



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 194
Norwalk Harbor Substation
Staff Report
October 23, 1987

Connecticut Light & Power Company (CL&P) is requesting a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the construction of an above ground concrete tank and replacement by that tank of an existing surface impoundment at CL&P's Norwalk Harbor Substation, Norwalk, Connecticut.

Dr. James G. Horsfall and Dr. William H. Smith, members of the Siting Council, and Thomas E. Fanning, Jr., staff of the Siting Council, met with Northeast Utilities representatives Thomas Arcari and Nicholas Lanzalotta on the site of the proposed project on October 13, 1987.

The project consists of the construction of a nine and one-half foot high, 191-foot long, and 162.5-foot wide, two-cell concrete tank and attached pump room on the northeast side of the developed area of the plant. The two million gallon tank would be part of the plant's wastewater treatment facility. Toxic wastewater is pumped from the generator boilers during maintenance operations and is detoxified through mineral extraction and neutralization processes. This water is currently treated and held in the two-million gallon surface impoundment, designated as Equilization Basin 2 (EB-2). Cleansed water is pumped back to the boilers for re-use. The new tank is needed because the existing single-lined surface impoundment has to be replaced or double-lined, as mandated by the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The substation is located on a peninsula in South Norwalk adjacent to Norwalk Harbor to the east and south. The facility is surrounded to the north and west by various trees and shrubs. The nearest residences are approximately one-half mile to the north. A City of Norwalk beach and recreational area is located approximately three-quarters of a mile across the harbor to the northeast. The new tank would be lower in height than existing structures in the substation.

The concrete tank would be located approximately 75 feet adjacent to and parallel with EB-2. The area is flat and consists of well-drained soil covering an old fly-ash disposal area. The area is not subject to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. Since the tank would not be located in a tidal wetland area, DEP approval under the Tidal Wetlands Act would not be required.

Test borings were performed at the proposed tank location. The tank would rest on ten-inch square, precast-prestressed concrete pilings driven to bedrock. A 12-inch gravel base would be installed prior to pile installation. Dewatering and water control would be performed as necessary to protect the excavation. Soil erosion control would include staked hay bales around catch basins receiving flow from the construction area. Staked hay bales or erosion control fences would be used around excavation stockpile areas. Excavated materials not used for backfilling would be placed in the existing on-site ash settling ponds. A short tie into the existing overhead piping system would connect the tank to the wastewater flow system.

The DEP has approved the preliminary engineering report on the replacement of EB-2. The proposed actions are consistent with the applicable policies of the Connecticut Coastal Management Act, as amended.

The Norwalk Planning and Zoning Commission which approved the construction of Norwalk Harbor Station's wastewater treatment plant on February 9, 1977, has been notified of the proposed changes.

CL&P states that the proposed project does not constitute a modification as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 16-50 i(d) because the two-million gallon tank substitution for a similar-sized surface impoundment would not constitute a significant change or alteration in the general physical characteristics of the Norwalk Harbor facility.

The review team expressed the concern that CL&P relocate two existing monitoring wells, NH-6, and NH-1. These two wells are located near the proposed tank site and would be affected by the construction activity.

All construction would be according to the submitted plans. The construction time table is undetermined at this time but CL&P must complete the project according to Federal mandates, by November, 1988, or cease wastewater treatment operations.

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Siting Analyst

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