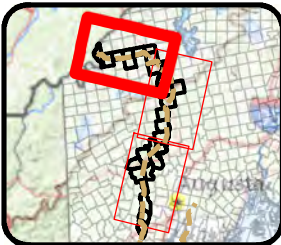


**Appendix F**  
**Environmental Justice**

---



**Legend**

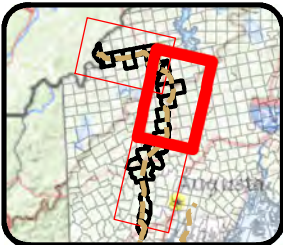
- ▲ Existing Substation
- ▲ Converter Station
- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- ROW
- Census tracts (2010)
- Town Boundary

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Figure 12  
 Census Tracts Mapbook  
 24,000  
 Feet



**CENTRAL MAINE  
POWER**

Page 1 of 3      12/04/2020

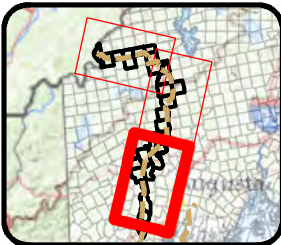
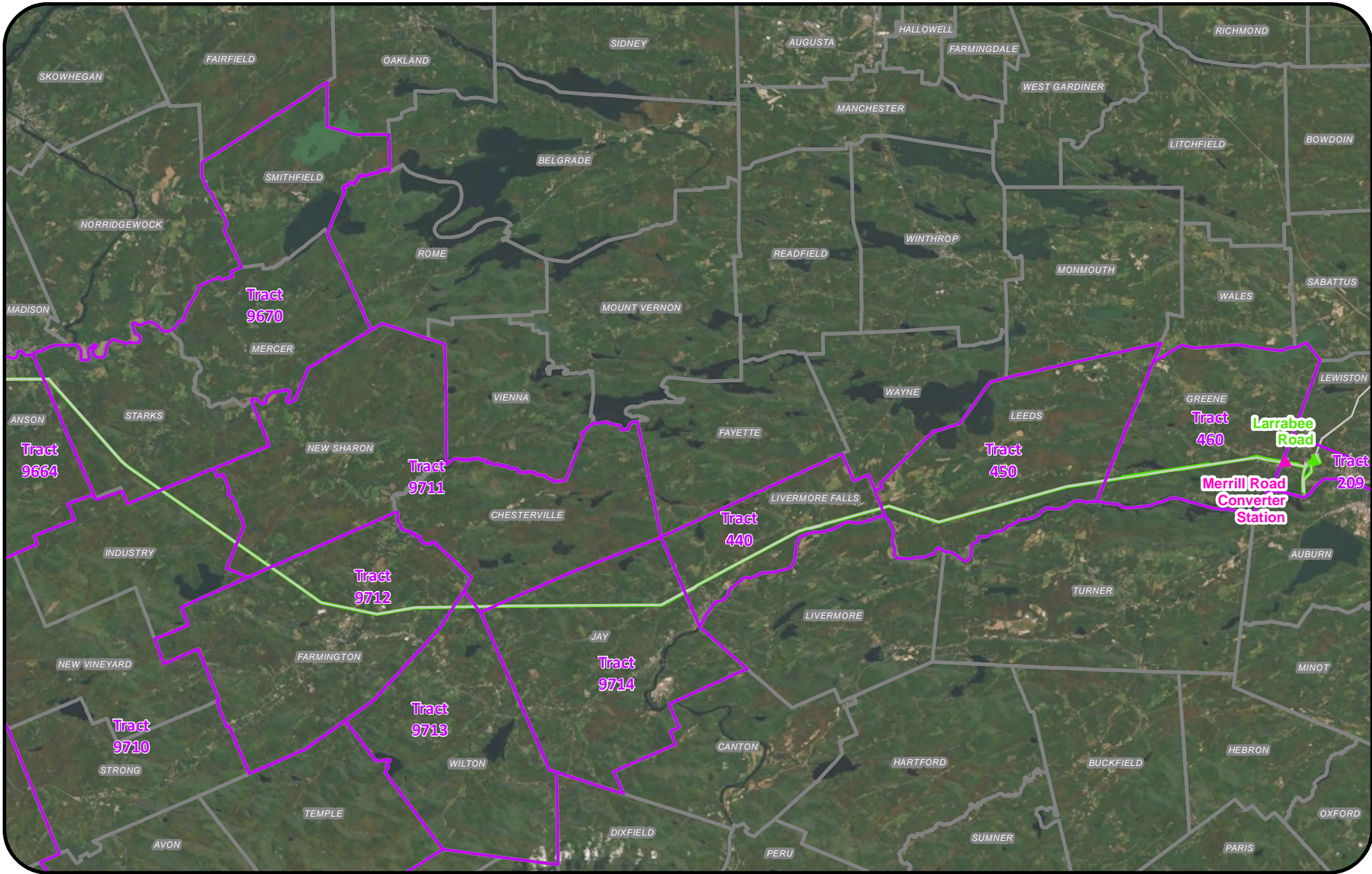


**Legend**

- ▲ Existing Substation
- ▲ Converter Station
- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- ROW
- Census tracts (2010)
- Town Boundary

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Figure 12  
 Census Tracts Mapbook  
 24,000 Feet



**Legend**

- ▲ Existing Substation
- ▲ Converter Station
- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- ROW
- Census tracts (2010)
- Town Boundary

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Figure 12  
 Census Tracts Mapbook  
 24,000

CENTRAL MAINE  
POWER

**Appendix G**  
**Historic and Cultural Resources**

---

**G.1 Historic Properties Memorandum of Agreement**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**AMONG THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY, AND**

**THE MAINE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER**

**REGARDING THE CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY'S**

**NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT PROJECT**

**BEATTIE TOWNSHIP TO LEWISTON, MAINE**

**INCLUSIVE OF SIX MAINE COUNTIES AND 38 MUNICIPALITIES OR TOWNSHIPS**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("COE") plans to issue a permit for the construction of Central Maine Power Company's ("Proponent") New England Clean Energy Connect ("NECEC") project (COE Permit Application No. NAE-2017-01342) (the "Undertaking"), pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. § 403); and

WHEREAS, Proponent has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Electricity for a Presidential permit for the international border crossing associated with the NECEC project in accordance with the DOE's applicable administrative procedures at 10 CFR § 205.320 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority delegated by the President of the United States under Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") receives and considers applications for permits for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of facilities for the transmission of electric energy at the borders of the United States ("Presidential permit"); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 10485, amended by Executive Order 12038, authorizes DOE to issue a Presidential permit if, inter alia, the issuance of the permit is found to be consistent with the public interest; and

WHEREAS, in deciding whether issuance of a Presidential permit is in the public interest, DOE determines the proposed project's impact on electric reliability as well as its potential environmental impacts, including potential impacts to historic properties or cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of a Presidential permit by DOE for the international border crossing associated with the NECEC project indicates that there is no federal objection to the proposed border crossing and NECEC project, but does not mandate that the NECEC project be undertaken; and

