



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES
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ACTING COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

An Act to Align Long-range Grid Strategy with the State Energy Plan and Strengthen Integrated Grid Planning L.D. 2113

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES
January 22, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT): My name is Caroline Colan, and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

The DOER testifies neither for nor against L.D. 2113.

Central Maine Power Company and Versant Power have recently filed the first statutorily required integrated grid plans (IGPs) with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The submission of these plans marks a critical milestone in implementing the Governor's landmark utility accountability law enacted in 2022 which requires large electric utilities to prepare 10-year plans to "improve system reliability and resilience and enable the cost-effective achievement of the state's greenhouse gas reduction obligations." The Public Utilities Commission requires each plan to address three key priorities: (1) reliability and resilience improvements, (2) improvements in data quality and integrity to maximize its use in distribution system planning, and (3) promotion of flexible management of consumers' resources and energy consumption.

These plans are important foundational documents to help ensure necessary upgrades to Maine's aging grid are achieved in the most affordable manner, and that the electric grid is prepared to meet Maine's needs for years to come. DOER staff are in the midst of reviewing the components of these plans as we speak, and the department looks forward to engaging in the details before the Commission over the next couple months. DOER encourages interested stakeholders to do the same—public comments will be accepted by the Commission until March 15, 2026, and can be submitted using their Case Management System referencing docket number 2022-00322.

We agree with the bill sponsor that it is essential to get these plans right; however, it may be premature to revise the process before the first planning cycle is complete. We expect that the initial round of integrated grid plans will yield a clearer understanding of where improvements and additional clarity are needed. We would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the sponsor, the Commission, and this committee to advance those refinements. At this time, we respectfully recommend using this legislation as a vehicle to discuss potential improvements for future IGPs at a high level, while deferring



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significant changes to the process until the plans have been fully reviewed. Should the Committee move forward with this legislation, we have additional feedback we would be happy to provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Caroline Colan, Legislative Liaison
Department of Energy Resources