

# HANCOCK COUNTY RELIABILITY PROJECT

## Proposed New Transmission Line – Update 2 (March 2007)

### The Need

Bangor Hydro has determined through system studies that the existing electricity transmission network cannot support the anticipated growth in the Hancock County area. The system is reaching its capacity, which will result in having to rely upon emergency generators to support peak load during summer months. Bangor Hydro is planning to build a transmission line to meet these needs and provide the most reliable electric service to the residents and businesses in the area.

Bangor Hydro evaluated a number of alternatives to meet the need, and concluded that additional transmission capacity was the best long-term solution to meet the growing system needs. Specifically this would be a new 115,000 volt overhead transmission line running from Ellsworth to Trenton, Maine.

### Development & Siting Process

Bangor Hydro has actively sought input from a large group of stakeholders to align the project with local priorities. Meetings have been held with leadership of all of the communities in the area including Ellsworth, Hancock, Lamoine, and Trenton. In addition, other civic organizations, conservation groups and agencies have been contacted including Coastal Acadia Development Corp., Union River Watershed Coalition, Maine Dept. of Transportation, Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, US Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Atlantic Salmon Commission and Friends of Acadia. These contacts were made to gather information and feedback, determine community priorities, and assess cultural and natural resource impacts. Outreach efforts will continue through all stages of the project.

A proposed route has been established by working directly with individual landowners. This proposed location is 68%

co-located with existing power lines in order to minimize environmental and aesthetic impacts.

Community priorities, environmental data, landowner preferences, cost, and operational considerations were the key criteria by which the route and line design were developed.

### Permitting & Construction

Bangor Hydro has petitioned the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for permission to build the line. That process generally takes six months. The required environmental permit applications will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the US Army Corps of Engineers in March, and municipal permits will be requested shortly thereafter. Opportunities for public input are available in both the MPUC and DEP process. The expectation is that all permits required for the project will be in hand by late summer, such that the construction can begin in the late fall and early winter timeframe. Completion is planned for 2008.

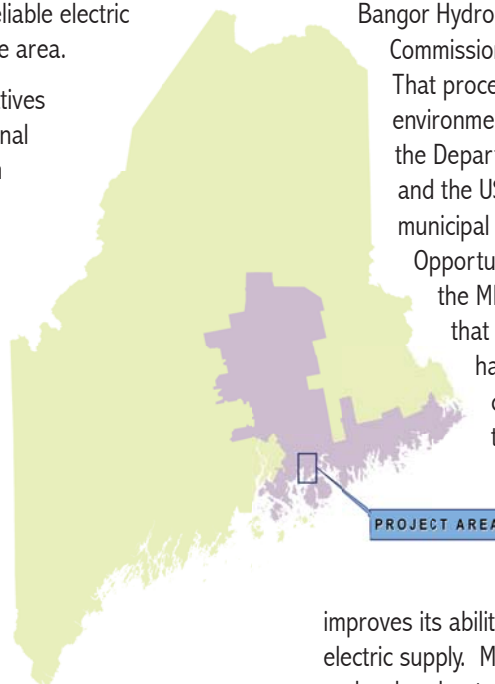
### Bangor Hydro's Approach

Bangor Hydro believes that an open, collaborative development process improves its ability to deliver projects that result in a reliable electric supply. Much of the success of this project depends on local understanding of the need for the project. Bangor Hydro places a lot of emphasis on gathering input from those interested in the project, and spends as much time as required to ensure the eventual solution strikes the right balance across the many considerations.

### Contact Information

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to be included in ongoing communications, please contact Lisa Martin or Steve Sloan at Bangor Hydro (207) 945-5621. Bangor Hydro welcomes and encourages participation from all interested parties.

More information is also available online at [www.bhe.com/hcrp](http://www.bhe.com/hcrp).



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