New England Clean Energy Connect Project  
Historic Properties Memorandum of Agreement

WHEREAS, COE has been designated the lead federal agency in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2); and

WHEREAS, the Undertaking consists of a new High Voltage Direct Current (“HVDC”) transmission line that will tie into the existing system and upgrades to existing alternating current (“AC”) transmission lines totaling 200.4 miles (322.4 kilometers), construction of a new converter station, a new substation, and multiple system upgrades; and

WHEREAS, COE has defined the Undertaking’s indirect area of potential effects (“APE”) as a 0.5-mile (0.8-kilometer) buffer on each side of the project centerline; and the direct APE as consisting of the entire right-of-way width or facility footprint where ground-disturbing activities could take place; and

WHEREAS, COE has determined that the Undertaking will have an adverse effect on four historic properties (Appalachian National Scenic Trail (“ANST”) [Survey Map ID-66], Rural Agricultural Historic District: E. Gray Farm and B.F. Hilton Farm [Survey Map ID-1028 and Survey Map ID-1020], Turmel Road Barn [Survey Map ID-795], and Bowman Airfield [Survey Map ID-719]) that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (“NRHP”), and has consulted with the Maine State Historic Preservation Officer (“Maine SHPO”) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 and 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C (the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA), and SHPO concurred with COE’s determination on 18 March 2020; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.6(a)(1), COE has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (“ACHP”) of its determination of adverse effects on historic properties with specified documentation and ACHP has chosen not to participate in the consultation pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.6(a)(1)(iii); and

WHEREAS, construction of portions of the Undertaking will also require authorization by the DOE in accordance with 10 CFR § 205.320 et. seq., DOE is a consulting party (in accordance with 36 CFR §800.2) and signatory (in accordance with 36 CFR §800.6(c)) in this consultation; and

WHEREAS, COE has invited the Aroostook Band of the Micmacs, Houlton Band of the Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Penobscot Nation to participate in the Section 106 process as consulting parties in accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.3(f)(2) and those tribes have chosen not to participate in consultation; and

WHEREAS, COE has invited Central Maine Power (“CMP” or “Proponent”) to sign this Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) as an invited signatory because the Proponent or its successors in NECEC project ownership shall be responsible for constructing and operating the Undertaking, conducting additional cultural resources investigations, implementing treatment plans, and other tasks under this MOA; and

WHEREAS, COE has consulted with the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service (“NPS”) and has invited NPS to sign this MOA as an invited signatory because the

New England Clean Energy Connect Project  
Historic Properties Memorandum of Agreement

NECEC project will be crossed by portions of the ANST in Bald Mountain Township, Somerset County, Maine and the ANST is a NRHP-eligible resource, and the NPS is the lead federal agency for the administration of the entire ANST under the National Trails System Act (16 USC § 1241 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, COE has consulted with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (“ATC”), which aids NPS in the management of the ANST, regarding the potential effects of the Undertaking on the ANST, and has invited ATC to sign this MOA as a concurring party in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(3); and

WHEREAS, COE has consulted with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (“MATC”), which aids NPS in the management of the ANST, regarding the potential effects of the Undertaking on the ANST, and has invited MATC to sign this MOA as a concurring party in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(3); and

NOW, THEREFORE, COE, DOE, NPS, CMP and the Maine SHPO agree that the NECEC project shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the Undertaking’s adverse effects on historic properties.

### STIPULATIONS

COE shall ensure that the following measures are carried out according to the provisions set forth herein including the plans included in Appendix A attached hereto:

#### I. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- A. COE is responsible for ensuring that Proponent conducts inventories of all portions of the APE that have not been previously surveyed for cultural resources (including any post-permit newly requested project realignments, if any). Limited archaeological testing, conducted by Proponent’s consultants, may be necessary at some sites to evaluate their eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP. Archaeological testing shall be conducted according to testing plans that have been submitted for review and approval to COE staff and the Maine SHPO.
- B. Proponent shall obtain permits necessary to conduct cultural resources investigations, if necessary, and copies of the permits shall be filed by Proponent with COE.
- C. In reports documenting the results of additional inventory and evaluation studies, Proponent’s cultural resources consultants will make recommendations regarding the NRHP eligibility (in terms of 36 CFR § 60.4) and project effects (per 36 CFR § 800.5) on cultural resources identified in the APE. Based on Proponent’s recommendations, COE staff will make final determinations of eligibility and effect, after consultations with Maine SHPO.



New England Clean Energy Connect Project  
Historic Properties Memorandum of Agreement

- D. Those cultural resources which COE staff determines do not meet the NRHP criteria, after consultations with Maine SHPO (and other consulting parties, as appropriate), will require no further consideration. Historic properties, which are cultural resources that COE staff, after consultations with the Maine SHPO, determines to be listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP, will be treated in accordance with Stipulation III of this MOA. If unable to agree on a determination, COE will follow the dispute resolution process in accordance with Stipulation VIII.

## II. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND REVIEWS

- A. Proponent shall provide copies of draft reports documenting additional inventories, testing plans, evaluative testing, and new treatment plans to COE staff and Maine SHPO. The reviewing parties shall provide their comments on draft reports and plans to Proponent within thirty (30) days of receipt. Proponent shall revise reports and plans to address, as appropriate, the consolidated comments on drafts provided by reviewing parties. Proponent shall distribute copies of final reports and plans to COE staff and Maine SHPO within thirty (30) days after receiving comments from COE on the drafts.
- B. Each year following the execution of this MOA until it expires or is terminated, Proponent shall provide all parties to this MOA a summary report detailing work undertaken pursuant to its terms. Such report shall include scheduling changes proposed, problems encountered, and disputes and objections received during execution of the terms of this MOA.

## III. TREATMENT OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- A. Proponent will avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects to the ANST (Survey Map ID-66) in Bald Mountain Township; the proposed Rural Agricultural Historic District: E. Gray Farm (Survey Map ID-1028) and B.F. Hilton Farm (Survey Map ID-1020) in the Town of Starks; the Turmel Road Barn (Survey Map ID-795) in the Town of Livermore Falls; and the Bowman Airfield (Survey Map ID-719) in the Town of Livermore Falls in accordance with the treatment plans and implementation schedule presented in Appendix A.
- B. The Proponent, NPS, and Maine SHPO will enter into a separate agreement by December 31, 2020 that will govern the relocation of the ANST to the preferred route across the 1609 Troutdale Road Parcel in accordance with Appendix A. The term of this agreement will begin with its execution (by December 31, 2020) and will expire when the ANST has been relocated to the preferred route.
- C. Proponent will ensure that the consulting architectural historian meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (36 CFR Part 61), is an approved Maine State Historic Preservation Commission ("MHPC") historic preservation consultant, and is a Cultural and Architectural Resource Management Archive ("CARMA") trained consultant. The

architectural historian will conduct reconnaissance-level surveys according to MHPC standards set by the *Above Ground Resources Survey Manual*.

