

CONTACT

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– Refer to Section 38

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CENTRAL MAINE POWER

INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

Central Maine Power Company (CMP) efficiently delivers safe, reliable electricity to more than 646,000 homes and businesses from an energy supplier of their choice over our dependable infrastructure. CMP does not generate power.

Since 2019, Maine has been experiencing tremendous growth in renewable energy generation, like solar, and storage development. CMP is required by law and the Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE), which oversees the New England energy grid, to work with developers to connect their power sources to our system. All projects undergo applicable system studies before an interconnection agreement is reached and construction begins.

Energy generators and developers pay the expenses associated with CMP's system improvements to facilitate their connection needs, including the upgrades of transmission and distribution lines.

DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

COMMUNITY SOLAR

More than 600 applications to interconnect community solar arrays to CMP's electric system are in various stages, from initial review and studies to energization. Since late 2021, CMP has connected more than 300 megawatts (MW) of clean energy from community solar projects between 1 and 5 MWs. In many cases, distribution line upgrades or extensions are all that's needed to join the solar array to its nearest substation. However, in areas where numerous solar developments in close proximity to each other want to connect to CMP's system, this creates an interconnection cluster that requires electric grid upgrades beyond distribution lines to accommodate the additional power load.



CMP Transmission Line Project Team members inspect one of the structures on Section 38 in Oakland.

SECTION 38 TRANSMISSION LINE

PROJECT NEED

In the Winslow-Lakewood area, four solar developers are seeking access. A thorough system impact study determined that transmission line improvements to "re-rate" the conductor would optimize the use of the existing transmission line without having to rebuild it entirely. This is in addition to any distribution line upgrades near their planned solar arrays.

PROJECT SCOPE

CMP plans to re-rate its Section 38 34.5kV transmission line, which travels slightly more than one mile from Oakland 34.5kV Substation to CMP's Section 13/38 tap, beginning late Summer 2023 with work estimated to be completed by the end of the year.



Nine new, slightly taller light-duty steel transmission structures will replace existing structures to accommodate CMP's plan to re-rate the line as part of additional load from four solar developers. The work will begin in late summer.

Nine existing structures will be replaced with taller light-duty steel poles that are needed to safely achieve the increased conductor rating.

CMP's Section 38 is a radial line that serves the electricity delivery needs of 5,329 customers in the Oakland area. Because it is the only source of electricity, no outages are planned. The new structures will be placed offset from the existing line to allow for the construction to be completed while the line remains energized.

CMP's Section 38 right of way begins at the Oakland 34.5kV Substation on Cascade Mill Road, crosses Messalonskee Stream, follows behind properties on Mayland Street, then crosses Old Augusta Road, Kennedy Memorial Drive, S. Alpine and Old Alpine streets, and ends in the 250 street-number area of Country Club Road.

ACCESS

Our crews will be entering our right of way from main roads. We only will be working in our right of way, no additional access is required for the replacement of these structures.

PERMITS

CMP will seek all required state and municipal permits.

TREES AND VEGETATION

CMP will be trimming trees within our right-of-way and not solely in the areas where we are installing new poles to protect our lines and reduce the possibility of storm-related damages or outages.

WORK HOURS AND NOISE

CMP follows municipal work and noise ordinances. Construction noise will be present. You may hear heavy equipment (bucket trucks, cranes, and excavators) during matting and pole setting or removing activities.

ESTIMATED TIMETABLE *subject to change*

- Construction Start: Late Summer 2023
- Completion: End of 2023

MAINE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS

CMP is committed to helping the State of Maine reach its renewable energy goals by working to connect new generation to our energy delivery system. Maine's goal is to reach 80% renewable energy generation by 2030 and 100% renewable energy generation by 2050.