

October 3, 2023

Melanie A. Bachman, Esq. Executive Director/Staff Attorney Connecticut Siting Council 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Docket No. 516 – The United Illuminating Company Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Fairfield to Congress Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project

Dear Ms. Bachman:

Enclosed for filing with the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") are The United Illuminating Company's responses to the Fairfield Station Lofts, LLC's September 14, 2023 interrogatories.

An original and fifteen (15) copies of this filing will be hand delivered to the Council today.

Should the Council have any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Bruce L. McDermott

Enclosure

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Witness: Shawn C Crosbie Page 1 of 1

- Q-FSL-1: In connection with the design of the proposed Project in this Docket, did anyone from UI conduct an in-person field visit to the vicinity of property SAS-1754 after October 2022? If so, provide a date(s) and the names of any UI personnel, consultants, or contractors present and any written reports or analyses based on such visit(s).
- A-FSL-1: Yes. An in-person field visit was conducted by the UI team on December 6, 2022. Project team members that attended the field visit included Hallie Rimkunas, Aziz Chouhdery, Abdallah Yahiaoui, Correne Auer, Jason Vincent, Matt Scully, Pete Zaffino, Matthew Parkhurst, Kyle Saba, Joe Dietrich, and Aaron Davis. At this site visit, UI noted the as-built site with the apartment building and surrounding above grade features. Based on the observed as-built site conditions, UI realized that the proposed pole location for Structure P689S should be changed. UI began to evaluate alternate locations for this structure in order to minimize any impact to the surrounding built environment. Based on the field visit and UI's evaluation, proposed pole location will be moved approximately 18 feet to the west from the original location proposed in the application. This will place the pole adjacent to existing parking spaces on Unquowa Place. Please refer to Attachment FSL-1-1 Exhibit 1B for updated pole location.

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- Q-FSL-2: In preparation of the Application in this Docket, did UI modify the location of Tower P689S or the associated electric transmission lines once it became aware of that SAS-1754 contained a five-story multi-family apartment building approved pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-30g, Connecticut's affordable housing statute (the "Fairfield Apartment Building")? If so, describe any modifications in detail.
- A-FSL-2: No. However, following the site walk discussed in FSL-1, UI evaluated and modified the location of the transmission pole P689S from what is presently shown in the submitted application. Please refer to Attachment FSL-1-1, Exhibit 1B for updated pole location.

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- Q-FSL-3: Provide the precise location for proposed Tower P689S, including the precise location depicted on a survey with sufficient detail to understand the proximity of the proposed Tower P689S to property SAS-1754 and the actual distance from Tower P689S to the nearest portion of the Fairfield Apartment Building.
- A-FSL-3: See Attachment FSL-1-1 for more information. In the application, the proposed location of Structure P689S is approximately 7'-4" away from the property line of SAS-1754 and 20'-8" away from the apartment building. The revised location of Structure P689S is approximately 23'-6" away from the property line of SAS-1754 and 36'-3" away from the apartment building.

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- Q-FSL-4: What is the distance between the existing catenary structure closest to the location of proposed Tower P689S and the western property line for property SAS-1754? Does UI currently have an easement and access rights to that area?
- A-FSL-4: The existing catenary structure closest to the location of proposed structure P689S is approximately 20' from the property line separating the CTDOT railroad corridor and SAS-1754. The existing 115kV conductors are approximately 15'-5" from this same property line. UI does not have any easement or access in that area.

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- Q-FSL-5: When deciding on the location of proposed Tower P689S, did UI consider if the location would impede access to the westerly side of the Fairfield Apartment Building for, among other things, emergency services? If so, how did that impact the proposed location of Tower P689S?
- A-FSL-5: Yes, UI considered the location of the new pad mount transformer location as well as access for emergency services to the westerly side of the apartment building. The revised location of the pole will accommodate space for emergency service access to the building.

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- Q-FSL-6: When deciding on the location for proposed Tower P689S and the associated electric transmission line connecting to the proposed Tower P690S, did UI take into consideration the relocation of electric distribution pole P3745 in 2022 and the reasons for that relocation discussed in the December 8, 2021, Decision of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in Docket No. 21-06-18?
- A-FSL-6: When deciding the location of the new transmission pole, as depicted in Attachment FSL-1-1 Exhibit 1B, UI considered access to the northwest corner of the building. The location of the transmission pole and wires will not impact access to the western side of the building as described by the fire chief in PURA Docket No. 21-06-18. The transmission wires and pole will be located to the north of the new apartment complex.

