



OCC Participates in Siting Council Docket No. 435 Regarding Proposed CL&P Underground Transmission Project in Stamford

On March 8, 2013, the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) granted the motion of the Office of Consumer Counsel (“OCC”) for party status in Council Docket No. 435. The Docket is to consider a Connecticut Light and Power Company (“CL&P”) application, filed with the Council on January 18, 2013, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Stamford Reliability Cable Project (“Project”). The proposed Project consists of construction, maintenance, and operation of a new 115-kV underground transmission circuit extending approximately 1.5 miles between the Glenbrook and South End Substations in Stamford, Connecticut, and related substation improvements. Transmission lines carry high-voltage electrical energy from generating power plants to electrical substations, where the voltage is reduced and energy distributed for the use of residential and business electric customers through a utility’s electric power distribution system.

The CL&P application states that the Project is needed both to strengthen the 115-kV transmission system serving the Stamford-Greenwich Sub-area as well as eliminate reliability criteria violations by relieving power flows and thus ensuring compliance with mandatory national and regional reliability standards. The application also states that the estimated capital cost of the Project will be approximately \$46.9 million. While CL&P considered an overhead route for the Project, CL&P proposes to construct an underground circuit due to the physical constraints posed by the existing urban infrastructure in Stamford and the absence of open space to locate a transmission line in the immediate vicinity. Upon receipt of the Council’s approval, CL&P expects to start an approximately one-year construction process to begin in early 2014, with the facilities in service in December 2014. CL&P will seek to recover costs in regulated rates, which, if approved, will be imposed on Connecticut ratepayers, at least in part.



Through its participation in Council Docket No. 435, OCC is advocating for the interests of Connecticut electric consumers given that this proposed Project will affect the reliability of the electric supply available to Connecticut consumers and also the rates charged to Connecticut ratepayers. OCC will participate in a public hearing on the CL&P application conducted by the Council on March 28, 2013, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and continued at 7:00 p.m. for public comment, at the NEON Stamford Gymnasium, 34 Woodland Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut. The Council's Proposed Schedule provides that its Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion & Decision & Order will be released on May 30, 2013.