



CENTRAL MAINE POWER

September 18, 2012

Mr. Derek Lovitch
Freeport Wild Bird Supply
541 U.S. Route One, Suite 10
Freeport, ME 04032

Dear Mr. Lovitch,

Central Maine Power Company (CMP) appreciates the opportunity to discuss your concerns about our transmission corridor on Sandy Point in Yarmouth. In the fall of 2011, we postponed our routine vegetation management in the Sandy Point corridor at your request to avoid working in that area during the peak autumn bird migration. For the benefit of the birds, we also agreed to leave a number of large, low-growing shrubs, small trees, and mature hardwoods along the parking lot area and on the bank above the beach.

CMP manages its land in accordance with widely accepted industry practices to meet reliability requirements set by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) and to comply with operating standards of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). The federal government imposed mandatory and enforceable standards through NERC for the design, construction, and maintenance of utility transmission systems as a direct response to the 2003 Northeast Blackout. Violations of these standards have triggered severe fines and penalties up to \$1 million per day for offending utilities. An early 2012 inspection of the corridor in the Sandy Point area identified vegetation growth requiring removal to ensure compliance with our regulatory requirements. We apologize for our oversight in not notifying you before we removed the trees and shrubs in this area.

In addition to the above, CMP contractor tree crews cut a birch tree adjacent to the CMP corridor on land owned by the Town of Yarmouth, mistakenly believing that this tree was on CMP-owned land. We regret this mistake and have apologized to town officials for this.

CMP has a long tradition of allowing public use of our corridors for a variety of outdoor activities, including bird watching. Our vegetation management practices benefit wildlife, including birds, by maintaining early successional scrub-shrub habitat that is not widespread in Maine. In the case of Sandy Point, we are willing to supplement our standard practices by planting two trees (in addition to the three Witch-Hazel shrubs

83 Edison Drive, Augusta, ME 04336
Telephone 207.623.3521
www.cmpco.com



planted this June), at mutually-agreed locations, and by maintaining a bird observation path for bird watchers. The approximate location of the path will be flagged by Mr. Lovitch this fall and will be mowed next spring. We will also add a note to our file to include a notice to you in advance of each four-year vegetation maintenance cycle.

Thank you for bringing the concerns of the birding community to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicholas Hahn".

Nicholas Hahn
Vegetation Management