



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

1 CENTRAL PARK PLAZA • NEW BRITAIN, CONN 06051

PHONE: 827-2604

Petition No. 99
Field Review
Westport, Connecticut
February 6, 1984

Mortimer Gelston, Dr. James Horsfall, and Robert Erling of the Connecticut Siting Council met with Jerry Thompson of Northeast Utilities and David Chase of the Department of Transportation (DOT) for a field review of this petition in Westport, Connecticut. DOT proposes to construct a 60 Hz Railroad Electrical Supply Station on property leased to the State of Connecticut by the Penn Central Corporation. This facility, known as Sasco Creek Substation, would provide power to the New Haven Line Commuter Railroad. The existing 25 Hz system is being replaced with a 60 Hz system. The DOT asserts that without this additional power supply, railroad tracks in this area would be subject to reduced voltage levels, with adverse effects on train operations and safety.

The project would consist of two parts: a 27.6 kV Railroad Distribution Substation and a 115 kV Substation, both located off of Maple Lane. The Railroad Distribution substation measures 259' x 60' and the 115 kV substation measures 230'6" x 119', within fence lines. PA 83-569 requires Council certification of any substation designed to change or regulate the voltage of electricity at 69 kV or more which may, as determined by the Council, have a substantial adverse environmental effect. The attached schematic diagram illustrates the power flows at this proposed substation.

The location is within an inland wetland, according to town records and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). However, a DEP memo dated September 20, 1983, indicates that this project is exempt from inland wetland permit requirements as part of the Northeast Corridor Improvement Project. A drainage ditch leads through the property, and this has raised concerns of potential flooding. The DOT plans to grade the fenced sites to at least one foot above the 100 year flood levels. The drainage ditch would be cleaned and upgraded to carry surface water around the site. Review team members noted the generally wet conditions of the site, but observed no flowing water.

To prevent erosion, the DOT plans to spread 6" of topsoil over disturbed areas, seed the area, and provide jute mesh protection for the drainage ditch.

According to the DOT, the noise level at the substation property line is expected to be about 42 db. The electromagnetic radiation level is expected to be nearly zero at the fenceline.

(cont.) PETITION NO. 99
Field Review - 2/6/84

-2-

Review team members noted some homes in the vicinity of Increase Lane, but only one from which the facility might be visible, and then only when there is no foliage. According to David Chase of the DOT staff, the adjoining landowners have not been notified of the proposed project. The DOT has informed the First Selectman of Westport, however.

The close presence of the Connecticut Turnpike and the railroad tracks was readily apparent to review team members, and three railroad catenaries were visible. The DOT indicates there will be some clearing of trees and brush along the railroad tracks. The DOT plans to screen the visibility of the site with plantings, according to Mr. Chase.

Access to the site is proposed via Clayton Street, which would be paved. The DOT feels this site is the best site because it is the only section of sufficient width on this line to accommodate the facility.

Staff discussed this project with staff of the DEP, who mentioned their concerns about the potential for flooding at the site.

Robert K. Erling
Siting Analyst

RKE:go