



May 11, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLL FINDS STRONG SUPPORT FOR GRIDSOLAR PLAN OVER CMP UPGRADE

PORTLAND – A recent public opinion survey of Maine residents shows that the GridSolar energy project is favored nearly two-to-one over Central Maine Power Company’s proposed transmission line upgrade.

The survey of 500 registered Maine voters, conducted by Savvy, Inc. and the Potholm Group, found that 38% of the respondents said they supported GridSolar, while only 20% were in favor of CMP’s plan. 42% did not know or had no opinion.

GridSolar has petitioned the Maine Public Utilities Commission to develop up to 800 MW of distributed solar generation by constructing small-scale solar generating facilities near numerous Maine communities. The proposal is being offered as a cleaner, less expensive and more sensible alternative to Central Maine Power Company’s plan to spend \$1.5 billion to upgrade its high-voltage lines throughout Maine, the so-called Maine Power Reliability Project. Both plans are under consideration by the PUC.

“What this survey shows is that when given the facts about the two projects, Maine people prefer GridSolar,” said Rich Silkman, founding co-partner of the Portland energy company. “They intuitively know that what CMP is proposing is replacing old technology with more old technology instead of looking to the future. GridSolar will save energy costs while reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.”

The survey asked the following question:

Central Maine Power wants to spend \$1.5 billion to upgrade electrical transmission lines in southern and central Maine in order to ensure reliability and to make sure that energy from wind power projects can get transmitted on the grid. Another company, GridSolar, proposes an alternative solution that involves small-scale solar energy facilities in

numerous Maine communities. GridSolar says their plan will provide the same or a higher degree of grid reliability, will cost ratepayers less money and will reduce green house gases. Knowing that Maine can only choose one plan, which would be your choice?

The poll, which has a margin or error of +/-4%, found the strongest support for GridSolar in southern and coastal regions of the state, while CMP's plan is supported in Kennebec County (where CMP's main office is located) and in northern Maine.

The poll showed that age is a determining factor as well. Younger respondents, those aged 18-24, overwhelmingly support GridSolar while support for CMP grows as the age of the respondents increase, with respondents over age 60 saying they favor CMP's plan by a slight margin.

“We believe that this survey can be helpful to Maine lawmakers and officials as they consider a number of energy projects and proposals,” Silkman said. “It will also be useful for us as we continue to reach out to Maine people and let them know the benefits and advantages of GridSolar over the CMP proposal.”

About GridSolar

The GridSolar project represents one of the largest solar projects in the US and would put Maine behind only California in the amount of solar generation. At full build-out, the electricity generated would represent about half of all electricity used by CMP's residential customers and would result in a savings of \$60 million a year, an amount that would grow as the price of electricity increases over the next 20 years. Further the electricity generated would be clean, renewable energy that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 500,000 tons a year – the equivalent of taking 100,000 cars off the road.

For more information go to www.gridsolarme.com

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