

# FOREST ECOLOGY NETWORK



## CRISIS IN THE MAINE WOODS

### Hydro-Quebec and CMP Transmission Line

It never ceases to amaze me how the Maine Woods is incessantly under attack by forces which only see the forest as a basket of extraction opportunities. When will the natural capital be protected and the exploitation stopped? **Clean air, fresh water, biological diversity, carbon reduction, and flood control are all provided, free of charge, if we would just let the forest be a**

### Hydro-Quebec and CMP Transmission Line

Recently N.H. rejected the effort to bring Hydro-Quebec power to Massachusetts via a



transmission line through northern N.H. This project was known as the **Northern Pass**. It was meant to satisfy Massachusetts's mandatory renewable energy portfolio. **The N.H. Site Evaluation Committee in a 7-0 decision rejected the 192 mile transmission line due to "concerns about its impact on local businesses, tourism, and development in northern parts of N.H."**

Immediately following this rejection, Massachusetts accepted an alternative route to bring 1200 MW by way of Maine. This project is known as the **New England Clean Energy Connect(NECEC) project**. **This 950 million-dollar Central Maine Power (CMP) construction plan will involve a 145-mile corridor from the US/Canadian border in Skinner Twp. in Somerset County to a new AC/DC converter in Lewiston.**

**The first 55 miles of this corridor of huge towers and lines will rip through the wilds of Maine to the Forks** – where the Kennebec and Dead Rivers meet. On its way south the towers and transmission lines will have to cross the famed Kennebec Gorge – either overhead or underground. It also will cross the Appalachian Trail three times. New towers and lines will continue on an existing corridor for another 90 miles to a new substation on Larabee Rd in Lewiston. (See map).

**This is a colossal project that will forever alter and scar the Maine landscape. It must be stopped.** CMP has secured control of the corridor and has submitted all state and federal permits. Construction is scheduled to start in 2019. **The Public Utilities Commission(PUC) is**

currently holding technical hearings. It is expected that they will make a decision in early Spring, however there have been several delays already in the adjudicatory hearings. It is critical you take action NOW!

**This is the boondoggle of all boondoggles.** It compares well with the Plum Creek Moosehead development and the E-W Highway proposals. Most of this project was designed and conceived below the radar.



**Mainers should be outraged that CMP is calling Hydro-Quebec power clean renewable power.** (simply a lie – beyond fake news) I have visited the source of this power in Northern Quebec. **It is a land of utter destruction.** Rivers have been reversed and drained in order to create power head reservoirs the size of Connecticut. Thousands of square miles of forests were destroyed, subsistent Native Canadian hunting and fishing grounds were submerged, and thousands of caribou drowned. The once mighty Churchill Falls (photo to left) is nothing but a trickle. Canada seems to have ignored the lessons of landscape scale dam construction. More dam construction is planned for northern Quebec and Labrador.

The horrific landscape destruction, the clearcutting of flood basins and building of transmission lines all reduce carbon sequestration. In addition, the flooded areas have become huge methane (30 times more potent as a greenhouse gas) emitters from the anaerobic decay of massive amounts of detritus and soil organic compounds. When CMP and Hydro-Quebec say that this project will reduce carbon emissions the equivalent of 280,000 vehicles – it is totally a distortion of the truth. **This energy is not clean energy. If allowed to transit Maine, it will mar permanently the Maine forest landscape.**

While we are up against the powerful of powerful, **many FEN** members have already testified at the public hearings before the Maine Public Utility Commission. **Like our friends in N.H. who defeated the Northern Pass Proposal, the citizens of Maine must mount a successful campaign to stop Maine from being used as a conduit for Hydro-Quebec and CMP's dirty energy.** Get involved!

**SAY NO TO CMP CORRIDOR**

Mahalo,

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