

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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International Groups Protest Canadian Megadams

Hold Press Conference During Northeastern US Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Conference

NORTHEAST REGION, USA--An international alliance of land and water protectors hosted a virtual press conference in conjunction with the annual Conference of the Northeastern US Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers today. The Premiers and Governors are discussing international trade and energy policy including importing more Canadian hydroelectricity to the US.

For the second year, US and Canadian leaders refused the groups' request to hear from Indigenous frontline communities and their allies about the negative impacts of Canadian hydropower on communities, rivers, biodiversity and the environmental racism caused by this energy source.

The press conference highlighted the fact that most Hydro-Quebec's production facilities are on traditional territories of Indigenous communities in Quebec and Labrador and were built without their consent or knowledge. Hydro-Quebec and the Quebec Government are promoting electricity sales to the Governors of Maine, Massachusetts and New York when this electricity belongs to Indigenous communities and not the Quebec Government.

Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Nation spoke in support of the Innu Nation which asserts one-sixth of Hydro-Quebec's electricity is unlawfully located on their ancestral territories. He called on Governor Mills of Maine to "stand back" from the NECEC project.

"Canadian hydropower is a climate and humanitarian disaster. The Canadian Premiers and U.S. Governors complicit in promoting this dirty energy are engaged in a fraudulent greenwashing scheme that is offensive to every notion of climate and social justice. We

demand a transparent energy procurement process in New York and we demand that Maine Governor Mills and Massachusetts Governor Baker withdraw support for the corridors," said Meg Sheehan, Coordinator of NAMRA. "These transmission corridors and new Canadian megadams must be rejected in favor of truly equitable and clean energy and the Canadian governments must address the human rights and economic concerns of its Indigenous communities," she said.

Multinational corporations, Avangrid and Blackstone Group, plan to build import corridors to the US and will make massive profits at the expense of these Indigenous communities. The new transmission corridors are proposed to export power to Boston and New York. (NECEC/CMP in Maine, Champlain Hudson Power Express in New York and Clean PowerLink through Vermont to Boston).

"The Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe is proud to stand with our sisters and brothers in rejecting hydroelectric projects that directly impact the human rights of First Nations and tribal communities in both Canada and the US," Chairwoman Melissa Ferretti at Herring Pond Wampanoag said. "We know that any environmental injustices and threats to community well-being faced by the Penobscot Nation, and the Innu Nation -- or faced by any other Indigenous communities whose homelands and sacred places are ravaged by dams, flooding, transmission corridors, or pipelines -- are environmental injustices and threats to well-being that we may also face in the near future. We know that land, water, and wildlife are our relatives, to whom we have a responsibility."

VIDEO RECORDING OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON. CHECK BACK ON NAMRA's YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND WEBSITE OR EMAIL coordinator.namra@gmail.com to get a link sent directly to you.