- D. Proponent will implement avoidance and treatment measures for the following 16 archaeological sites: ME 24-40, ME 013-002, ME 013-003, ME 131-003, ME 154-009, ME 154-012, ME 217-001, ME 217-003, ME 293-015, ME 293-016, ME 358-008, ME 431-035, ME 484-006, ME 478-006, ME 478-007, ME 491-057, and Quinnam Cemetery, in accordance with the plans and implementation schedule presented in Appendix A.
- E. Proponent will ensure that the consulting archaeologist(s) meet(s) MHPC's *Standards for Archaeological Work in Maine* (Chapter 812 [94–089]) and the professional qualifications for archaeology in 36 CFR Part 61. Archaeological monitors will be present during ground-disturbing construction activities within 50 meters (164 feet) of Sites ME 24-40, ME 013-002, ME 013-003, ME 131-003, ME 154-009, ME 154-012, ME 217-001, ME 217-003, ME 293-015, ME 293-016, ME 358-008, ME 431-035, ME 484-006, ME 478-006, ME 478-007, ME 491-057, and Quinnam Cemetery.

#### IV. DISPOSITION OF CULTURAL AND HUMAN REMAINS

- A. Proponent will ensure that all materials and records resulting from actions taken pursuant to this MOA are curated within the State of Maine, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 79.
- B. If human remains are discovered while carrying out activities pursuant to this MOA, Proponent will ensure that all work cease in the area of the discovery during notification of local law enforcement and consultation with SHPO.
- C. Proponent will ensure that any human remains and grave-associated artifacts encountered during any work undertaken pursuant to this MOA are treated in accordance with ACHP's *Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects*, adopted by ACHP on February 23, 2007.

#### V. POST-REVIEW DISCOVERIES

If potential historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found during the term of this MOA, the parties will consult in accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.13 and Proponent may be required to conduct additional investigations and implement additional avoidance, protection, or mitigation measures as a result of such consultation.

#### VI. DURATION

This MOA will expire if its terms are not carried out within five (5) years from the date of its execution. Prior to such time, COE may consult with the other signatories to reconsider the terms of the MOA and amend it in accordance with Stipulation VII below.

VII. AMENDMENTS

At any time during the period in which this MOA is in effect, COE, DOE, the Maine SHPO, other signatories, or Proponent may request that it be amended, whereupon the parties shall consult to consider the proposed amendment. 36 CFR Section 800.6(c)(7) shall govern the execution of any such amendment. An amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all of the parties is filed with ACHP.

VIII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Should a signatory, invited signatory, or concurring party to this MOA object to actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this MOA are implemented, COE shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. If COE determines that such objection cannot be resolved, COE will:

- A. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including COE's proposed resolution, to the ACHP. The ACHP shall provide COE with its advice on the resolution of the objection within thirty (30) days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the dispute, COE shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP, signatories, invited signatories, and concurring parties, and shall provide them with a copy of the written response. COE will then proceed according to its final decision.
- B. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) day time period, COE may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, COE shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories, invited signatories, and concurring parties to the MOA, and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response.
- C. COE's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this MOA that are not the subject of the dispute remains unchanged.

IX. TERMINATION

- A. If any signatory or invited signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other signatories and invited signatories to attempt to develop an amendment per Stipulation VII, above. If within thirty (30) days (or another time period agreed to by all signatories and invited signatories) an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory or invited signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other signatories, invited signatories, and the concurring parties.
- B. Once the MOA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, COE must either (a) execute a new MOA pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6 or (b) request, take into

New England Clean Energy Connect Project  
Historic Properties Memorandum of Agreement

account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR § 800.7. COE shall notify the signatories, invited signatories, and concurring parties as to the course of action it will pursue.

- C. Execution of this MOA by COE, DOE, and the Maine SHPO and implementation of its terms evidence that COE has taken into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties and afforded the ACHP an opportunity to comment.

**SIGNATORIES:**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Tammy R. Turley** Digitally signed by Tammy R.  
Turley  
Date: 2020.06.19 09:12:16 -04'00'

Tammy R. Turley – Chief, Regulatory Division

U.S. Department of Energy

*Michael P. Coe*

---

Michael P. Coe  
Director, Operational Modeling and Technical Assistance, Transmission Permitting and  
Technical Assistance Division  
Office of Electricity

Maine State Historic Preservation Officer

*Kirk F. Mohnhey*

---

Kirk F. Mohnhey – Director Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Historic Preservation  
Officer

New England Clean Energy Connect Project  
Historic Properties Memorandum of Agreement

**INVITED SIGNATORIES:**

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service



Wendy K. Janssen – Superintendent, Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Central Maine Power Company



