



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 265
The Connecticut Light and Power Company
February 11, 1991

PETITION NO. 265 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the removal of certain 69-kV lattice towers in the Towns of Rocky Hill, Cromwell, Berlin, and the City of Middletown, Connecticut.

On January 29, 1991, the Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) submitted a petition requesting a determination from the Siting Council (Council) that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) would be required for the proposed transmission line modifications in the Towns of Rocky Hill, Cromwell, Middletown, and Berlin.

On Thursday, February 7, 1991, Council members Harry E. Covey and Brian Emerick, and Council staff member Stephen M. Howard met John C. Case and Gerald F. Thompson of CL&P in Rocky Hill at one section of the proposed project.

The proposed project would consist of the removal of conductor and 45 lattice steel towers along approximately eight miles of right-of-way (ROW) in the aforementioned Towns. The transmission line has not been in service for more than 30 years. The towers would be removed one to two feet below the ground surface. If the tower legs are embedded in rock, the tower would be cut flush to the rock surface. After removal, the tower steel would be removed from the ROW and scrapped or otherwise disposed of. Two towers along the ROW in Cromwell would remain in place due to existing and proposed fire and police antennas located on them. CL&P would maintain rights to the ROW for future use considerations.

Along overgrown portions of the ROW, the clearing of brush and small trees would be necessary to access and remove the structures. In wet areas the removal of the towers would take place during the winter freeze in order to lessen access difficulty and any erosion and sedimentation problems. The ROW would be rehabilitated by CL&P wherever necessary.

There are populations of the Hartford Fern along the ROW that would be affected by the removal activity. CL&P would work with the Department of Environmental Protection in establishing the best methods to avoid disturbing the habitat of this threatened plant species including informing construction personnel about the fern, flagging the fern's location in the construction area, and taking access routes to avoid the fern populations.

CL&P contends that the proposed project would not result in a substantial adverse effect on the environment or ecology, nor would it damage existing scenic, historical, or recreational values and pursuant to Section 16-50k(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes would not require a Certificate from the Council.

Stephen M. Howard
Siting Analyst

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