



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

POWER FACILITY EVALUATION COUNCIL
STATE OFFICE BUILDING HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115
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Petitions 21 and 22

Ledyard, CT. August 14, 1978

Patricia Smith, Jonathan Clapp, and Duncan Reid met Gerry Thompson and Vincent Fortunato of Northeast Utilities and Larry Burrige of Groton's Department of Public Utilities to review petitions 21 and 22.

Both petitions consist of the construction of a single 115kV wood pole line from Whipple Junction in Ledyard to the Buddington Substation in Groton. Construction was completed in 1974. A maintenance spraying of herbicide selective for hardwoods was conducted in late 1977.

In general the right of way supports a healthy growth of herbs and shrubs. Some small trees on the easterly edge of the right of way in Groton have not been cut.

There is evidence that sections of the right of way are used by trail bikes. This disturbance is probably responsible for preventing some of the steeper slopes from developing a vegetative cover. An access road previously used by a gravel mining company near the Groton-Ledyard town line through Groton's watershed area shows erosion of sloped sides of road and abuse of the roadbed by motorized trail vehicles. Although access is restricted by poles and a chain, the visibility and accessibility from Gales Ferry Road make it very susceptible to unauthorized use.

A short section of an access road on the right of way up a steep slope north of Gungywamp Road shows erosion. Much of the slope is underlain by bedrock with little or no vegetative cover. Crushed rock has been used as an erosion inhibitor.

Except for the problems indicated, no significant environmental impacts were observed. The most significant finding is the continuing abuse of right of way areas by motorized trail vehicles. Final approval of Petition 21 and 22 is recommended.

Duncan C. Reid
Environmentalist

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