Thorn Dickinson – Vice President

**CONCURRING PARTIES:**

Appalachian Trail Conservancy



Hawk Metheny – Senior Regional Director, Northeast

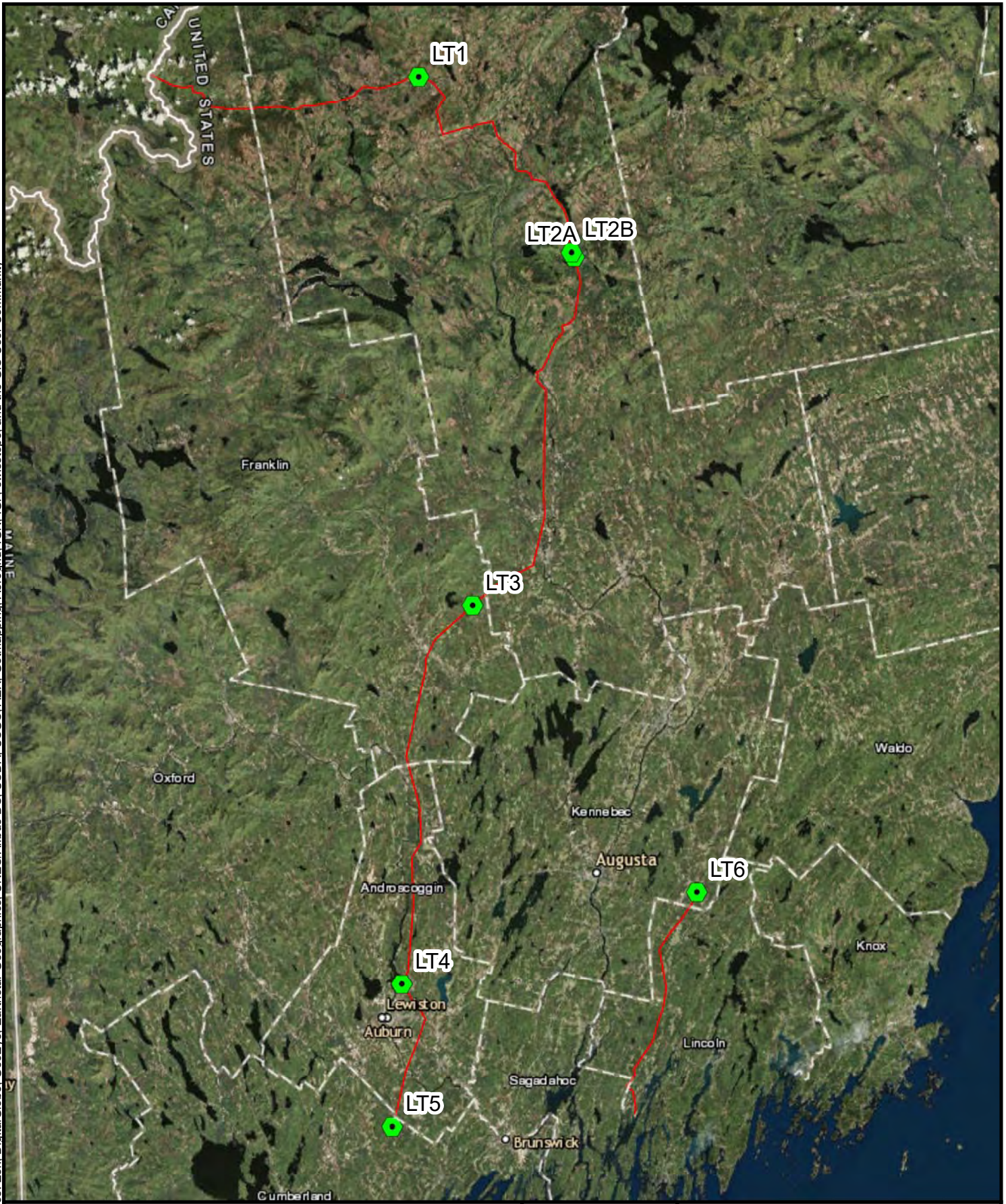
Maine Appalachian Trail Club





Anthony Barrett – Executive Committee Director



Path: Z:\Clients\ENS\CMP\99382\_CMP\PermitSOW\Studies\Permitting\Modeling\Noise\GIS\Figure 5.2.1 Continuous Monitoring Locations.mxd gweiger 8/23/2017  
COPYRIGHT © 2017 BURNS & McDONNELL ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC.  
Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



-  Continuous Monitor Location
-  Proposed Transmission Line Route

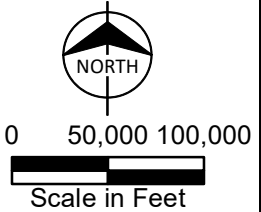
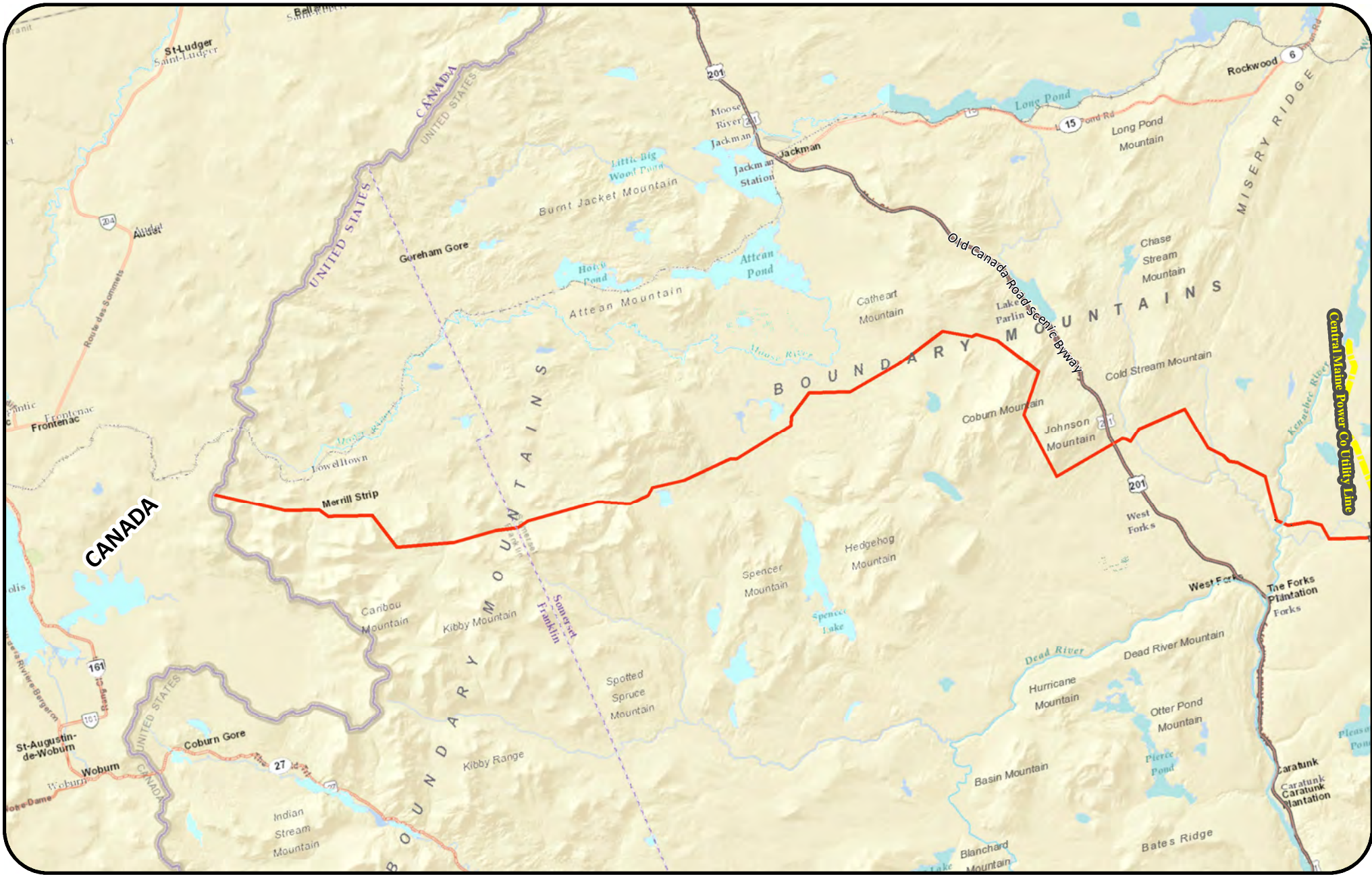


Figure 5.1.1  
Continuous  
Monitoring Locations





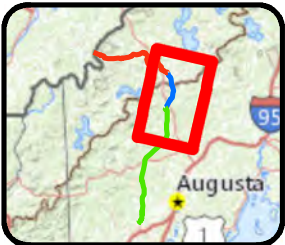


**Legend**

Existing Substation	Existing Power Plant	Existing Utility Line
Converter Station	Wind Farm	Railroad
Segment 1	Airport	Old Canada Road Scenic Byway
Segment 2	Cellular Tower	
Segment 3	Microwave Tower	

