



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

November 10, 2021

Robin Kipnis, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Connecticut Municipal Electric  
Energy Cooperative  
30 Stott Avenue  
Norwich, CT 06360  
[rkipnis@cmeeec.org](mailto:rkipnis@cmeeec.org)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1436** - Groton Utilities declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 1.7 miles of its existing 115-kilovolt (kV)/69-kV 1410/400 double-circuit electric transmission line and 115-kV 1280 single-circuit electric transmission line within existing Groton Utilities electric transmission line right-of-way between Groton/Ledyard town line and Buddington Substation located north of Gold Star Highway in Groton, Connecticut, and related transmission line and substation improvements.

Dear Attorney Kipnis:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated November 4, 2021 regarding changes to the above-referenced declaratory ruling that was issued by the Council on February 26, 2021. The project changes consist of the following:

- 1) Revisions to the locations and heights of the proposed replacement transmission line structures to comply with National Electric Safety Code criteria. The revisions include 5 structure relocations and 20 structures with height increases.
- 2) Elimination of proposed replacement Structure 7446 on the 400/1410 Line and replacement Structure 137 on the 1280 Line.
- 3) Completion of tree clearing activities along the transmission line right-of-way by April 2022. The revised tree clearing schedule would not have an effect on the northern long-eared bat.

Pursuant to Condition No. 1 of the Council's February 26, 2021 Declaratory Ruling, your request for the above referenced project changes is hereby approved. This approval applies only to the project changes described in your November 4, 2021 correspondence. Any significant changes to the project require advance Council notification and approval.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director



November 4, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

**Re: PETITION NO. 1436 - Groton Utilities Line Structure Replacement Project – Request for Minor Modifications**

Dear Ms. Bachman:

On February 26, 2021, the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") approved the City of Groton's Petition for a certificate that the proposed line upgrade would not have a substantial environmental effect and would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. The Project, as authorized by the Council, involves the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 1.7 miles of existing 115 kV/69-kV 1410/400 double-circuit electric transmission line and 115-kV 1280 single-circuit electric transmission line within existing Groton Utilities electric transmission line right-of-way between Groton/Ledyard town line and Buddington Substation located north of Gold Star Highway in Groton, Connecticut, and related transmission line and substation improvements ("Project"). In accordance with the Council's approval, which delegates changes to the Project to Council staff, Groton Utilities is providing notice to the Council for minor modifications to the Project in the manner described herein.

**1. Structure Modifications**

In further engineering design and constructability reviews conducted by the Project team, it was determined that Structure 7446 along the 400/1410 lines and Structure 137 along the 1280 line would be eliminated. The elimination of these structures, not previously identified, necessitated modifications to the Council's previously approved structure design heights as well as shifts to structure locations.

In general and as depicted in Revised Attachment C which replaces Attachment C that was filed in connection with the Petition, many of the replacement structures would be approximately 10 to 15 feet taller than existing structures to meet NESC clearance requirements, with ten structures from 20 to 40 feet taller than the height of the existing structures. These modifications would mean that there are now 18 additional structures that will be 20 to 40 feet taller than the existing structures. Further, Structure



7444 and 7445 along the 400/1410 will be 50 feet and 55 feet taller than the existing structures, respectively.

Four additional structures, Structure 7445 along the 400/1410 lines which will now be approximately 150 feet south of the existing structure, Structures 135, 136, and 138 along the 1280 line which will now be 100 feet south, 183 feet south, and 166 feet north of the existing structures, respectively, will need be relocated 150 feet or more from the existing structure. The remaining structures will be in line with and as close as possible to the existing structures. A Revised Attachment C detailing the proposed modifications to the Project is provided along with this letter and is to be substituted for Attachment C provided in connection with the Petition.

