

Press Statement September 10, 2021

At the September 7, 2021, Lewiston City Council meeting, elected officials unanimously adopted a resolve reiterating and declaring their strong support for the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Project. Lewiston's officials believe the project has been thoroughly reviewed by multiple regulatory authorities charged with protecting and best serving the public interest and that NECEC has been uniformly found by those authorities to provide greater benefits than costs to the people of Maine. Construction is underway and is projected to run through May 2023 supporting 1,600 jobs in each year of construction with an estimated payroll of \$440 million.

At the culmination of a competitive solicitation for project proposals, the State of Massachusetts awarded AVANGRID/CMP's New England Clean Energy Connect transmission as the proposal that best meets the proposal's clean and renewable energy goals at the lowest cost.

A portion of the project, to be paid for by Massachusetts ratepayers, will be located within the City of Lewiston, including a station that will convert direct current to alternating current, as well as upgrades to transmission lines and substations. When complete, the converter station and associated transmission corridor and substation upgrades will generate in excess of \$6 million in new annual tax revenue in Lewiston.

In addition, the 1,200 MW of clean, reliable, and renewable additional electric power in New England will help offset the anticipated retirement of fossil fuel generating assets and will increase the overall availability of electricity to our region, and switching to this renewable energy source will result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that are equivalent of 700,000 fewer cars on the road. The additional supply will also result in \$14 - \$44 million per year in lower future energy costs in Maine.

Another plus is that as NECEC moved through the permitting process, Central Maine Power agreed to fund, among other benefits, \$10.5 million to support economic development and tourism, \$15 million for fiber optic and broadband expansion, \$15 million for expansion of electric vehicle charging stations and rebates, \$15 million to improve access to heat pumps for low-income Maine residents, and 43,000 acres of conserved land.

The City Council's resolve also noted that of the 145 miles of transmission corridor from Canada to Lewiston, 53 miles of it will be a new corridor, and the volume of trees to be cut in those 53 miles is less than 1% of the volume of trees cut annually in the Maine woods.

The project has been thoroughly evaluated through a comprehensive review process and has received permits and approvals from all necessary federal and state agencies including the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Land Use Planning Commission, Public Utilities Commission, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Energy, ISO New England, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. ###