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Admitted in: Maine

Via Case Management System

August 29, 2018

Mr. Harry Lanphear
Administrative Director
Maine Public Utilities Commission
State House Station #18
Augusta, ME 04333-0018

Re: CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY, Request for Approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the New England Clean Energy Connect Consisting of the Construction of a 1,200 MW HVDC Transmission Line from the Québec-Maine Border to Lewiston (NECEC) and Related Network Upgrades, Docket No. 2017-00232

Dear Harry:

On behalf of Central Maine Power Company (CMP or the Company), we write to request that the Hearing Examiners schedule a settlement conference in the above captioned proceeding to permit the parties and the Commission Staff to explore their respective positions regarding the "ownership" and related risks of the NECEC transmission project.

The Staff and the Office of Public Advocate (OPA), as well as some other parties, have asked questions concerning this issue at various stages of the proceeding, but the procedural schedule has not permitted the Staff and parties to discuss their respective positions on this issue in detail and to explore whether differences existence or common ground can be reached. Since we are fast approaching hearings on the merits of CMP's petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, we believe a conference to explore whether a partial stipulation can be achieved as to this important issue would be advantageous for the Commission and the parties. At such a conference, the Staff and parties can also explore whether there would be any value in exploring settlement of any other issues, and CMP would be open to such discussions.

CMP proposes that the settlement conference be scheduled for September 6 or 7, when the parties will be gathered for the upcoming technical conferences. CMP does not expect to have many, if any, questions regarding the surrebuttal testimony offered by the NextEra and Generator Intervenors witnesses. As such, we anticipate that there will be available time on one of these dates for a settlement conference.

We have conferred with the OPA regarding the benefit of having a settlement conference to discuss the "ownership" issue and related risk considerations, and the OPA has authorized us to confirm its support for holding on such a conference as proposed herein. The OPA intends to have its consultant, Scott Rubin, participate in such a conference, and Mr. Rubin would be available in the late afternoon of September 6 or any time on September 7.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared S. des Rosiers". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Jared S. des Rosiers
Counsel for Central Maine Power Company

cc: Docket No. 2017-00232 service list