

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL**

**GROTON UTILITIES PETITION FOR A
DECLARATORY RULING THAT NO
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED
IS REQUIRED FOR THE 1410/400/1280
LINE STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Petition No. _____

October 28, 2020

MOTION OF GROTON UTILITIES FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER

Introduction

Groton Utilities (“GU”) hereby moves the Connecticut Siting Council (“CSC”) to enter a Protective Order in this proceeding to ensure that certain critical energy infrastructure information (“CEII”) provided to the CSC is not subject to unrestricted general public disclosure. Disclosure of ISO-NE’s 2019 Eastern Connecticut Needs Analysis (the “ECT”) is designated CEII by ISO-NE as defined by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission¹ (“FERC”) for the reason that it could be useful to a person planning an attack on critical infrastructure as it discloses specific weaknesses and vulnerabilities of the relevant systems.

The ECT study results relate to the Bulk Power System of Southern New England. That system qualifies as “critical energy infrastructure”. The Protective Order is necessary to protect the handling of CEII, including that the sharing of CEII is for a legitimate purpose and done in such a manner to ensure that CEII is not placed in the public domain. The public disclosure of CEII

¹ CEII is defined by the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) as “specific engineering, vulnerability, or detailed design information about proposed or existing critical infrastructure that: (1) relates details about the production, generation, transportation, transmission, or distribution of energy; (2) could be useful to a person in planning an attack on critical infrastructure; (3) is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act; and (4) does not simply give the general location of the critical infrastructure.” 18 CFR§ 388.113(c)(2).

would be contrary to standards established by FERC that are aimed at protecting the security, public health and safety and the economic security of the United States. Accordingly, Groton Utilities seeks the confidential treatment of the ECT study and that the recipients of the CEII be required to abide by best practices for maintaining the security of the CEII.

For the above reason, Groton Utilities respectfully moves that the CSC grant its Motion for a Protective Order.

Respectfully submitted,

Groton Utilities

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