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**Rep. Treat advocates for residents in Central Maine Power proceedings**  
*Meeting to be held with selectmen, CMP to review proposed changes on power reliability project*

AUGUSTA – Rep. Sharon Treat, D-Hallowell, has been granted official intervenor status in proceedings between the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Central Maine Power (CMP) over the power company’s project to erect 350 miles of high-voltage transmission lines in Farmingdale. Treat will attend a meeting with Farmingdale selectmen on Aug. 23, where CMP officials are expected to provide an update on proposed changes to move the transmission lines further from residential property.

Treat petitioned to intervene after hearing complaints from residents during a public meeting and the PUC granted permission. As an official intervenor, Treat will have access to more timely information regarding the proceedings to more effectively advocate for residents.

“The CMP project will have a significant impact on the Town of Farmingdale and property owners adjacent to the route, as well as those nearby,” said Treat. “I decided to intervene in order to make sure the voices of Farmingdale residents will be heard by the PUC, which is overseeing implementation of the project, the biggest transmission line expansion ever in Maine.”

CMP purchased the old Kennebec Heights Country Club for the expansion. During a planning board meeting in June, residents of the neighboring condominiums and others in Farmingdale were critical of the expansion plans and voiced concerns about the long term health issues resulting for those in close proximity to the power lines as well as the potential negative impact on property values.

Under order from the PUC, an ombudsman will be hired to provide objective resolution for landowner complaints.

“As an intervenor, I will be able to weigh in on the implementation of the ombudsman process and help bring any issues relating to the impact of the CMP project on Farmingdale residents and property owners to the attention of the PUC,” added Treat.

A group of Farmingdale property owners has also been granted intervenor status.

“CMP plans to move quickly in Farmingdale to negotiate with abutters about impacts on their property,” said Treat. “The ombudsman process to deal with landowner disputes won’t be fully up and running right away. It’s important for there to be checks and balances during the implementation of this project, and by intervening in CMP’s case before the PUC, I am able to help protect the interests of affected landowners in District 79.”