



CARING FOR THE WATERS OF MIDCOAST MAINE

Should CMP customers pay for Nordic's electricity needs?

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) and the Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) have recently issued a statement urging the Public Utilities Commission to deny Central Maine Power's request for a **\$63 million power grid upgrade** needed for the Nordic Aquafarm project. The two agencies stated that CMP's request failed to "adequately demonstrate the asserted need."

The upgrade to the grid known as Section 80 south of Belfast has been contemplated since 2007, but CMP pushed the PUC to make it a priority item **and for it to be paid for by ratepayers** because Nordic Aquafarms needs a minimum peak demand of 28 Megawatts to pump huge amounts of water through its plant.

How much power is 28 Megawatts? This is equal to the energy use of Belfast, Northport, Lincolnville, Camden, Rockport and Rockland combined. One company would use more power than all the homes and businesses in this entire region.

EMT manages programs to improve energy use and reduce greenhouse gases. The OPA negotiates rates and services on behalf of utility customers. They stated: "Implementing the project without quantifying the need using the most up-to-date information would result in a costly investment that is not responsive to actual conditions."

Nordic Aquafarms carbon footprint:

■ The factory requires 8 diesel generators, each with a 67 foot smoke stake, an on site concrete plant for construction, and a waste disposal facility. The 8 diesel generators could supply 14 megawatts, not the facility's minimum peak demand of 28 megawatts.

■ A conservative calculation shows the factory adding between 550,000 and 759,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents to the atmosphere each year.

■ Forest liquidation, and the removal of 35 acres of soils, from 8 to 52 feet deep (the soils are unsuitable and must be replaced) will equal a loss of 13,465 metric tons of carbon above and below ground. The forest is currently estimated to be sequestering 42.9 metric tons of carbon each year, and will sequester more as it ages.

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CENTRAL MAINE POWER

January 21, 2020

Richard P. Hevey
Senior Counsel

Mr. Harry Lanphear
Administrative Director
Maine Public Utilities Commission
State House Station #18
Augusta, Maine 04333-0018

RE: CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY,
Request for Approval of Non-Transmission Alternative (NTA) Pilot
Projects for the Midcoast and Portland Areas,
Docket No. 2011-138

Dear Mr. Lanphear:

By Procedural Order dated October 10, 2018, the Hearing Examiners in the above-referenced proceeding put all aspects of this proceeding on hold. This determination was based on uncertainty regarding (1) the status or the results of the anticipated ISO-NE Maine Needs Assessment and (2) the issue of whether the Commission intended to reopen the local transmission standards proceeding in Docket No. 2011-00494.

One aspect of this proceeding relates to the implementation of a non-transmission alternative ("NTA") pilot project for the Midcoast area. As part of the June 10, 2010 Order Approving Stipulation in *Central Maine Power Company and Public Service 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, Order Approving Stipulation (June 10, 2010) (MPRP Order) the Commission required CMP and GridSolar, LLC ("GridSolar") to file NTA Pilot projects for the Midcoast and Portland areas as a means of addressing reliability needs in such areas.

Prior to this proceeding being put on hold, CMP, Commission Staff and other parties to this proceeding were in settlement discussions regarding the scope of various alternatives to meet the reliability needs of the Midcoast area. As part of those discussions, the need to rebuild Section 80 of CMP's system was discussed. Section 80 is a 115 kV line that runs from Coopers Mills Substation in Windsor to CMP's Highland Substation, located in Warren.

The need for CMP to rebuild Section 80 has become urgent based on the request of a new load customer to interconnect to CMP's system. Nordic Aquafarms is requesting transmission and distribution service from CMP to serve its proposed new aqua culture salmon farm facility to be located in Belfast, Maine. In December 2018 CMP performed a comprehensive steady state power flow analysis on the transmission system in and around the Belfast area with the objective to determine the needs required to interconnect Nordic Aquafarms 23.7 MVA of load in the Belfast, Maine area for a new aqua culture salmon farm facility. During the analysis performed by CMP, it was noted that each potential alternative to interconnect the Nordic Aquafarms load will require that Section 80 be rebuilt in order to meet certain N-1-1 contingencies at peak load level conditions.

