



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

August 11, 2026

Penobscot Bay Waterkeeper
Peter Nichols, Representative
pete@penbaywaterkeeper.org

Daniel Cooper, Esq.
daniel@sycamore.law

Re: Inquiry relating to Motion for Admission – Pro Hac Vice

Dear Attorney Cooper and Representative Peter Nichols,

On August 10, 2026, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received an email from Attorney Daniel Cooper requesting information regarding applying for Pro Hac Vice Admission to represent Penobscot Bay Waterkeeper in the Juniper Ridge Landfill Expansion Public Hearing and associated administrative proceedings.

At the outset, DEP notes that it generally does not provide legal advice to an attorney not licensed in Maine who chooses to represent an entity before the DEP. You may wish to consult 4 M.R.S. § 807 and Maine Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 5.5, which each address the unauthorized practice of law in Maine. The Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar is another potential source of useful information regarding this issue.

With respect to any motion submitted to DEP for Pro Hac Vice Admission, DEP is not at present authorized to grant an attorney who is unlicensed in Maine permission to practice before the DEP. See Maine Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 5.5(c)(2). DEP currently has no formal rule provisions or other informal practice addressing such motions or authorizing the temporary unlicensed practice of law before it, see *id.*, Comment 9, and to date the DEP has not interpreted its general statutory authority to conduct licensing proceedings as encompassing such authority. For these reasons, DEP will not entertain a motion for Pro Hac Vice Admission.

DEP is not the arbiter of what constitutes the unauthorized practice of law. Going forward, please let DEP know how Penobscot Bay Waterkeeper and Attorney Cooper have decided to proceed with respect to Attorney Cooper's participation in this matter. Thank you.

Department of Environmental Protection
Response to Request for Information relating to Pro Hac Vice Admissions
August 11, 2026

Sincerely,

/s/ Ronald Mongeon

Ronald Mongeon
Presiding Officer