

Petition No. 1094
United Illuminating
West Haven, Connecticut
Staff Report
March 27, 2014

On February 18, 2014, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from The United Illuminating Company (UI) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for a new control house at the Elmwest Substation at 335 West Elm Street, West Haven. Council member Philip Ashton and Siting Analyst Robert Mercier visited the site on March 25, 2014 to review the proposal. UI representatives Chuck Eves, Adla Reddy, Adam O'Laughlin, and Bohdan Katreczko attended the field review. The City of West Haven was notified on February 26, 2014. The City did not attend the field review or comment on the proposal.

UI's Elmwest Substation is located in a commercial/residential area north of Elm Street and adjacent to the Metro-North rail line. The substation consists of a switchyard, two transformers, and a cinderblock control house. UI seeks to install a second control house at the substation for new protection and control systems and two associated pad mounted substation service transformers. The current control house is at physical capacity and contains outdated equipment.

The new control house would consist of a 17-foot by 36-foot prefabricated metal enclosure that would be installed 60 feet west of existing control house. A cable/utility trench would be installed across the existing paved surface between the two structures. The new control house would be located in an exterior substation storage area that extends behind an existing commercial building.

UI examined the possibility of expanding the existing control house but determined access to the substation yard for large vehicles would be difficult given the arrangement of the existing control house, a second substation access gate, and an adjacent commercial building. Constructing the new control house of cinderblock to enhance physical building security would cost an additional \$400,000.

The proposed project would have no effect on areas outside of the perimeter substation fence. The site is not within a 100-year flood zone. The project is not expected to have any substantial adverse environmental impact. Soils excavated on-site would be properly characterized before removal and disposal.