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- Q-FSL-7: When deciding on the location for proposed Tower P689S and the associated electric transmission line connecting to the proposed Tower P690S, did UI take into consideration the relocation of electric distribution pole P3745 in 2022 and the reasons for that relocation discussed in the December 8, 2021, Decision of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in Docket No. 21-06-18?
- A-FSL-7: The 115kV conductors between proposed structures P689S and P690S will not travel over property SAS-1754.

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- Q-FSL-8: What is minimum height that an electric transmission lines will hang between proposed Towers P689S and P690S?
- A-FSL-8: At the maximum short term emergency operating temperature, the 115kV conductors will be approximately 83'-5" above grade at the lowest point of sag. At the maximum normal operating temperature, the 115kV conductors will be approximately 84'-5" above grade at the lowest point of sag.

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- Q-FSL-9: What is the closest distance between an electric transmission line and the highest point of the Fairfield Apartment Building on property SAS-1754?
- A-FSL-9: The highest point of the Fairfield Apartment Building on Property SAS-1754 is the elevator bulkhead. Clearances are defined based the following two weather conditions:
  - 1. 115kV conductors at their maximum operating temperature with no wind
  - 2. 115kV conductors under a blowout wind condition (48.4 mph)

With the conductors at their maximum operating temperature with no wind, they will be approximately 22'-8" away from the building in the horizontal direction and approximately 11'-4" away in the vertical direction for a resultant distance of 25'-4".

With the conductors under a blowout wind condition, they will be approximately 20'-8" away from the building in the horizontal direction and approximately 13'-6" away in the vertical direction for a resultant distance of 24'-8".

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- Q-FSL-10: Is UI aware that a portion of the westerly side of the Fairfield Apartment Building is located less than 6" from the property boundary with the Metro North Railroad property and the remainder of the westerly side of the Fairfield Apartment Building is located less than 6 feet from the same property boundary?
- A-FSL-10: Yes, UI is aware and took that information into account during design. As part of UI's due diligence activities, UI conducted a property survey on the SAS-1754 property and is aware of the as-built building in proximity to the property boundary.

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- Q-FSL-11: Does the distance between (i) proposed Tower P689S and all electric transmission lines to be located between proposed Towers P689S and P690S and (ii) all parts of the Fairfield Apartment Building meet or exceed current National Electrical Safety Code standards and UI's electrical safety standards? If not, provide a list of standards not met, as well as what modifications to the Project will be required to meet or exceed these standards?
- A-FSL-11: Yes, the design meets applicable NESC and UI design standards, which exceed NESC minimum requirements.

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- Q-FSL-12: As discussed in its August 28, 2023 Petition to Intervene, FSL-referenced comments it received during the zoning approval process from the Fairfield Fire Department regarding the importance of maintaining access to the westerly side of the Fairfield Apartment Building. Those concerns were reiterated in PURA Docket 21-06-18, including the ability to access the westerly side of the Fairfield Apartment Building and any rooftop amenities during an emergency, especially the ability to maintain ladder access. In connection with the Project, did UI consult with the Fairfield Fire Department about its prior concerns for access to the Fairfield Apartment, did UI otherwise evaluate these concerns as part the planning for the Project?
- A-FSL-12: The UI has not had consultation with the Fairfield Fire Department about its concerns for access to the Fairfield Apartment Building. When UI designs structure locations for a transmission project like the Fairfield/Congress project, UI evaluates does consider such factors such as maintaining access for emergency services. That said, should other assets such as distribution services need to be re-located based on the design of this Project, UI will work with its distribution team members to determine what discussions need to occur with local entities such as the Fairfield Fire Department.

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- Q-FSL-13: Relevant to Exponent's May 30, 2023, report:
  - a. Why did Exponent only evaluate one redesign option for the Fairfield Apartment Building?
  - b. Did Exponent's evaluation of magnetic field levels take into consideration exposure to individuals who may be enjoying the roof-top amenities at the Fairfield Apartment Building? If so, provide a reference to the record where this evaluation can be found or provide copy of this evaluation.
  - c. Did Exponent evaluate the potential impact of magnetic field levels on the solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Fairfield Apartment Building, either under the originally proposed or revised configuration. If so, provide a reference to the record where this evaluation can be found or provide copy of this evaluation.

