



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

136 Main Street, Suite 401
New Britain, Connecticut 06051
Phone: 827-7682

Petition No. 179
115-kV Transmission Line Tap
Windsor Locks, Connecticut
Staff Report

On March 24, 1987, Colin Tait and Fred Doocy, members of the Siting Council, and Joel Rinebold, staff of the Siting Council, met John Harrington of Northeast Utilities (NU) at the site of a proposed 115-kV line tap from the planned Dexter cogeneration facility to an existing NU substation.

NU is requesting a determination from the Council that the proposed project would have no substantial adverse environmental effect and, therefore, a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is not required.

The project includes removing three existing distribution circuits, including nine conductors and thirteen 50-foot wooden poles along a 2,100 foot route; construction of a single circuit 115-kV line, including four galvanized steel monopoles, ranging in height from 90 to 105 feet, along the same 2,100 foot route; and clearing and rehabilitation of a portion of the route's 90-foot wide right-of-way.

The petition asserts that the project is needed to transmit power from Dexter's proposed 48.5 MW cogeneration facility into the NU transmission system. The Council approved the cogeneration facility as Docket No. 64 on January 4, 1987. Construction of the line is anticipated to begin in April of 1988 with completion in November of 1988.

The general land use along the proposed route, which runs between and is in close proximity to the old Windsor Locks Canal and the Connecticut River, is industrial. However, some residential development exists approximately 300 feet to the west of the proposed line.

NU contends that the project would not result in a substantial adverse effect on the environment or ecology, nor would it damage existing scenic, historical or recreational values.

According to the State Historic Preservation Office and the Connecticut Historical Commission, the old Windsor Locks Canal is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and that the proposed project would have a visual effect on the canal. Their recommendations include exploring the feasibility of relocating pole 2, located adjacent to a canal lock, and that any excavation for pole 2 be done under the supervision of a professional archaeologist.

In addition, NU has notified the Council of its intent to proceed with property acquisition. Dexter would, at no charge, provide NU with an easement over one parcel of property 90 feet wide and approximately 1,600 feet long, or approximately 3.3 acres in size. NU has notified the Council of its intent to acquire the easement pursuant to section 16-50z(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, to avoid a hardship on the owner. By statute, "such acquisition may proceed unless the Council gives notice within thirty days after such filing that a hearing will be held to review the conformity of the acquisition with its regulations..." Were the Council to grant NU's petition for declaratory ruling, the issue of the propriety of advance land acquisition would be mooted. If the petition is not granted, the Council could: 1) take no action, in which case the advance acquisition of land would be approved; or 2) schedule a hearing on the advance acquisition.

Joel M. Rinebold
Senior Siting Analyst

JMR/kp

SR179-SR1792