the Town's Land Use Ordinance or Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Although no permits are needed, it is our understanding that CMP will have to comply with the standards contained in Sections 8, 9, and 10 of the Land Use Ordinance.

### **I. Overview of the MPRP in Litchfield**

As we have discussed, the MPRP includes a significant upgrade of Maine's bulk power transmission system that involves approximately 80 towns across the State. In Litchfield the program involves work in a new, relocated transmission line corridor that will run southwest to northeast from the Litchfield/Monmouth town line to the Litchfield/West Gardiner town line (Please see the project maps included as Exhibit 1 in the enclosed Project Summary). In this corridor, which in total will extend for approximately 2.25 miles in Litchfield, the MPRP involves:

- Acquisition of approximately 70 acres of land for the relocation of the transmission line corridor;
- Relocating the existing 115 kV line (Section 212). This will involve removing the 115 kV transmission line within the existing corridor that runs southwest to northeast along Whippoorwill Road to Cobbossee Stream (approximately 2.5 miles) and constructing a new 115 kV transmission line, Section 212, within the newly acquired corridor. The new line will be constructed using 26 wooden single pole structures that are typically 75 feet above ground;
- Installing a new 345 kV transmission line (Section 3025). The new line will be carried on 21 wooden H-frame (2-pole) structures with a typical above ground height of 75 feet. The new 345 kV line will be located adjacent to the new 115 kV line within the newly acquired corridor (Please see the cross section included as Exhibit 2 in the enclosed Project Summary);



- Discontinuing the 34.5 kV line in the existing corridor (Section 41). The existing 34.5 kV line, which runs within the same corridor as the existing 115 kV line, will be removed once the MPRP project is complete. No lines will remain in the existing corridor once the MPRP is complete.

## II. The MPRP Under Litchfield's Ordinances

Under the Town's Land Use Ordinance, the proposed transmission line upgrades fall within the land use category "essential services." At our meeting you explained that essential services are an allowed use in all three land use districts and, thus, do not require a permit either from the Planning Board or Code Enforcement Officer. However, pursuant to Section 3(D)(3) of the Land Use Ordinance, essential services such as the MPRP must comply with applicable sections of that ordinance. We understand that the applicable sections of the Land Use Ordinance are Section 8 (Neighborhood and Environmental Standards), Section 9 (Performance Standards for Specific Activities), and Section 10 (Road Access, Traffic and Parking Standards).

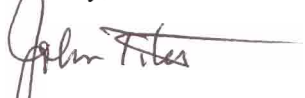
We also understand that the MPRP transmission line upgrades will not be located in or cross any shoreland zoning districts. As a result, no permit is required for the project under the Town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

If our understanding of CMP's obligations under the Town's ordinances is in any way incorrect, please let me know. Our goal is to work with the community to ensure that we follow the appropriate review process, comply with the appropriate ordinance provisions, and obtain any and all required approvals.

Finally, as I mentioned at our meeting, we would be happy to hold a public information meeting for residents and other Town officials interested in learning more about the MPRP. Kay Rand from Bernstein Shur Government Solutions has arranged for an information meeting to be held on December 16, 1:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Town office. I will assist Kay in setting up that meeting and will plan to attend.

Thank you for your assistance with the project. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



John Titus  
Environmental Specialist  
TRC Engineers, LLC

Enclosures

cc: Mike Byron, Town Manager  
Kay Rand, Bernstein Shur Government Solutions  
File: 166247-5, Maine Power Reliability Program