# A-FSL-13:

- a. Option 1 provided the ability to both reduce phase-phase spacing and increase minimum conductor height. This design resulted in reducing magnetic-field levels relative to existing configuration and hence Option 1 was determined to be the most practical and effective measure for reducing magnetic field levels. Additionally, the Council's electric and magnetic field (EMF) best management practices (BMPs) refer to a benchmark of "significant...[Magnetic Field] reduction of at least 15 percent." *Electric and Magnetic Fields Best Management Practices For the Construction of Electric Transmission Lines in Connecticut,* Revised February 20, 2014 at 4-5 (the "CSC EMF BMPs").
- b. Compared to the original proposed design, the proposed Option 1 at Fairfield achieves a 30% reduction at ground level and 47% reduction at the roof, both far above the benchmark cited by the CSC EMF BMPs. It is also worth noting that the proposed Option 1 achieves a magnetic-field reduction of 34% to 83% (depending upon height above ground) compared to the existing transmission line configuration.

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Exponent's evaluation of the magnetic-field levels at the roof-top of the Fairfield Apartment Building is provided in Exhibit 3 to Attachment CSC-69-1. In particular, Figure 2 shows the existing and proposed (Option 1) magnetic field level at the roof (63 ft above ground) of the Fairfield Apartment Building at average loading. At this height, the Interrogatory FSL-13magnetic field level is 105 mG at the edge of the building nearest to the transmission line. The magnetic-field level at this same location for proposed Option 1 is 69 mG, an approximately 34% decrease compared to existing levels. Additionally, the proposed Option 1 results in magnetic-field levels nearly 30-fold below the lowest reference level (2,000 mG) specified in international guidelines for International Commission on human exposure to magnetic fields. Non-Ionizina Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) (ICNIRP statement-guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric and magnetic fields (1 Hz to 100 kHz). Health Phys 99:818-836, 2010).

c. Exponent has not provided a specific evaluation of the potential effects of Project-related magnetic fields on photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof. However, as described in part b to this answer, to the extent that there are any effects of magnetic fields on PV panels, the proposed Option 1 would reduce magnetic field levels relative to existing levels.

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- Q-FSL-14: Did UI evaluate the feasibility of rerouting the electric transmission lines to a double-circuit configuration north of the CT DOT corridor? If not, describe in detail why this option was not evaluated. If so, provide all written reports and analyses where this alternative is discussed.
- A-FSL-14: UI did not evaluate a double circuit alternative on the north side of the railroad tracks. The transmission lines on the north side of the tracks were constructed in the early 1990s on steel monopoles and are still very much within their useful life and it would be cost prohibitive to rebuild these assets which have not reached the end of their useful life.

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- Q-FSL-15: Did UI evaluate the feasibility of installing the electric transmission lines in an underground duct bank north or south of the CT DOT corridor? If not, describe in detail why this option was not evaluated. If so, provide all written reports and analyses where this alternative is discussed.
- A-FSL-15: Based on comments received from CTDOT, UI cannot install underground transmission infrastructure longitudinally within the right-of-way. Underground options within the public streets have been evaluated as part of the alternatives described in section 9 of the Project Application. See also, response to interrogatory CSC-1-14.

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Witness: Matt Scully Page 1 of 1

- Q-FSL-16: In connection with the proposed work pad related to proposed Tower P689S:
  - a. Describe in detail the nature of this work pad, including the activities that will take place in the work pad area, expected duration of this work pad area, and any restrictions that will impact adjacent areas (e.g., the Fairfield Apartment Building) as a result of the activities in and around the work pad area.
  - b. Does this work pad extend onto property SAS-1754? If so, where and for what purpose?
  - c. Will this work pad be secured with fencing or other perimeter control measures?
  - d. Can this work pad be reduced in size or moved away from the Fairfield Apartment Building to avoid impacting the SAS-1754 parcel and building?
  - e. When designing this work pad, including its location and size, did UI evaluate whether the location and size of the work pad would impede residents' access to the Fairfield Apartment Building or the ability of emergency services to access the westerly side of the Fairfield Apartment Building?
- A-FSL-16: a. See Note 3 in Attachment FSL-1-1, Exhibits 1A and 1B.
  - b. The work pad does not extend onto property SAS-1754.
  - c. No. The work pad that is located in front of the apartment building will utilize the existing pavement. The work pad that is shown over the grassy area to the northwest of the building will consist of construction matting to allow for equipment access.
  - d. The work pad does not impact the SAS-1754 parcel. Further, for the revised design, the work pad will not impact the sidewalk located in public space on the west side of apartment building.
  - e. Yes. The work pad will not impede residents' access or emergency services to the Fairfield Apartment Building. The work pad in front of the building will utilize the existing paved area and work pads in the grassy area will utilize construction matting which is designed for use by construction equipment.

