



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 206HW
Middletown Station
Staff Report
March 22, 1988

Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) is requesting a determination that no Certificate of Public Safety and Necessity is required for the construction of an above-ground 3.2 million gallon two-cell concrete tank, and replacement by that tank of an existing 3.2 million gallon surface impoundment at CL&P's Middletown Station, Middletown, Connecticut.

Dr. William H. Smith and Dr. James G. Horsfall, members of the Siting Council and Thomas E. Fanning, Jr., staff of the Siting Council, met with Northeast Utilities (NU) representatives Thomas Arcari, Chris Bailey, Cindy Flynn, and Jack Ranney on the site of the proposed project on March 15, 1988.

The project consists of the construction of a 15-foot high, 330-foot long and 135-foot to 51-foot tapered width, two-cell, concrete tank on the western side of the developed area of the plant and the removal of the existing containment basin.

The tank would be located between existing wastewater cooling towers and a railroad spur line on a level and cleared parcel of land. It would be located approximately 200 feet west of the Connecticut River and about 300 feet north of the existing 3.2 million gallon impoundment, known as Equalization Basin-2 (EB-2). This impoundment is a component of the wastewater treatment system and a part of the existing hazardous waste facility. EB-2 has been used by CL&P prior to 1980 as a neutralization treatment basin for wastewaters pumped from the generator boilers during maintenance periods. The highly acidic water is detoxified and neutralized through mineral extraction and neutralization processes. The treatment system is operated under a NPDES Permit, issued by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which expires in November 1988.

The basin is lined by a single layer, hypolan liner. The 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act specified that double liners are mandatory for surface impoundments of this type. CL&P chose to construct the proposed tank rather than replace the liner. CL&P would detoxify and neutralize the wastewater in the impoundment; drain the impoundment; remove the sludges; remove

the liner and existing dike; and fill, grade, and seed the impoundment area. The liner would be tested for the presence of hazardous waste, and then disposed in a manner approved by the DEP. The sludges are classified as non-hazardous and would be disposed in a landfill approved by the DEP. The proposed tank would not require a new DEP or Environmental Protection Agency permit under hazardous waste management regulations.

CL&P contends that the new tank would be associated with the industrial process of generating electricity and would not be part of a commercial hazardous waste disposal treatment or recovery business. Final approval of the proposed tank's plans is currently pending from the DEP.

CL&P contends that under Connecticut General Statute (CGS) Section 22a-115(9)(A), the new tank would not meet the definition of a modification to an existing hazardous waste facility. CL&P also contends that the project would be considered the replacement of an individual component necessary to normal operations associated with the generation of electricity and would not be subject to the Council's hazardous waste jurisdiction.

The substation is located on the west bank of the Connecticut River, south of Middletown, Connecticut. The facility is partially shielded on the west by various trees and shrubs growing between the station and River Road, and by trees on the river bank to the east. The new tank would be shielded from view to the west by the existing approximately 450-foot long by 120-foot high cooling towers. The tank would also be lower in height than other existing structures in the station and would blend into the backdrop of the power station facilities.

The area is basically flat and consists of well-drained soil sloping slightly to the south. The project area lies above the 100-year flood elevation and is not subject either to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act or the Tidal Wetlands Act. CL&P has applied for location approval from the Middletown Planning and Zoning Commission.

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 Middletown Planning and Zoning Commission.

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

Thomas E. Fanning, Jr.
Siting Analyst