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Figure 13  
 Infrastructure Mapbook  
 24,000

Page 1 of 3      12/04/2020

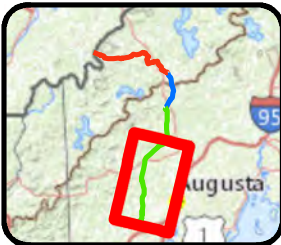
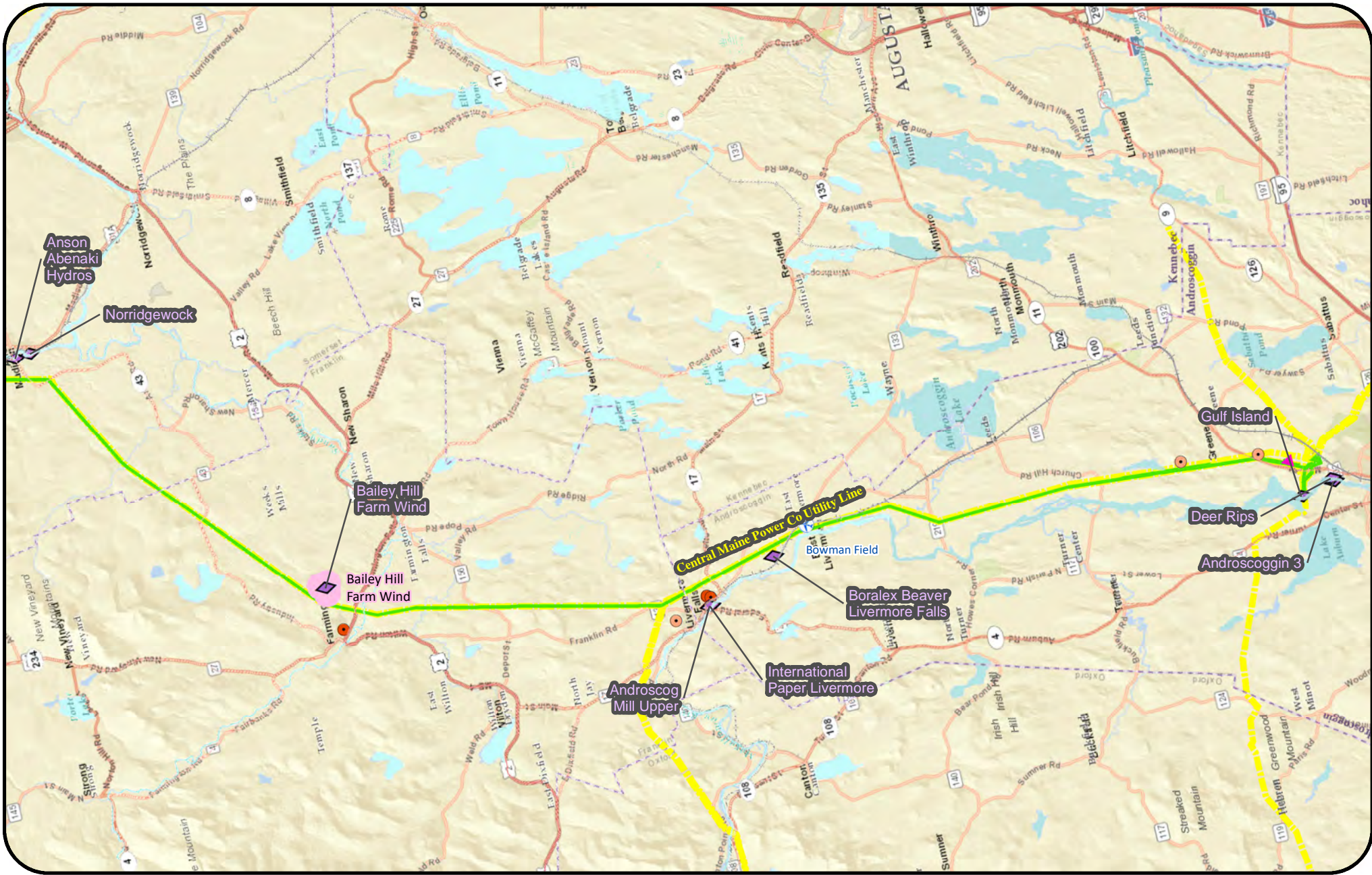


**Legend**

Existing Substation	Existing Power Plant	Existing Utility Line
Converter Station	Wind Farm	Railroad
Segment 1	Airport	Old Canada Road Scenic Byway
Segment 2	Cellular Tower	
Segment 3	Microwave Tower	

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Figure 13  
 Infrastructure Mapbook  
 24,000

CENTRAL MAINE POWER

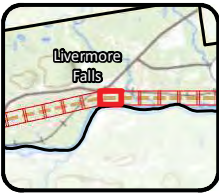
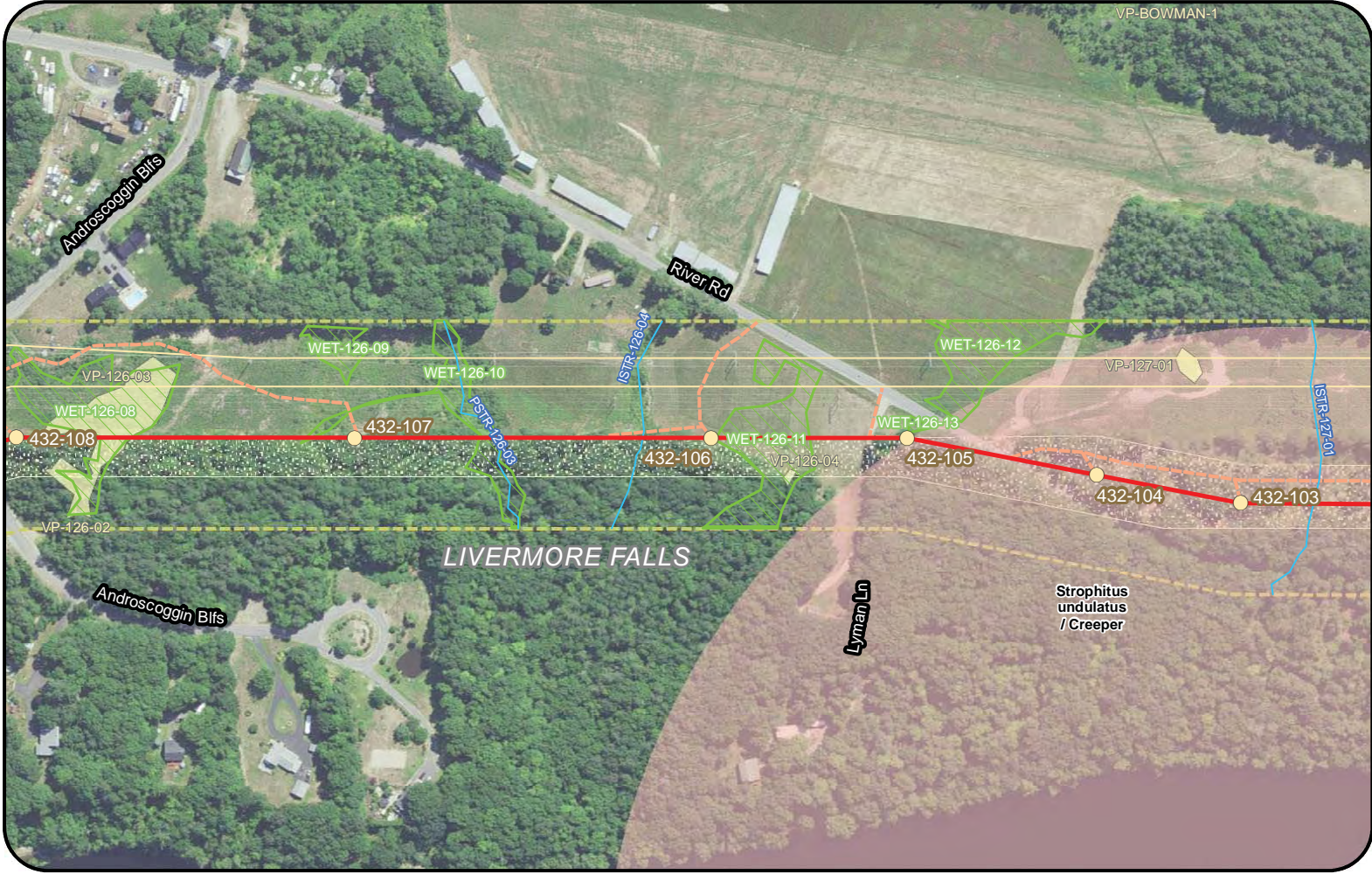


