



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

136 Main Street, Suite 401
New Britain, Connecticut 06051
Phone: 827-7682

Petition No. 263
Northeast Utilities Company
Structure Replacement
Westport, Connecticut
February 25, 1991

The Northeast Utilities Service Company (NU) is requesting a ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the replacement of an overbuild mast presently supporting an existing 115 kV transmission line and a Metro North railroad distribution line on Metro North railroad catenary structure No. 625, located in the Town of Westport, Connecticut.

On February 19, 1991, William H. Smith and Mark Marcus of the Council and Thomas E. Fanning, Jr., staff of the Council, met Dorian Hill of NU at the site of the proposed project.

The project would entail the dismantling of existing steel structures currently supporting 115 kV circuit conductors and railroad feeder lines, located on the upper portion of the south side of catenary structure No. 625. A 77-foot, steel monopole would be erected, to support the electric cables, approximately 20 feet east and adjacent to the existing structure. The top of the proposed monopole would be no taller than the existing catenary structure.

A structural analysis of the existing catenary structure by NU's consultant, C.T. Main, Inc., indicated that deterioration of the structure required either the removal of the transmission and railroad electric circuits or extensive reinforcement of support members. Evidence of rusting steel supports and bolts was observed by the review team.

NU and Metro North have jointly discussed the proposed tower replacement. Each company would remove their own steelwork from the catenary structure. A new foundation for the monopole would be required, but this would not adversely affect the railroad trackbed. Coordination with Metro North for the temporary removal of the nearest railroad track to the site from service and the temporary day-by-day removal from service of the transmission line during construction has been planned.

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No clearing of vegetation would be planned for the placement of the proposed structure.

Construction would be scheduled for the spring of 1992.

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