

Petition No. 1116  
The Connecticut Light and Power Company  
Southington, Connecticut  
Staff Report  
September 18, 2014

On August 14, 2014, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for proposed modifications to an existing CL&P substation at 168 Canal Street in Southington, Connecticut. Council member Phil Ashton and staff member David Martin visited the site on September 10, 2014 to review the proposal. John Morissette, Scott McKenzie, and Kris Aberg represented CL&P at the field review.

The modifications proposed for the Canal Street substation are being undertaken to improve reliability of substation operations, comply with regulatory requirements, and to address growth in local load levels. They include the replacement of two circuit breakers with foundation and support structures, the replacement of two line disconnects, the installation of one 115-kV 60-MVA transformer with disconnect switch and support structures, and other associated equipment including underground cable connections. CL&P would also install a pre-fabricated control building, just inside the fence nearest to Canal Street. All of the work for the proposed modifications would be done within the substation's existing fence line.

The land uses nearest to the Canal Street substation are predominantly industrial, with a few single family residences on the opposite side of the street. The substation is located between two industrial properties, about 30 feet back from the street, and backs up to the right-of-way of I-84. It is partially screened by existing trees and from the street, but not from the sides. The proposed modifications should not significantly alter the substation's existing appearance.

During the field review, Council representatives questioned CL&P about the disposition of dirt to be excavated for the foundation of the 115-kV transformer and underground cable connections and suggested that, rather than being removed from the site, the dirt could be used to build a landscaped berm at the substation to provide some additional visual screening. CL&P representatives replied that they could consider this suggestion, but that disposition of the dirt would depend on its level of contamination. Council representatives also suggested installing a pre-cast concrete building, rather than the pre-fabricated sheet metal building being considered, for aesthetic and security reasons. Council representatives suggested that the Council's approval could require the submittal of a site plan addressing these issues.

CL&P provided notice of its petition to the Southington Town Manager and to abutting property owners. It also sent a letter describing the general nature of its proposed work to nearby businesses and residences. The Council has received no comments regarding this petition.

CL&P's proposed modifications to the substation should not have any substantial adverse environmental effects. Staff recommends approval with the condition that CL&P submit a site plan for its proposed work.