



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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PETITION 210
Northeast Utilities
Hartford and East Hartford, Connecticut
Staff Report
May 2, 1988

Northeast Utilities (NU) is requesting a determination from the Council that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is not required for the proposed modifications to two 115-kV lines in the City of Hartford and Town of East Hartford, Connecticut.

On April 28, 1988, Brian Emerick and Mortimer Gelston, members of the Siting Council, and Thomas Fanning and James Walz, staff of the Siting Council, met Jim Bain, Ben Bickford, John Oliver, Frank Perotti, and Steve Tolley of Northeast Utilities on the site of the proposed project.

The project consists of rebuilding sections of two existing 115-kV transmission line routes in preparation for the proposed construction of a new Charter Oak Bridge and related roadways (Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) Project 63-433). The first route (A) includes the relocation of existing 115-kV lines from one 110-foot and one 120-foot single circuit steel poles to one 130-foot and one 125-foot single circuit steel poles in Hartford. A third 160-foot double circuit steel pole would be added to the line route on the East Hartford side of the river. The second route (B) includes:

- 1) the relocation of existing 115-kV lines from one 140-foot and one 90-foot double circuit steel lattice towers to one 165-foot double circuit steel lattice tower. Both the existing and proposed towers are within regulated inland wetlands and the channel encroachment line;
- 2) the relocation of one 150-foot double circuit steel lattice tower to one 140-foot double circuit steel pole. Both the existing tower and proposed pole are within regulated inland wetlands and the channel encroachment line;
- 3) the replacement of one 120-foot double circuit steel lattice tower to a 130-foot double circuit steel lattice tower; two temporary 105-foot, 115-kV single circuit wood poles with guys would be required during the time of this tower replacement effort.

The additional height and location differences of poles in Route A, and the additional heights, increased conductor tension, and route relocation in Route B, are required to clear the proposed new Bridge and related roadways. The new bridge's roadbed would be 15 feet higher than the existing Charter Oak Bridge roadbed. Transmission line Route A would be rebuilt on an existing right-of-way while transmission line Route B would be rebuilt on existing and new rights-of-way on land owned by Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) and the State of Connecticut. Some of the construction work including the addition of fill and regrading of existing roadways for access, would be within the Channel Encroachment Lines and regulated inland wetlands in the Town of East Hartford. The tower base sizes in Route B are expected to increase from a present length of approximately 25 feet to approximately 40 to 45 feet. The towers would rest on new concrete foundations.

NU has been providing engineering services required for the rebuild of the two 115-kV lines under a preliminary engineering agreement between CL&P and CDOT. Currently, CL&P has a letter authorizing the order of material and a preliminary contract for the start of transmission line construction. CDOT has requested CL&P to proceed with the acquisition of all regulatory approvals so that the transmission lines would be constructed before the construction of the highway and bridge. CL&P plans to apply to the Army Corps of Engineers for a construction permit in early May of this year.

Construction would begin in August 1988. A project completion date is anticipated in the late Spring or early Summer of 1989.

Northeast Utilities contends that the modifications would not have a substantial environmental effect as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 16-50k(a), and therefore would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

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