



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

September 5, 2025

Timothy J. Bishop

Lindsay Suhr
Director, Land Acquisition and Management
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT, 06106
lindsay.suhr@ct.gov

Linda Bowers

Christopher Donnelly

David Kalafa

Re: Notice of Scoping for Proposed Modification of Easements to Allow a 199-psig Natural Gas Distribution Pipeline Within Portions of Hurd State Park and Connecticut Valley Railroad State Park Trail

Cinzia Lettieri

Dear Lindsay Suhr,

Aimee Petras

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comments regarding the proposed work that would be associated with modification of the existing easements to allow a 199-psig natural gas distribution pipeline within portions of Hurd State Park and Connecticut Valley Railroad State Park Trail.

Denise Rodosevich

William Warzecha

Eversource Energy recently submitted a Petition for Declaratory Ruling (Petition) with the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) for the Scovill Rock Switching Station to East of Hurd State Park Rebuild Project (Petition 1679), which includes a proposed crossing of the Connecticut River for electric transmission infrastructure in approximately the same area noted in the Scoping Notice. The Council provided comments to the CSC regarding Petition 1679 and suggested that “the Petitioner 1) consider the possibility of installing the electric transmission line(s) beneath the Connecticut River, and 2) assess the potential impacts to the environment.” The Petition materials did include some information in the “Connecticut River Crossing Alternatives Analysis” (CRC Alternatives Analysis) regarding the installation of electric transmission infrastructure beneath the Connecticut River, but there was limited information regarding the potential environment impacts. Indeed, the CRC Alternatives Analysis noted that while technically possible, “either of the underground alternatives also would require additional geotechnical and environmental studies...”

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

The Council wants to ensure that both the CSC and DEEP are aware of each proposed project (Scovill Rock Switching Station to East of Hurd State Park Rebuild Project and the natural gas distribution pipeline expansion) because coordination between the two proposed projects could reduce disturbance and environmental impacts. The Council suggests that DEEP ensure that a thorough assessment of the potential impacts on environmental resources including, but not limited to, habitats, wildlife, and water quality is undertaken prior to modifying any easements to allow a 199-psig natural gas distribution pipeline within portions of Hurd State Park and Connecticut Valley Railroad State Park Trail.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council’s comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Aresta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul Aresta, Executive Director

c. Melanie Bachman, Executive Director - Connecticut Siting Council