

\*\*\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

November 19, 2018

CARATUNK, Maine – Last week, the 4,200+ member grassroots group, Say NO to NECEC, retained the BCM Environmental & Land Law team, led by Beth Boepple out of the Portland office, to fight the 145-mile long Central Maine Power/AVANGRID New England Clean Energy Connect transmission line in the pending Maine regulatory proceedings.

A number of Say NO members are filed as intervenors opposing NECEC at the DEP and LUPC. With support from Moosehead Region Futures Committee, Say NO to NECEC will partner with BCM Environmental & Land Law and collaborate with other intervenor groups to oppose the CMP transmission line at the concurrent DEP and LUPC hearings. To date, no environmental organization has reported being in favor of the NECEC proposal, a 145-mile transmission line through Maine bringing electricity to benefit Massachusetts' ratepayers to profit CMP/AVANGRID/Iberdola.

Sandra Howard, Say NO to NECEC spokesperson, described the purpose for retaining BCM was “to defend Maine’s woods, wildlife, habitat, waterways, scenic views, recreation industry, and way of life from the construction of CMP’s proposed transmission line.” Howard added that “to date, CMP has been unable to secure a formal completeness determination from the agencies. We will make good use of these significant scheduling delays to build our case at DEP and LUPC and build broader awareness about the NECEC’S negative impacts to Maine’s environment, natural resources, and tourism economy.”

Earlier this year, Beth Boepple of BCM Environmental & Land Law worked with others to successfully defeat the Northern Pass transmission project at the NH SEC. Northern Pass sought approval to construct a 192-mile transmission line from the Canadian border into the heart of New Hampshire – a project the scope of which has never before been seen in New Hampshire, and eerily similar to CMP’s transmission line proposal in Maine. Boepple stated that “the BCM team is proud to bring its skills honed during the Northern Pass proceedings, to the fight against another utility company’s attempts to degrade another precious northern New England state. Maine, like New Hampshire has iconic landscapes that need protecting now and for the future.”

Northern Pass garnered a storm of opposition in New Hampshire. Howard noted “a similar surge of opposition is developing here in Maine. The concerns about NECEC are almost identical to the Northern Pass proposal with a large utility trying to profit from an opportunity created by Massachusetts politicians. NECEC is just an extension cord through Maine that will deliver power of unknown origin to out-of-state markets with no measurable benefit to Maine ratepayers. The construction of NECEC would result in a permanent scar to through Maine’s environment and destroy our state’s pristine brand.”

In the coming weeks, Say NO to NECEC plans to register as a 501c3 non-profit organization and launch a GoFundMe campaign to contribute to legal fees, hire expert witnesses to testify at the DEP/LUPC hearings, and strengthen advocacy efforts. For more information about Say NO to NECEC, go to the Say NO to 145-mile transmission line through Maine Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/279944929428517/>

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