

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MARK A. VANNOY  
CHAIRMAN

DAVID P. LITTELL  
COMMISSIONER

HARRY LANPHEAR  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

February 6, 2015

Honorable David Woodsome, Senate Chair  
Honorable Mark N. Dion, House Chair  
Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Re: Follow Up Report Regarding Geomagnetic Disturbances (GMD) and  
Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP)**

Dear Senator Woodsome and Representative Dion:

During its 2013 session, the Legislature enacted LD 131, Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Examine Measures to Mitigate the Effects of Geomagnetic Disturbances and Electromagnetic Pulse on the State's Transmission System. Resolves 2013, ch. 45. The Resolve directed the Commission to examine the vulnerabilities of the State's transmission infrastructure to the potential negative impacts of a GMD or EMP capable of disabling, disrupting or destroying a transmission and distribution system and identify potential mitigation measures. The Resolve also directed the Commission to actively monitor various federal and regional efforts to develop reliability standards related to GMD and EMP and provide a report to the Committee by January 20, 2014.

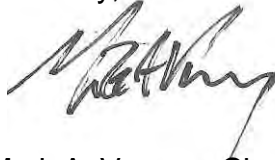
When the Commission delivered its report, we noted that the cost estimates we received for various mitigation measures, which ranged from a few million to \$25 million, were general cost estimates and suggested that a follow on study could provide cost estimates based specifically on the Maine system. This additional work was intended to help balance risks of an event with the costs and benefits of mitigation and to provide guidance in determining what mitigation may be appropriate for Maine. A study group was formed, Central Maine Power Company (CMP) took a lead role and both CMP and Emprimus, a company that develops and produces products designed to protect against potential negative effects of GMD and EMP events, procured necessary software to perform Maine-specific power system modeling to determine the specific effects of GMD/EMP events on the Maine grid.

The results of the work of the study group and the modeling by CMP is a report, entitled, 2014 Maine GMD/EMP Assessment. The report provides information on a range of GMD and EMP events, potential mitigation measures and costs associated with those mitigation measures. The report is attached, as are all the comments submitted by study group participants and a separate report authored by Emprimus. Finally, attached is a reference list

of the attached comments by date, name of the person or entity that filed comments and document title.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Vannoy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Mark A. Vannoy, Chairman  
On behalf of the Chairman and  
David P. Littell, Commissioner  
Maine Public Utilities Commission

Attachments

cc: Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee Members  
Deirdre Schneider, Legislative Analyst