



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 229
Frost Bridge Substation
Watertown, Connecticut
Transmission Support Equipment
February 14, 1989

Northeast Utilities (NU) is requesting a determination from the Council that no certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the addition of two capacitor banks and associated transmission support equipment within its existing 345-kV and 115-kV substation in Watertown, Connecticut.

On February 8, 1989, Brian Emerick and Ralph Reuss from the Council, and Thomas E. Fanning Jr. and Fred Cunliffe, staff of the Council, met with Robert Carberry and Charles Ponte of NU on the site of the proposed addition.

The Frost Bridge Substation is a terminal for 345-kV and 115-kV transmission lines and acts as a major switching facility. The proposed construction includes:

- A. Installation of two capacitor banks;
- B. Installation of one circuit breaker;
- C. Installation of three current-limiting reactors;
- D. Installation of two circuit switchers;
- E. Installation of associated protective relay and control equipment in existing relay/control enclosure;
- F. Expansion of the existing substation's fenced area with associated clearing of trees and grading; and
- G. Installation of plantings to establish replacement screening.

The proposed work, which consists mainly of the installation of two 115-kV capacitor banks and support equipment is needed to support voltage which would be displaced due to the changes in generation mix resulting from future imported power from Hydro Quebec.

The substation is located in a general industrial zone. It is visible from both Frost Bridge Road and Route 8. The addition would be constructed on the south end of the facility resulting in a cut and fill operation in the topography. Also, twelve to eighteen, six inch plus diameter, deciduous trees would be cleared on the approximately 85-foot by 190-foot extension. Similar screening would be planted from nursery stock where applicable. There would be no plantings under existing transmission lines. The new structures and equipment would be approximately twenty feet tall and would blend into the general appearance of the station. As proposed by NU, the south edge of the addition and fence line will be along a rock outcropping and ten feet from a gulley. NU personnel were confident that the gulley would not be filled. However, the Council should be informed if blasting the rock outcropping would be necessary.

NU maintains that the proposed additions would not increase sound levels, no television or radio interference would occur, no wetlands or waterways would be affected, and no new equipment's insulating fluid would contain PCBs.

Watertown's Town Manager has been informed of the proposed project and petition. No Inland Wetland location approval is required. Location approval, however, will be required by the Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission.

Construction is anticipated to begin in June 1989 and to be completed by the end of May 1990.

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

Fred Cunliffe
Siting Analyst

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