



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 204
Montville Station
Staff Report
March 22, 1988

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 1.4 million gallon concrete tank and replacement by that tank of an existing surface impoundment at CL&P's Montville Station, Montville, 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, Joseph Nicholas, Cindy Flynn and Jack Ranney, March 15, 1988 on the site of the proposed project.

The project consists of the construction of an approximately 9.5-foot high, 237-foot long, and 117-foot wide, two-cell concrete tank approximately 100 feet northeast of the existing surface impoundment, designated as EB-2.

The proposed concrete tank would be located on a discontinued coal storage area between the station generator building and existing oil storage tanks. The new tank would become part of the plant's wastewater treatment facility, replacing EB-2 on an equal volume basis. Toxic wastewater is pumped from the generator boilers during maintenance operations and detoxified through mineral extraction and neutralization processes. The wastewater is treated and held in the 3.2 million gallon EB-2. Cleansed water is pumped through a monitoring system and out to the Thames River. 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 the west bank of the Thames River, in Uncasville, Connecticut. The station is partially screened on the west and south by various trees, shrubs and elevated ground. The new tank would be visible from the Thames River, but would blend into the general backdrop of the station's facilities. The proposed tank would be lower in height than other existing structures in the station.

The proposed tank would be situated on an essentially level and cleared parcel of land which had been used, until 1972, as a coal storage area. The area would be graded, excavated, and filled with compacted soil. A 12-inch compacted gravel layer would provide an underbase for the tank. A pumping station would be constructed to transfer the wastewater from the tank to the clarifier building. The tank would be connected to Equalization Basin-1 by new underground piping. Portions of the existing piping system would be used to connect the boilers to the wastewater flow system. Two unused overhead coal transfer conveyors would be dismantled and removed. Excavated materials not used for backfilling would be placed in an approved landfill area.

A groundwater monitoring and leak detection system for the proposed tank is not required by the regulatory agencies as is the case for hazardous waste surface impoundments.

The proposed tank lies within the 100-year flood plain. The area is not considered a wetland and therefore is not subject to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been informed of the proposed Montville Station modifications. The proposed project would not be in a tidal wetland area, therefore no DEP approval under the Tidal Wetlands Act is required.

CL&P has applied for coastal zone location approval from the Montville Planning and Zoning Commission.

CL&P states that the proposed project does not constitute a modification as defined in Connecticut General Statute (CGS) Section 16-50(d) because the substitution of the impoundment by a similar-sized tank does not constitute a significant change or alteration in the general physical characteristics of the Montville facility, whose primary business is the generation of electricity and not disposal, treatment or recovery of hazardous waste.

The review team recommends that CL&P use haybales or other erosion control devices to minimize erosion from water runoff during construction. The review team also requests CL&P submit to the Council, when available, copies of preliminary engineering approvals from the DEP and location approval from the Montville Planning and Zoning Commission.

Construction would be according to the submitted plans and would begin in May, 1988 and be completed by November, 1988.

Thomas E. Fanning, Jr.
Siting Analyst

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