

Speech Outline

Introduction The Central Maine Power company, or more commonly known as CMP, is an energy company in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. The company is currently in the process of building a transmission line from Canada that will travel through Maine to reach Massachusetts.

Attention Getter: “Central Maine Power’s New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) [or more commonly heard as transmission line] will save Massachusetts and Maine consumers hundreds of millions of dollars each year by harnessing Canadian hydropower and wind resources and transmitting clean energy into the New England grid” (“About NECEC”).

Background and Audience Relevance: From introductions, personal discussions, stories, and presentations, there are a majority of people in this class are from these areas: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, or New York.

Speaker Credibility: Just like many of you have expressed you don't really know what “CMP” is and neither did I until this project. However, through research I have discovered the meaning behind the title CMP. I myself am from central Maine and this transmission line will actually run very close to my hometown. The line will (show on google map slide) cut over my route/road that I live on. As you see it cuts near Skowhegan and Madison, but the route 43 connects right into Cornville where I live rurally.

Thesis: Central Maine Power’s New England Clean Energy Connect is proposed to provide financial savings, jobs, clean energy, but will conclude with clearing out most of Maine’s North Woods and in doing so possibly wildlife.

Preview of Main Points: Today I will discuss how Central Maine Power came to be, the companies that make up CMP, and the proposal of the transmission line.

Transition to first main point: For some background knowledge to help put a definition to a name, like I did, I am going to focus on how Central Maine Power originated.

Main point 1: Central Maine Power started way back in 1887 when it first started by providing water powered electricity to one village. It was then over the next 100 years that CMP started providing electricity for “490,000 customers in an area covering about half the state of Maine, using water, waste, wood, nuclear power, and wind to

light homes and streets, and to power factories” (“CENTRAL MAINE POWER HISTORY”).

Subpoint A: According to the timeline of the Central Maine Power History Website, way back in 1887 the town of Oakland started generating enough electricity to provide street lighting. Then in 1893, the company was sold to Walter D. Wyman who in 1899 collaborated with a friend, Harvey D. Eaton, to become company partners. At the time “most electric companies in that era were only allowed to operate in one city,” which became the next project for Wyman and Eaton. Fast forward ten years, the partners, by 1909 “provided electricity to 4,550 customers, counting gross earnings of \$77,000” with their company having spread out to more and more to neighboring cities.

Subpoint B: Continuing along Central Maine Power History website, by 1911, CMP built its “first hydroelectric development in Oakland.” Hydroelectricity works by power plants harnessing a place where water flows downward because “water gains potential energy just before it spills over the top of a dam or flows down a hill [which]... is converted into kinetic energy as water flows down...[ward]. The water...[then is] used to turn the blades of a turbine to generate electricity, which is distributed to the power plant’s customers” (National Geographic Society). Time continued to pass with many events that took various tolls on the company such as the Great Depression and wars, but “by 1951 the firm employed 1,677 people, and owned 34 hydroelectric, six steam, and four internal combustion electricity plants, with the hydro plants accounting for 68 percent of the output” according to the Central Maine Power History Website. Finally in 2010, the name changed from the “Messalonskee Electric Company” to what we are familiar with, Central Maine Power.

Transition (signpost, review, preview): However, after many years since Central Maine Power started they have transitioned into the ownership of Iberdrola.

Main point 2: The company, Iberdrola is located all the way over in Spain. The company “supplies energy to over 100 million people in the countries in which it operates” according to the Iberdrola company website.

Subpoint A: Iberdrola is actually the owner of smaller company Avangrid, which splits into two lines of business that work with 24 U.S. States. According to the

Avangrid's company website the business line "Avangrid Networks owns eight electric and natural gas utilities, serving 3.2 million customers in New York and New England." However, where did the name Avangrid even come from? Well according to Fred Bever's article "CMP Under New Ownership in Iberdrola Merger," "in many languages, avant...means forward movement, progress...and 'grid' is intended to mean in the broadest sense all those resources that generate electricity all the way to the end user and all the parts in between."

Subpoint B: Though in the "Report: CMP Parent Company Could Be Part of \$67 Billion Merger." article says that there might be an upcoming merger with the "PPL Corporation [which] is based in Pennsylvania and serves about 10 million people". The article goes on to explain that if this merger is to occur it be a deal worth \$67 billion.

Transition (signpost, review, preview): Now, going coming a little bit away from the general background information of CMP and focusing on the transmission line, there has been a lot of controversy over it from various sides. However, I am going to focus on the proposal itself where all controversy stems from.

Main point 3: The initial proposal of the "Central Maine Power's New England Clean Energy Connect is a proposed 145-mile high-voltage direct current transmission line from Beattie Township on the Canada border to an existing interchange in Lewiston" according to another one of Fred Bever's articles "CMP Powerline Facts and Documents."

Subpoint A: Fred Bever explains that the route of the line itself "would be 150 feet wide and would include an added 75 feet on each side for a buffer and the possible addition of a second line at a later date." Then as an addition to the "project, CMP would install new 345 kilovolt lines over a separate 26.5-mile stretch of transmission corridor between Windsor and the Maine Yankee substation in Wiscasset." The Northeast Clean Energy Council, NECEC, will pay \$60 million in installments that would eventually return to the CMP ratepayers. The amount of energy being transferred from Canada would be enough to power about a million homes in Massachusetts. The 40 year project of energy would

then be offered to Maine after the initial 20 years for energy distribution to Mainers.

Subpoint B: Now it is time to compare the costs and benefits. The entire thing is roughly estimated to cost about \$950 million. However, Maine would not be charged anything “because Massachusetts consumers are the buyers of the energy and paying for the new transmission capacity” (Bever). This would help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions over time. If Maine did decide to join later on in this project it has been narrowed down to “save homeowners around \$1.50 a month, according to some supporters [but] opponents say it’s more like 10 cents a month” (Bever).

Transition and signal closing: A huge issue is that proposal does not necessarily settle with everyone.

Conclusion: There are many pros and cons on both sides of supporting or rejecting the transmission line. There is a lot of controversy and narrowing it down to the original proposal helps iron out why certain people might feel one way or another.

Restate thesis: Central Maine Power’s New England Clean Energy Connect is proposed to provide financial savings, jobs, clean energy, but will conclude with clearing out most of Maine’s North Woods and in doing so possibly wildlife.

Review main points: To recap all of the information I presented was how Central Maine Power came to be, the companies that make up CMP, and the purpose of the transmission line.

Memorable closer: Your personal opinions on the transmission line really boils down to what you value the most that the project will or won’t do.

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