



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 225
Plumtree Substation
Support Equipment
December 19, 1988

Northeast Utilities (NU) is requesting a determination from the Council that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility is not required for the addition of transmission support equipment within the existing substation in Bethel, Connecticut.

On December 12, 1988, Gloria Dibble Pond, Chairperson, and Brian Emerick from the Council, and Thomas E. Fanning, Jr., staff of the Council, met Robert Carberry, Robert Charpentier, and Drew Lasko of NU on the site of the proposed addition.

The proposed construction would include:

- a. Installation of a capacitor bank;
- b. Installation of one circuit breaker;
- c. Installation of three current-limiting reactors;
- d. Installation of two circuit switchers;
- e. Installation of one disconnect switch; and
- e. Installation of associated protective relay and control equipment in an existing relay and control enclosure.

The substation is a terminal for 345-kV and 115-kV transmission lines. NU states the proposed additions are needed to support voltage when the generation mix is changed by future imported power from Hydro-Quebec. This power would displace some of NU's generation which could create voltage drops within the transmission system. The new equipment would help sustain the necessary voltage throughout the system.

The substation is screened by trees and shrubs. The new equipment would be entirely contained within the existing substation fence and would be surrounded in part by existing structures of comparable or greater height. The tallest new structure would be approximately 25 feet high and would be placed adjacent to existing structures of the same height. The new equipment would blend into the general appearance of the station.

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NU maintains that no sound-level increases would be created, no television or radio interference would occur, no wetlands or waterways would be affected, and no equipment's insulating fluid would contain PCB's.

The proposed additions would be placed on concrete pads and no oil sumps would be needed for any of the units.

Construction would begin in June 1989, and would be completed by the end of May 1990.

Under Section 16-50k of the Connecticut General Statutes, NU contends that the proposed additions would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and therefore would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

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Siting Analyst

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