Nordic Aquafarms is seeking an in-service date to occur in April 2021. Consequently, CMP needs to move forward with the issue of rebuilding Section 80, which was part of the overall Solutions Analysis for the Midcoast area. CMP therefore respectfully requests that the Hearing Examiners schedule a case conference in order for parties to discuss the immediate need to upgrade Section 80, as well as the overall approach to addressing the reliability needs in the Midcoast area.

Please contact me if the Commission has any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Hevey
Senior Counsel

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Posted on Nordic's Facebook page February 22, 2022...

Nordic Aquafarms Maine
13h · 🌐

QUESTIONS ON CMP'S SECTION 80

There have been questions about CMP's planned Section 80 expansion and what it means for Nordic.

The simple answer is that Nordic has not paid much attention to Section 80 because this has been a regional upgrade in the making years before Nordic entered the scene.

Nordic's project will go forward regardless of Section 80, but would be connected to it if it happens as we understand it. As a larger party in the region we have therefore been mentioned in that context. But again, Nordic is not dependent on Section 80 nor are we aware of any clear benefits to Nordic specifically from those plans.

Thus, Nordic does not have an opinion on Section 80 and has no plans to get involved in that process.



CARING FOR THE WATERS OF MIDCOAST MAINE

Nordic Has Not Met the Belfast Planning Board's Permit Conditions

The only letter from CMP provided by Nordic during the Planning Board permitting process is not an interconnect agreement or contractual commitment (see copy below).

Unfortunately for Nordic, since the energy studies failed, there is no pathway forward without an unapproved, unfunded capital improvement. This letter cannot even be considered a precursor to a commitment by CMP.



We are so grateful to our supporters. We are confident that we will win this fight to protect our community and our children's future.

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Upstream Watch, PO Box 113, Belfast, ME 04915

negotiations go as such the rate payers would be paying for the upgrades needed for Nordic's project.

12/3/2020: Ed Cotter, Senior Vice President of Projects at Nordic Aquafarms: I can't see how I can tell CMP how to do their work or you know the cost structure as well, whether this is born by Nordic or CMP rate payers, or somewhere in the middle, depending on the results of our negotiation. They're governed by the PUC and CMP's rules. I can understand your concerns, I just don't want to put us in a position where we can't fulfill the needs put forth in this condition.


CENTRAL MAINE POWER

2/20/19
Belfast, ME
RE: Nordic Aquafarms Belfast

To Whom it May Concern 

Thank you for inquiring about the availability of electric service for the proposed Nordic Aquafarms facility in Belfast, ME. We are pleased to inform you that Central Maine Power Company ("CMP") has transmission and distribution facilities in the vicinity of the proposed site. The actual service configuration will be determined based on the site requirements and technical specifications determined by a feasibility, engineering and impact study conducted by CMP. The service provided and associated costs would be in accordance with applicable CMP tariffs on file with the Maine Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") at the time contractual arrangements are made.

This letter should not be considered a contractual commitment to serve the proposed project, and is provided for informational purposes only. As a public utility, CMP is under the jurisdiction of the Commission and FERC, and attests an electric service will be provided in accordance with the rules and regulations in effect at the time service is provided. 

Sincerely,


Jennifer Mazzaro
Key Account Manager

FROM THE PLANNING BOARD TRANSCRIPTS:

10/19/2020 Board Member D. Bond: Has CMP committed in writing to have adequate capacity for Nordic's needs at all times?

10/21/2020 Board Member G. Gilchrist: Does CMP understand Nordic's power needs, and can they provide it?

12/9/2020: Jeff (a board member) says I think that's a worst case scenario if the project's built and then they're (Nordic) coming back and saying well actually we need to be burning diesel all the time because CMP can't meet our needs. I imagine if the