## **2. Modification to Environmental Condition**

Groton Utilities is also requesting minor modification to an Environmental Consideration. Due to scheduling and permitting changes, tree clearing activities referenced in Section 5. of the Petition will not be completed prior to April 22, 2021, with tree clearing activities to commence on approval of these modifications. Groton Utilities has consulted its environmental impact inspector of the change as well as Burns and McDonnell overseeing the vegetation and tree clearing and there is no conflict with NLEB restrictions due to the change. Therefore, we would like to request a change to the petition to reflect that tree clearing activities will be complete by April 22, 2022. Groton Utilities will continue to work with its environmental monitors to oversee the clearing and vegetation removal and apply Best Management Practices.

In sum, Groton Utilities respectfully requests that the Siting Council staff approve the Project modifications as described in this letter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Kipnis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Kipnis  
General Counsel  
Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative  
30 Stott Avenue  
Norwich, CT 06360  
[rkipnis@cmeec.org](mailto:rkipnis@cmeec.org)  
On Behalf of Groton Utilities

cc: Randall Suprenant, Groton Utilities

Str #	Existing		Proposed		
	Height Line 400	Height Line 1410	Height (ft)	Location	Height Difference (ft)
7436	55/55/55		70/65/65	MOVE 10' AHEAD	15/10/10
7437	65/60/65		85/80/80	MOVE 10' BACK	15/20/15
7438	55/55/55		75/70/70	MOVE 15' AHEAD	20/15/15
7439	55/55/55		70/65/65	MOVE 10' AHEAD	15/10/10
7440	65/65/65		95/95/90	MOVE 20' BACK	30/30/25
7441	65/60/65		80/80/80	MOVE 10' BACK	15/20/15
7442	65/65/65		65/65/65	MOVE 20' BACK	0/0/0
7443	65/60/65		85/85/85	MOVE 10' BACK	20/25/20
7444	65/60/65		110/110/110	MOVE 100' AHEAD	45/50/45
7445 LINE 1410	65/60		90/95/95	MOVE 150' AHEAD ALONG BACK SPAN ALIGNMENT	25/35/35
7445 LINE 400		65/60	105/110/115	MOVE 150' AHEAD ALONG BACK SPAN ALIGNMENT	40/50/55
7446	65/65/65		STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED ONLY		
7447	65/60/65		95/95/95	MOVE 175' BACK	35/40/35
7448	65/60/66		80/80/80	MOVE 50' BACK	15/20/14
7449	55/50/55		65/65/65	MOVE 10' AHEAD	15/20/15
7450	55/55/55		80/80/80	MOVE 50' AHEAD	25/25/25
7451 LINE 400	65/60		105	MOVE 15' AHEAD ALONG BACK SPAN ALIGNMENT	40
7451 LINE 1410		65/60	105	MOVE 15' AHEAD ALONG BACK SPAN ALIGNMENT	40
7452	65/65/65		90/90/90	MOVE 10' BACK	25/25/25
7453 LINE 400	65/65		95/95/95	MOVE 30' BACK ALONG BACK SPAN ALIGNMENT	30/30/30
7453 LINE 1410		90	110	MOVE 12' BACK ALONG BACK SPAN ALIGNMENT	20

Str #	Existing	Proposed		
	Height AGL (ft)	Pole Length (ft)	Location	Height Difference (ft)
127	70	90	MOVE 10' BACK	20
128	75	90	MOVE 10' BACK	15
129	60	80	MOVE 10' AHEAD	20
130	60	80	MOVE 10' BACK	20
131	75	100	MOVE 10' BACK	25
132	60	90	MOVE 10' BACK	30
133	60	80	MOVE 10' BACK	20
134	60	85	MOVE 10' AHEAD	25
135	75	110	MOVE 100' AHEAD	35
136	85	110	MOVE 183' AHEAD	25
137	80	STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED ONLY		
138	80	120	MOVE 166' BACK	40
139	65	90	MOVE 10' AHEAD	25
140	60	75	MOVE 10' AHEAD	15
141	60	85	MOVE 55' AHEAD	25
142	75	100	MOVE 5' AHEAD OFFSET 26' LEFT	25
143	90	115	BACK 10' AHEAD	25
144	70	95	MOVE 10' AHEAD	25