

Everett Simpson
Corinna, Maine
LD 596

Energy Utilities and Technology Committee Testimony LD 596

I am a resident and farmland owner in the town of Corinna, Maine. Since January 2016, 33 Corinna landowners, including myself, have been impacted by a high voltage electrical transmission line project planned by Maine Electric Power Company, Inc. (MEPCO). MEPCO is co-owned by Central Maine Power Company (Spain), and Versant Power (Canada).

The proposed MEPCO Project is a 70 mile 345kV transmission line impacting 13 communities from Chester to Pittsfield. The corridor right-of-way is 150 feet in width and follows a new pathway across woods, waters, forests, and farmland. In places, the new corridor abuts existing transmission corridors, but will not be constructed within these corridors.

The MEPCO Project is the middle part of a greater phantom corridor to nowhere extending from Chester to Haynesville. "A corridor for anything. Any use."
(MEPCO)

From 2016-2018 there was significant opposition to MEPCO in Corinna. By a vote of 93-27 Corinna enacted a 180 day moratorium on corridor development. A new corridor ordinance was approved by the planning board and the board of selectmen. MEPCO responded by opening a campaign office in downtown Corinna, where a massively inaccurate misinformation campaign was launched, claiming that corridor setbacks take away the rights of abutting landowners. The proposed land use ordinance was defeated 94-56.

Corinna is geographically situated and integral in creating an East West Corridor across Maine, from Haynesville to Coburn Gore. From Corinna, the 345 kV MEPCO corridor would neatly connect with existing transmission corridors serving the Bingham Wind Project and the Hydro Quebec Project toward Coburn Gore and onward to Canada. The northern end of the proposed Aroostook Renewable Gateway Project completes an East West Corridor from Chester to Haynesville and beyond to New Brunswick, Canada.

The EUT committee's Resolve, To Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure demands transparency. A no information fast track rubber stamp approval to land use planning and corridor development opens the entire state of Maine to free plunder created by the legislature and corporate greed.

I am opposed to streamlining legislative approval of high voltage transmission line projects which would allow approval and permitting of all present and future transmission projects, without any detailed information and public output about the projects.

I recommend Ought Not To Pass on LD 596.

Everett E. Simpson