



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 230
Berlin Substation
Berlin, Connecticut
Transmission Support Equipment
April 24, 1989

Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) is requesting a determination from the Council that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the addition of a capacitor bank and associated transmission support equipment within its existing 115-kV substation in Berlin, Connecticut.

On April 6, 1989, Harry Covey and Ralph Reuss from the Council, and Thomas E. Fanning, Jr., staff of the Council, met with Robert Charpentier and Charles Ponte of CL&P on the site of the proposed additions.

The Berlin Substation is a terminal for 115-kV transmission lines and acts as a major switching facility. It also serves to step down line voltage to local distribution feeder 13.8-kV level. The proposed construction would include:

- a. Installation of one capacitor bank;
- b. Installation of one circuit breaker;
- c. Installation of three current limiting reactors;
- d. Installation of three circuit switchers;
- e. Installation of one disconnect switch;
- f. Installation of associated protective relay and control equipment in an existing relay and control enclosure; and
- g. Relocation of the existing substation fence with associated grading.

CL&P states that the proposed additions are needed to support voltage when the generation mix is changed by future imported power from Hydro-Quebec. The new equipment would help prevent voltage drops throughout the transmission system.

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

The proposed additions would be placed on concrete pads and no oil sumps would be needed.

On a fenced site measuring approximately 685 feet by 470 feet, 200 feet of the substation fence would be moved outward to the east, approximately 45 feet. Clearing of several 10 to 20-foot cedar and arbor vitae trees and some low-lying shrubbery would be necessary. The land is generally flat. Some grading would be necessary to provide drainage away from the site. The proposed construction area would be covered by crushed stone following grading. Because the site is located in a Planned Industry zone and is well screened by existing vegetation, no new screening vegetation would be needed.

CL&P states no sound-level increases would result from the new additions, no television or radio interference would be created, no wetlands or waterways would be affected, and no equipment's insulating fluid would contain PCB's.

The Town of Berlin's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission was consulted regarding the proposed construction and ruled the proposed construction would not involve a regulated activity as defined by Town of Berlin regulations.

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

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

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