



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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PETITION NO. 255 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for a proposed addition to its Southington 4C Substation in the Town of Southington, Connecticut.

Northeast Utilities Service Company (NUSCO), as agent for Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P), is requesting a determination from the Council that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is not required for the addition to the substation described herein.

The proposed addition includes the installation of the following: a 345-kV to 115-kV, 400 MVA auto transformer with an associated 115-kV motor-operated disconnect switch and 345-kV and 115-kV surge arrestors; 510 feet of 345-kV aluminum bus, a 345-kV circuit switcher, and a 345-kV motor-operated disconnect switch; a 345-kV circuit breaker, associated potential transformer, coupling capacitor voltage transformers, and adjacent aluminum bus sections; nine motor-operated mechanisms on existing 345-kV and 115-kV disconnect switches; 115-kV circuit breaker, aluminum bus extension, disconnect switches, and potential transformers; reconnection of one of two 33 MVA transformers along with the work needed to accommodate a mobile transformer position which will require a 115-kV disconnect switch and three guyed wood poles; raising three overhead 115-kV transmission lines using six wood pole H-frame structures; and expansion of the southeast corner of the 345-kV switchyard by approximately 0.6 acres.

On Thursday, July 19, 1990, Council members Harry Covey and Brian Emerick, Executive Director Joel M. Rinebold, and Siting Analysts Fred O. Cunliffe and Stephen M. Howard met Luis Gonzalez and Aaron Goucher of NUSCO at the proposed site.

Upon review of the proposed project, Council members requested, in a letter dated July 20, 1990, that additional information be submitted by CL&P. On August 10, 1990 CL&P furnished the requested information which included the following: a scale drawing showing all before and after contours, toe of slope, areas to be cleared, wetland areas, and erosion and sedimentation controls; a cross-section of the critical slope area showing existing and proposed grades from the existing substation yard to the toe of slope; and the staking of the proposed fence and toe of slope for the subsequent field review.

On August 22, 1990 Council members Harry Covey and Brian Emerick along with Siting Analysts Fred O. Cunliffe and Stephen M. Howard met Robert Carberry and Luis Gonzalez of NUSCO at the proposed site.

The new additions will be within the existing CL&P property line and will blend in with the existing substation surroundings. The proposed additions, in a worst case scenario, will raise the sound level 3dB to 47dB. Under normal operating conditions there will be no detectable noise increase. The proposed additions will not cause any radio or television interference. PCB-free oil will be used to insulate the proposed new equipment.

The proposed 0.6 acre extension will involve the clearing of primarily opportunistic vegetation and subsequent leveling and grading of the area in order to provide the new equipment a safe clearance from overhead lines. From the fenceline, a 2:1 slope will be maintained. The slope extension would not interfere with wetlands or waterways. Hay bales or silt fences will be placed as an erosion control measure until permanent erosion controls become effective.

NUSCO applied for location approval with the Southington Planning and Zoning Commission. The application was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on June 19, 1990.

The proposed additional equipment is needed to avoid a contingency overload condition by Summer 1992 due to projected peak load growth.

Construction of the proposed addition is scheduled to begin in September 1990 and will be completed by the end of October 1992.

NUSCO contends that the project would be a modification of a facility that would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect as defined in the Connecticut General Statutes Section 16-50k(a), and therefore would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

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Siting Analyst

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