**Legend**

Existing Substation	Existing Power Plant	Existing Utility Line
Converter Station	Wind Farm	Railroad
Segment 1	Airport	Old Canada Road Scenic Byway
Segment 2	Cellular Tower	
Segment 3	Microwave Tower	

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Figure 13  
 Infrastructure Mapbook  
 24,000  
 Feet

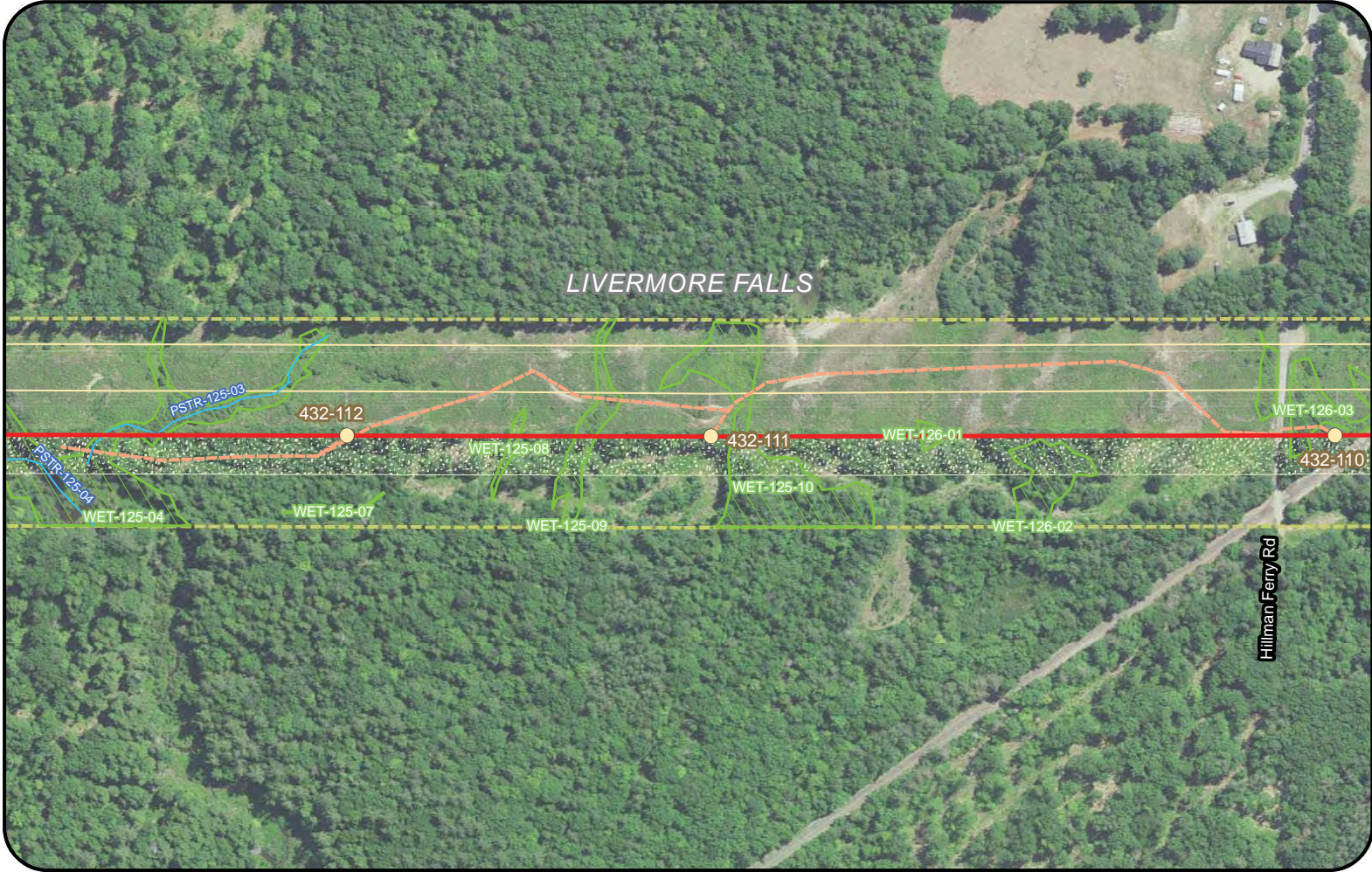
Page 3 of 3  
12/04/2020



Legend							
	Clearing Limits		Proposed Structure		Rare Plant (Polygon)		Project Centerline
	CMP Ownership / Easement Extent		Existing Structure		Rare Plant (Point)		Tidal Waterfowl Wading Bird Habitat (TWWH)
	Town Boundary		Existing Substation		SVP/ PSVP		Inland Waterfowl & Wading Bird Habitat (IWWH)
	Existing Transmission Line		Proposed Converter Station		USACE Vernal Pool		SVP and PSVP Buffer (250')
	Proposed Access Road		Stream		T and E Species		Substation Limit of Disturbance
	Off ROW Access Road (privately owned)		Wetland		Deer Wintering Area (DWA)		

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Natural Resource Maps  
 Segment 3  
 250 Feet

