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September 11, 2008

Ms. Karen Geraghty
Administrative Director
Maine Public Utilities Commission
State House Station #18
242 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04333-0018

RE: CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY and
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Request for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Maine Power
Reliability Program Consisting of the Construction of Approximately 350 miles of 345
kV and 115 kV Transmission Lines ("MPRP")
Docket No. 2008-255

Dear Ms. Geraghty:

This letter is on behalf of Petitioners Central Maine Power Company and Public Service Company of New Hampshire, in response to the letter to you by William Harwood, counsel for Bangor Hydro-Electric Company ("BHE"), dated August 29, 2008 in the above-captioned matter.

Petitioners appreciate BHE's courtesy in advising Petitioners, other parties and the Commission of the position BHE currently intends to take concerning the approvals and/or agreements relating to BHE's franchise territory that, in BHE's view, are necessary for the completion of the project.

Petitioners fully intend to prove all the elements required for the grant of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity by the Commission, including any elements that relate to Petitioners' right to construct, own and operate the facilities necessary to complete the project in the locations proposed in the Petition. To the extent that BHE or other parties raise objections to the

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project, or its location, Petitioners will, consistent with the procedural schedule in this matter, present appropriate evidence and support in the law sufficient to meet their burden.

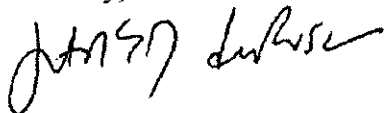
There is, however, no reason for the Commission to seek to resolve the issues raised by BHE now. Indeed, BHE does not in its letter seek a determination of the scope of its franchise rights at this point. As BHE concedes, the issue raised by BHE has no relevance to the issue of whether the project meets the Commission's requirements for a finding of "need;" the issue would arise, if at all, only in the context of the construction, ownership and operation of the project facilities. In addition, there are no new issues or matters of law discussed by BHE in its letter filing that require immediate attention. The Commission's prior guidance on this issue is clear, on point, compelling, and makes sense from a policy standpoint. If and when the parties need to brief, and the Commission decide, or re-decide, the issues raised by BHE, the Commission's prior guidance can be looked to in detail once again.

Moreover, by considering the issue within the normal processing of the case (*i.e.*, after full hearings and briefing of all the issues), the Commission will provide an opportunity for the Petitioners and BHE to determine among themselves whether a resolution to the issues raised by BHE can be resolved without a Commission determination. No party will be prejudiced. Petitioners commit to continue good faith discussions with BHE in an effort to resolve any remaining issues BHE may have.

Significantly, BHE does not in any way suggest, nor does Mr. Harwood's letter support, any delay in processing Petitioners' application. BHE does "not oppose the MPRP in concept," and "looks forward to learning more about the specifics of the Project." Moving forward with the case promptly will provide exactly the opportunity that BHE seeks. No delay can be justified by the fact that, at the conclusion of the case, the Commission may be called upon to determine whether, for construction and ownership of a portion of the project, Petitioners require BHE's consent.

BHE agrees that there may well be "compelling reasons to build" the project. The Commission need not be deflected from the prompt and thorough consideration of the Petition by BHE's articulation of one of the arguments that it intends to raise, if Petitioners and BHE cannot agree among themselves to a commercial resolution of the issue.

Sincerely,



Jared S. des Rosiers

JSD/p

cc: Service List