

ECI's Environmental and Communications Specialist Services

Iberdrola USA's Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP)

Iberdrola is one of five major electric utilities covering the country of Spain. They also own three electric utility companies - Central Main Power (CMP), New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG), Rochester Gas and Electric - and four gas utilities in the USA.

The Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP) construction of 440 miles of new or expanded 345KV right-of-way, extending from Portland, Maine north to Bangor, Maine and westward began in 2010. The Program is designed to bring the power generated by new wind turbines to the population centers in eastern Maine. The right-of-way traverses some of the most rugged, beautiful and pristine wilderness in the eastern United States. Much of central and northern Maine is so remote and unpopulated the counties don't even have names, just numbers!

The MPRP project is the single, largest project for Iberdrola in the history of the company and is expected to total \$1.4 billion. Land clearing was expected to take three years, and the environmental documents alone comprise manuals with over 6,000 pages of maps, permits, specifications and instructions. Burns & McDonnell was the Project Manager with ECI working as a subcontractor on this project, providing environmental expertise and communications services.

Four ECI team members were assigned to the project as either Environmental Coordinators or Communications Specialists. The Environmental Coordinators traveled 100% of the ROW along with the Army Corps of Engineers, Federal and State Department of Environmental Protection personnel, and a third party inspector, Burns & McDonnell's personnel. Environmental concerns included vernal pools, eagle nesting habitat, endangered species, wetland crossings, etc. Working together before and during field meetings the team gained agreement on mitigation methods, methods for expediting the clearing process, landowner and abutter stipulations and means to avoid work delays as a result of environmental concerns or conflicts.

ECI's Communications Specialists assure that all parties involved with the clearing project are kept abreast of the current schedule. They make sure that proper notifications to municipalities and highway departments are on-track and mitigate contentious situations and public relations issues. The Communications Specialists also funnel the information from the field work activity, including abutter's issues to the project manager and keep the Project Manager updated as to the project's progress, including the rolling 14-day plans for roadway activity, ROW clearing, equipment set-up, and any other activity that might attract public attention.

Although ECI's involvement on this project differs from many of our utility vegetation management activities, the forestry and environmental knowledge needed for this project fit ECI's skill-set perfectly. Our people on the project include degreed environmental specialists and foresters with significant environmental background working on transmission right-of-ways. We are excited about ECI's critical role on this project and are actively seeking more projects of a similar nature.