



MAINE POWER RELIABILITY PROGRAM

August 19, 2009

Randolph B. Hall
Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Searsport
P.O. Box 499
Searsport, ME 04974

RE: Transmission Line Upgrade Proposed in Searsport as Part of the Maine Power Reliability Program

Dear Randy:

I write to follow up on two letters you sent me – dated March 19, 2009 and June 15, 2009 – regarding the Planning Board's review of the transmission line upgrade proposed by Central Maine Power Company (CMP) as part of the Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP). The purpose of this letter is to confirm that you and the Planning Board have reviewed the materials we submitted to the Town of Searsport in February describing the proposed upgrade and determined that no municipal approvals are required for the upgrades under either the Site Plan Review Ordinance or Land Use Ordinance.

As you are aware, as part of the MPRP CMP proposes to rebuild an approximately 1.3 mile section of transmission line that currently runs through the central portion of Searsport from the Searsport-Stockton Springs town line to a switching station adjacent to the Old County Road. Currently, a 115 kV transmission line runs along this corridor. This line will be rebuilt with a 115 kV transmission that will be carried on a series of single, wooden poles that typically will extend 75 feet above the ground. Currently, the 115 kV transmission line is carried on a series of H-frames, each of which consists of a pair of wooden poles that typically extend 45 feet above the ground and are connected by a cross arm. (The materials we provided the Town in February more fully describe and depict the proposed upgrade.)

It is our understanding that at its March 9, 2009 meeting the Planning Board voted that the upgrade proposed by CMP does not require Site Plan Review under the Searsport Site Plan Review Ordinance. Should CMP's proposal change, however, so that CMP plans an upgrade other than rebuilding the existing 115 kV line with a new 115 kV line carried on single poles, we understand that it would be necessary to revisit, both with you and the Planning Board, whether Site Plan Review is required.

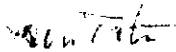
Also, it is our understanding that at its April 13, 2009 meeting the Planning Board voted that the upgrade proposed by CMP does not require Planning Board approval under the Searsport Land Use Ordinance. This is because the transmission corridor, with a 115 kV transmission line, already exists. After the transmission line is rebuilt, a single 115 kV transmission line will remain in the existing corridor and the existing corridor will remain the same width as today. No change in use, new use, or expansion of the existing use is proposed. In addition, "essential services," which by definition included electrical transmission systems and the associated utility poles, are not "structures" as those terms are defined in the Land Use Ordinance. Thus, the rebuild of the existing transmission line proposed by CMP does not involve the installation of new structures, or the alteration or movement of existing structures.

Finally, it is our understanding that based on your review of the materials we submitted to the Town in February describing the upgrade that there are no municipal permitting requirements, under either the Site Plan Review Ordinance or Land Use Ordinance, for CMP associated with the MPRP.

Please confirm our understanding by signing at the bottom of this letter and returning the signed letter to me. Of course, if you have any questions or if any part of our understanding is incorrect, please let me know.

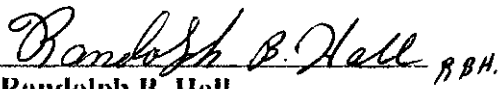
Thank you for your continued assistance with this project.

Sincerely,



John Titus
Environmental Specialist
TRC Engineering, Inc.

SEEN AND AGREED TO:


Randolph B. Hall
Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Searsport


Date