CENTRAL MAINE POWER

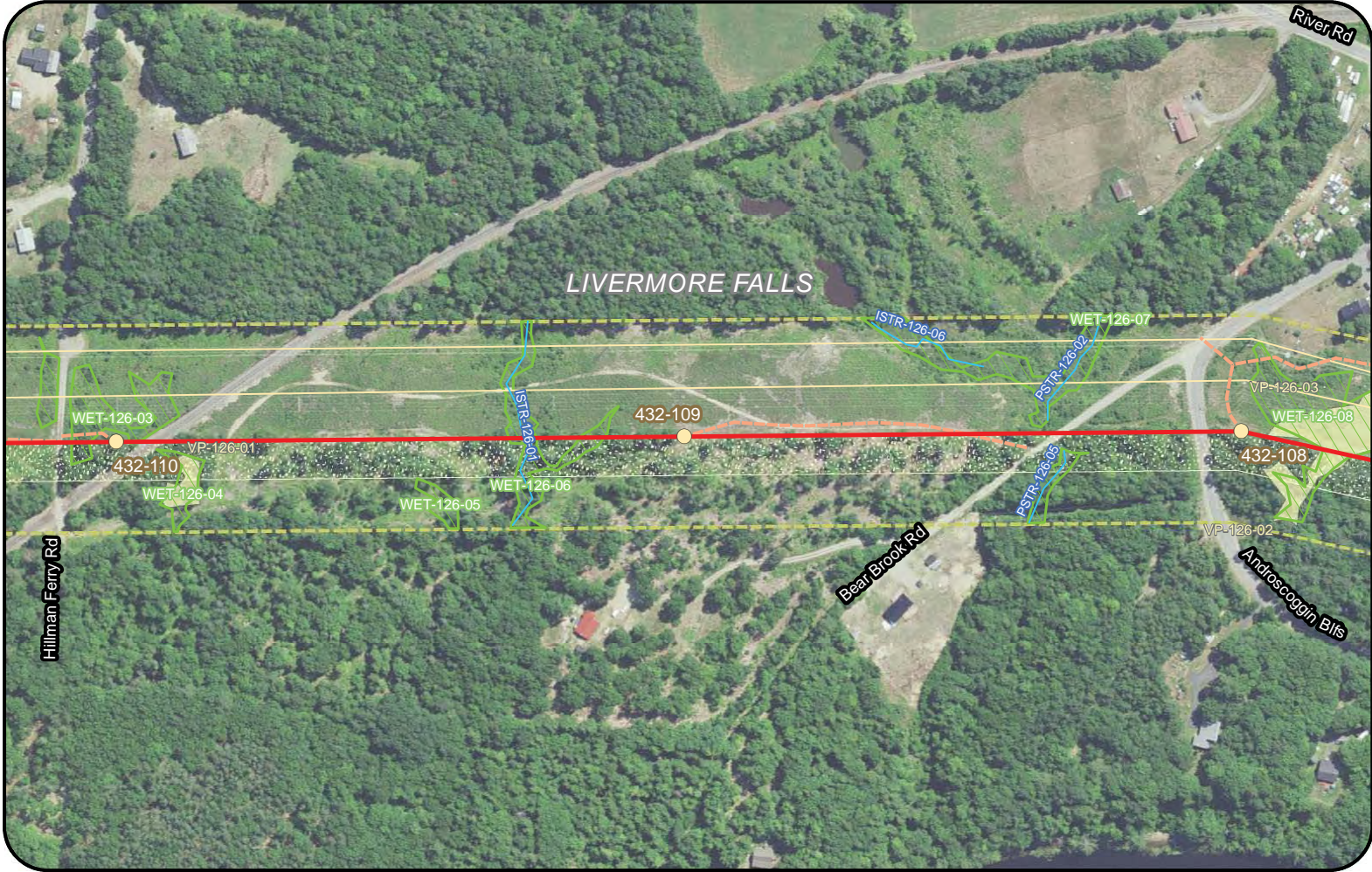


**Legend**

Clearing Limits	Proposed Structure	Rare Plant (Polygon)	Project Centerline
CMP Ownership / Easement Extent	Existing Structure	Rare Plant (Point)	Tidal Waterfowl Wading Bird Habitat (TWWH)
Town Boundary	Existing Substation	SVP/ PSVP	Inland Waterfowl & Wading Bird Habitat (IWWH)
Existing Transmission Line	Proposed Converter Station	USACE Vernal Pool	SVP and PSVP Buffer (250')
Proposed Access Road	Stream	T and E Species	Substation Limit of Disturbance
Off ROW Access Road (privately owned)	Wetland	Deer Wintering Area (DWA)	

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Natural Resource Maps  
 Segment 3  
 250 Feet

CENTRAL MAINE POWER



**Legend**

Clearing Limits	Proposed Structure	Rare Plant (Polygon)	Project Centerline
CMP Ownership / Easement Extent	Existing Structure	Rare Plant (Point)	Tidal Waterfowl Wading Bird Habitat (TWWH)
Town Boundary	Existing Substation	SVP/ PSVP	Inland Waterfowl & Wading Bird Habitat (IWWH)
Existing Transmission Line	Proposed Converter Station	USACE Vernal Pool	SVP and PSVP Buffer (250')
Proposed Access Road	Stream	T and E Species	Substation Limit of Disturbance
Off ROW Access Road (privately owned)	Wetland	Deer Wintering Area (DWA)	

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Natural Resource Maps  
 Segment 3  
 250 Feet

