I. INTRODUCTION:

On September 24, 2013, the Maine Public Utilities Commission ("MPUC") issued a Procedural Order (the "Procedural Order") whereby it directed Maine Public Service Company ("Maine Public") to make a filing, on or before January 15, 2014, in the above captioned docket, in which it shall: (1) Identify its proposed solution to the reliability problems in Northern Maine; and (2) Indicate whether this solution requires a Certificate of Public Need and Necessity (CPCN). Emera Maine is the successor by merger to Maine Public. On January 14, 2014, the MPUC extended the deadlines under the Procedural Order to January 17, 2014, and allowed Loring Holdings, LLC an opportunity to seek a protective order for confidential material provided to Maine Public.

On January 15, 2014, the MPUC issued Temporary Protective Order No. 4, which temporarily protected confidential information provided by Loring Holdings, LLC to Maine Public which was considered as part of the evaluation of alternatives contained in Emera Maine’s draft plan. On January 16, 2014, Loring Holdings, LLC sought a protective order designating as confidential, said information considered Designated Confidential Information under Docket No 2012-00504, including but not limited to proposed contract terms and pricing for capacity and associated energy related to the proposal. Consistent with the terms of Temporary Protective Order No 4 and Protective Order No. 6, Emera Maine has revised its submission to protect the Designated Confidential Information provided to it by Loring Holdings.

By Order dated January 14, 2014, the MPUC denied Maine Public’s Motion for Protective Order dated December 27, 2013, whereby Maine Public sought confidential protection of certain cost and project analysis contained in the draft plan as proprietary business information. Accordingly, Emera Maine hereby submits the following public documents in response to the Procedural Order and its obligation to file its proposed solution to the reliability issues in Northern Maine on or before January 17, 2014.

II. EMERA MAINE PROPOSED SOLUTION:

Attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference is the Emera Maine response to the
Procedural Order and Draft Plan. The Emera Maine response contains the materials identified as Attachments A through I on the Summary attached hereto as Exhibit 1. These documents are being filed as public documents, and do not contain Loring Holdings, LLC Designated Confidential Information. Some of the information in the Attachments was provided to and discussed with stakeholders, including the Planning Advisory Group (PAG) on December 18, 2013. The PAG meeting materials were subsequently filed in this docket on December 20, 2014. As more fully described in the Briefing Paper to the Draft Plan, identified as Attachment B, Emera Maine has concluded that increasing the strength of its transmission system interconnection to New Brunswick is the lowest cost option to provide long term transmission system reliability to its customers.

Because this preferred solution involves the construction of a new transmission line connection to the New Brunswick transmission system, a CPCN will be required prior to construction. Emera Maine will issue a final reliability plan after additional input from stakeholders and the PAG, and following approval from its Board of Directors. Emera Maine is planning to file its CPCN application with the MPUC on or before March 31st, 2014.

III. CONCLUSION

Emera Maine recognizes the common objective of stakeholders, especially its customers in Northern Maine, that a long term reliability solution be found at the lowest cost possible. Emera Maine reiterates its appreciation for the participation and contributions of all parties in getting to this point, in particular the Planning Advisory Group and Northern Maine stakeholders. We also appreciate the patience shown by all, including the Commission, as we worked through the studies and analysis required to understand the complexities involved with the reliability issues and evaluating the options to solve them.

If the Commission has any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of January, 2014.

//Signed//

Nathan Martell
Regulatory Counsel
Emera Maine
**Exhibit 1** to Emera Maine’s Draft Plan to Provide Long Term Transmission System Reliability in Response to the Maine Public Utility Commissions’ Procedural Order dated September 24, 2013.

**SUMMARY of DOCUMENTS INCLUDED**

Attachment A – Draft Plan
Attachment B - Briefing Paper
Attachment C – Draft Plan Schedule
Attachment D – Assumptions Explanation Document
Attachment E – Excel Workbook showing calculations
Attachment F- Part 1 – Summary of Reliability Testing
Attachment F- Part 2 – Document Explaining Testing
Attachment G – Summary Chart of Transmission Cost Estimates
Attachment H – NB Power letter re transmission upgrades
Attachment I – NB Energy Marketing Letter