



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

1 CENTRAL PARK PLAZA • NEW BRITAIN, CONN. 06051

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PETITION NO. 86

July 29, 1982

Mr. Clark, Mr. Doocy, and Mr. Dunn met with Mr. Journey and Mr. Klein of Hale Manufacturing Company at the site in Putnam on July 29 to review the subject facility.

This petition involves the redevelopment of the Cargill Falls Hydroelectric Facility which is owned by the company and was operated at their site on the Quinebaug River until 1955. The restored facility would have a capacity of 1.3 megawatt. They petitioned the Council for a declaratory ruling that no certificate of environmental compatibility and public need is required for the project because, although the redevelopment may constitute a modification of the facility, it will have no substantial adverse environmental effect.

The company plans to replace the existing inlet gates at the southern end of the dam; replace 200' of existing 6'x5' underground culvert with an equal amount of 10'x10 culvert; replace 125' of 7' diameter penstock with 150' of 12' diameter penstock (mostly within the existing building); replace the existing powerhouse with a new structure approximately 56'x25' and 20' high adjacent to the existing building and within the head-end of the existing tailrace area; establish an overhead transmission line to interconnect with the existing service station (adjacent to the tailrace) and backfill the existing tailrace around the new powerhouse and penstock feed.

The company has a preliminary permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the project and has filed a license application with FERC. As part of this application, the company has provided project descriptions and maps and draft environmental reports to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Marine Fisheries; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Geological Survey; National Park Service; Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; Connecticut Department of Public Utilities Control; Connecticut Historic Preservation Office; Connecticut Energy Division; and Connecticut Siting Council. None have voiced opposition to date, and all have evaluated or will evaluate the proposed project to ensure compliance with all necessary permitting procedures and provide consultation relative to their fields of expertise before the final FERC license is issued. The complete FERC application (including correspondence with the above state and federal agencies) is available in the Council library.

The existing impoundment water levels, area recreational use and aesthetics, and the flood control effectiveness would not be affected by the proposed project.

Minimum flow requirements, established by the DEP, apply to the spillway area of the dam which by-pass the facility inlet gates. This would not change. Available water above the established minimum river flow (currently 58 cfs) up to about 700 cfs would be routed through the system. As available flow decreases the facility inflow and subsequent generation would be backed off and at times stopped to insure the minimum flow over the dam spillway. Replacement power would be purchased as needed from CL&P. Maximum flow through the facility would be about two times the former volume.

River flow rates would not be affected except for about 1100' of river by-passed between the inlet and outlet of the facility and the minimum flow regulations apply to protect this area.

Nothing will be added to the water so no quality effects would occur. The entire volume taken in would be discharged.

During construction water currently flowing through the system would be diverted over the spillway. A major portion of the work would occur within the factory building itself.

The only possible visual impact would be from the new powerhouse which is lowered in profile by being built into the 12' recess of the tailrace and is shielded from the street sides (north and west) by the much taller existing building and from the river side (east and south) by topography and vegetation.

George A. Dunn
Environmentalist
July 30, 1982

GAD:kp