**CENTRAL MAINE POWER**



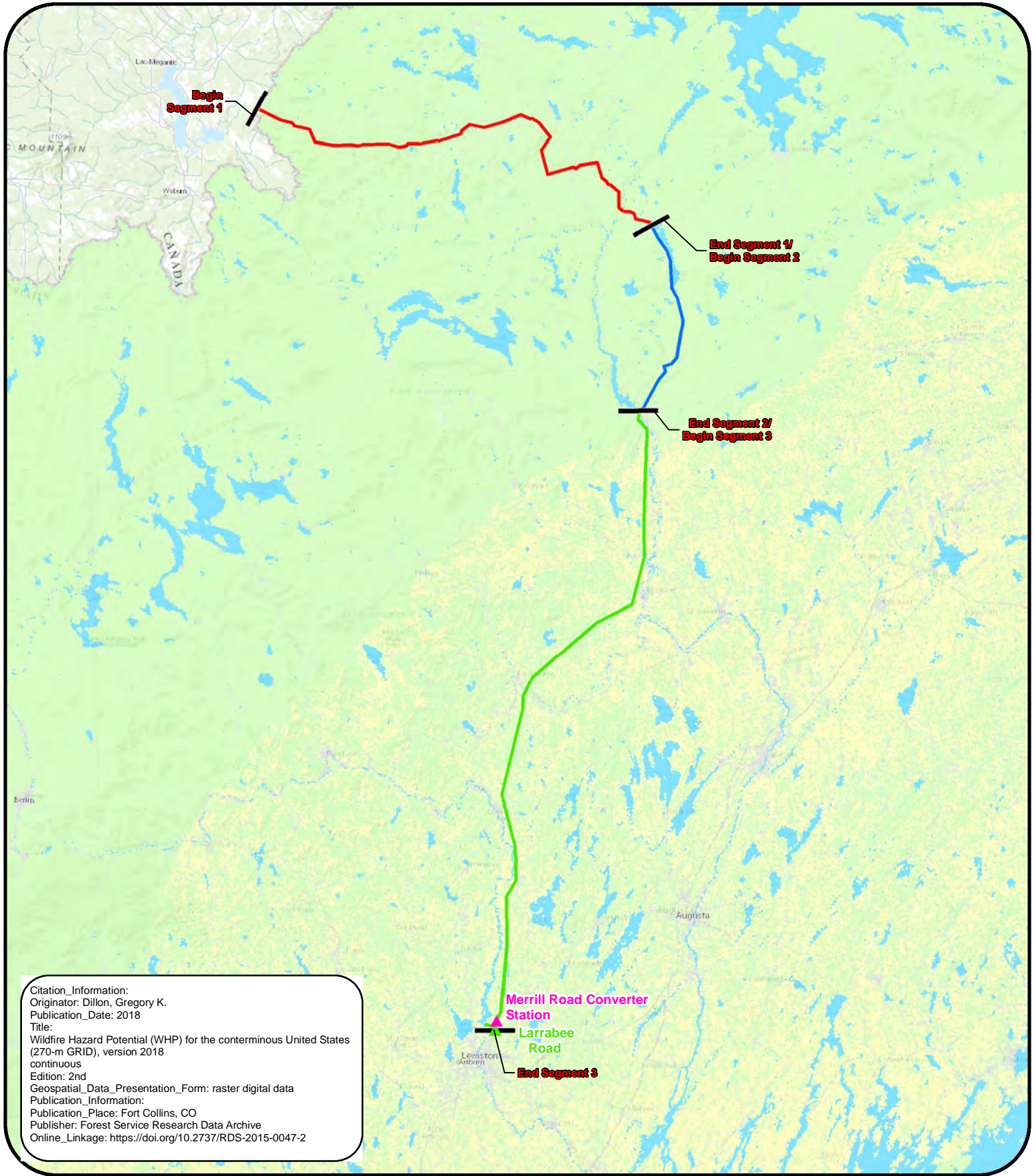
Legend	
	Proposed Structure
	Existing Structure
	Existing Substation
	Proposed Converter Station
	Stream
	Wetland
	Rare Plant (Point)
	USACE Vernal Pool
	Deer Wintering Area (DWA)
	Tidal Waterfowl Wading Bird Habitat (TWWH)
	SVP and PSVP Buffer (250')

**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Natural Resource Maps  
 Segment 3  
 250 Feet

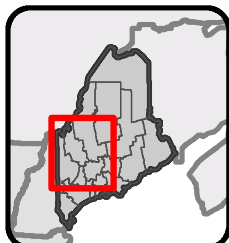
**CENTRAL MAINE POWER**





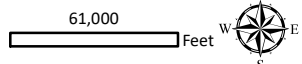


Citation\_Information:  
 Originator: Dillon, Gregory K.  
 Publication\_Date: 2018  
 Title:  
 Wildfire Hazard Potential (WHP) for the conterminous United States (270-m GRID), version 2018 continuous  
 Edition: 2nd  
 Geospatial\_Data\_Presentation\_Form: raster digital data  
 Publication\_Information:  
 Publication\_Place: Fort Collins, CO  
 Publisher: Forest Service Research Data Archive  
 Online\_Linkage: <https://doi.org/10.2737/RDS-2015-0047-2>



- ▲ Existing Substation
- ▲ Converter Station
- Segment 1, New ROW
- Segment 2, The Forks to Wyman Hydro
- Segment 3, Wyman Hydro to Larrabee Road
- Segment Breaks

- Fire Hazard Level**
- 1: Very Low
  - 2: Low
  - 3: Moderate
  - 4: High
  - 5: Very High
  - 6: Non-burnable
  - 7: Water



**New England Clean Energy Connect**  
 Figure 14  
 Fire Hazard Map



**Appendix K**  
**Public Involvement**

---



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

December 23, 2020

***Via E-mail Only***

Charles P. Kosak, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Energy Resilience Division  
Department of Energy Office of Electricity  
[NECECae@hq.doe.gov](mailto:NECECae@hq.doe.gov)

RE: New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC), Draft Environmental Assessment,  
DOE/EA-2155

Dear Mr. Kosak:

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department) received a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) for the NECEC project and has completed a high-level review of the document.

As background, and as acknowledged in Section 1.3 of the Draft EA, the Department is one of at least four agencies that have reviewed the NECEC project, the others being the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC). Within Maine, the PUC issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the NECEC project, finding the project is in the public interest. The LUPC issued a Certification, finding that the proposed project is an allowed use in the zoning subdistricts in which it is proposed and satisfied the applicable land use standards. The Department was the lead environmental review agency within the state, responsible for reviewing the entire project, including all five transmission line segments, under Maine’s Site Location of Development Law, 38 M.R.S. §§ 481 – 489-E, and Natural Resources Protection Act, 38 M.R.S. §§ 480-A – 480-JJ.

The Department issued an order approving the NECEC project, with conditions, on May 11, 2020. The LUPC’s Certification was incorporated into the Department Order. The Department’s approval of the project followed a comprehensive, 29-month review of the proposal, informed by written public comments, six days of evidentiary hearing, two nights of public testimony, and a public comment period on a draft of the order. Among the core conclusions of the Department in its final order approving the project is that, with the conditions included in the order, the NECEC project will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on existing uses, scenic character, air quality, water quality or other natural resources.

Based on review of the Draft EA, the environmental assessment accurately summarizes the Department’s permitting process, the resulting order approving the project, and the manner in which the project must be constructed to comply with the conditions of the Department’s order.

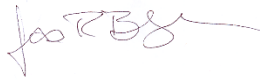
AUGUSTA 17 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017 (207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826	BANGOR 106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6 BANGOR, MAINE 04401 (207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584	PORTLAND 312 CANCO ROAD PORTLAND, MAINE 04103 (207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303	PRESQUE ISLE 1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769 (207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143
--	--	---	--

Letter to Charles P. Kosak  
December 23, 2020

For example, the types of vegetation management required pursuant to the order are discussed in Section 3.3.2.3 of the Draft EA. Further, many of the resources and potential impacts to these resources considered in Chapter 3 of the Draft EA are the same resources the Department is charged with protecting under Maine law and evaluated as part of its permitting review. Where this overlap exists, the Draft EA appears consistent with the Department's own assessment completed as part of the state environmental permitting process.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EA.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Beyer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James R. Beyer  
Regional Licensing and Compliance Manager  
Bureau of Land Resources