

Petition No. 840  
The Connecticut Light and Power Company  
Stepstone Substation, Stepstone Hill Road, Guilford  
Staff Report  
January 10, 2008

On July 3, 2007, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) approved The Connecticut Light and Power Company's (CL&P) Application for the Stepstone Substation at Stepstone Hill Road, Guilford. On October 16, 2007, the Council approved CL&P's Development and Management Plan (D&M Plan) for this project.

On December 11, 2007, the Council received a Petition (Petition) from CL&P for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) is required for the proposed modifications to the approved Guilford Substation. Specifically, CL&P seeks to modify its approved D&M Plan to install a 60 MVA power transformer instead of the 47 MVA power transformer.

The increased capacity that would result from a 60 MVA power transformer would not increase the permissible load limit at the Stepstone Substation, but it would make more capacity available for temporary transfers from the Branford or Green Hill Substations should either substation experience a transformer outage. In addition, current pricing shows that while a new 60 MVA transformer costs about 12 percent more than the 47 MVA transformer, it would result in 27 percent more capacity.

The proposed 60 MVA transformer is (physically) approximately the same the size as the 47 MVA transformer. As such, this change is not expected to materially affect visibility from any surrounding residences. Also, the proposed transformer would not increase the noise levels at the property lines due to the distance afforded by the large parcel size. The substation site is heavily wooded, and existing vegetation provides a substantial visual buffer.

Installation of the proposed transformer would also include secondary oil containment capable of holding 110 percent of the transformer's capacity. The proposed transformer would be located in the same location as originally proposed and would still be located off of the aquifer protection area pursuant to Order No. 3 of the Council's Decision and Order.

On December 17, 2007, a letter was sent to the Town of Guilford and abutter (and Party) Mr. Russi Suntoke with a request that any objections be filed with the Council by January 8, 2008. No objections have been received.

CL&P contends that the installation of a 60 MVA transformer in place of a 47 MVA transformer would not cause a substantial adverse environmental effect and thus no Certificate is required.