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Witness: Annette Potasz Page 1 of 1

- Q-FSL-17: According to UI's Application, UI intends to obtain a permanent easement over a portion of property SAS-1754. What are the dimensions of this permanent easement over property SAS-1754?
- A-FSL-17: The dimension of the permanent easement required over property SAS-1754 is approximately 12 feet in width, along the northern property line adjacent to the CT DOT corridor.

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- Q-FSL-18: Describe in detail the nature of the permanent easement UI intends to obtain over the western portion of property SAS-1754, including but not limited to the purpose of the permanent easement and any and all restrictions that such permanent easement will impose on property SAS-1754.
- A-FSL-18: UI's standard transmission easement includes the rights to construct, reconstruct, erect, install, maintain, inspect, the facilities. The easement area will take into consideration the existing conditions at the time the easement is granted, i.e., fences, sheds, buildings, that do not endanger or prohibit the required clearance and maintenance of the facilities. It will include restrictions against excavation, fill, grade changes and construction of permanent structures as well as vegetation that creates a hazard condition.

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- Q-FSL-19: Is it UI's practice to obtain permanent easements over existing buildings or structures?
- A-FSL-19: It is not UI's preference to obtain permanent easements over existing buildings or structures and all efforts are made during the design of a rebuild project to avoid it. However, due to the narrow width of the existing railroad corridor and the urban environment surrounding it, in order to maintain required clearances and protect the facilities in perpetuity, the conclusion may be that there are no other options available.

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- Q-FSL-20: Can the proposed Project be constructed without obtaining any permanent easement over property SAS-1754?
- A-FSL-20: No. Based on the built environment and engineering due diligence in the field, there is no location for the poles in this area to be shifted to which would allow for no permanent easement over property SAS-1754.

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- Q-FSL-21: Can the proposed permanent easement over property SAS-1754 be reduced in size or scope?
- A-FSL-21: If the project goal of separating UI's facilities from the facilities owned by MNR/CTDOT is followed, the proposed permanent easement over property SAS-1754 could be reduced in size by approximately 1 foot in width. There would be no scope change effected by this change.



GROUNDING INSTALLATION / RESTORATION: PORTIONS OF 4 DAYS OR NIGHTS ALTHOUGH AT THIS TIME, IT CANNOT BE DICTATED WHERE EACH INDIVIDUAL PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WILL BE LOCATED DURING THE WORK ACTIVITIES. UI WILL WORK WITH FSL TO ENSURE THAT ALL RESIDENTS WILL HAVE SAFE ACCESS TO THE APARTMENT BUILDING AND THAT EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE WESTERLY SIDE OF THE FSL APARTMENT BUILDING. WHERE THE EXISTING SURFACE AREA IS NOT PAVEMENT OR GRAVEL, THE CONTRACTOR WILL UTILIZE TIMBER OR COMPOSITE MATTING LAID UPON THE EXISTING GROUND SURFACE TO LIMIT EARTH DISTURBANCE AND SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. IN PAVEMENT AND GRAVEL AREAS, THE CONTRACTOR WILL STAGE THEIR EQUIPMENT ON THE EXISTING PAVED SURFACES. THEY WILL USE APPROPRIATE PROTECTION MEASURES FOR OUTRIGGER SUPPORT, ETC. EXISTING FENCES WITHIN PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AREAS WILL BE REMOVED TEMPORARILY TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. UPON COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION, THESE WILL BE PERMANENTLY REPLACED TO MATCH PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS.

PROPOSED POLE LOCATION: THE ORIGINAL DESIGN IN THE APPLICATION PLACES THE POLE AND FOUNDATION FULLY ON THE CTDOT RAILROAD CORRIDOR, 7' - 4" FROM THE CORNER OF THE FSL PROPERTY AND 20' - 8" FROM THE CORNER OF

2. PROPOSED TEMPORARY EQUIPMENT ACCESS PATH: THIS IS THE PROPOSED ROUTE THROUGH THE PROPERTY THAT UI AND CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WILL GENERALLY FOLLOW. THIS ROUTE WILL STAY WITHIN THE CTDOT RAILROAD CORRIDOR. EQUIPMENT WILL NOT OCCUPY THIS AREA FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT DURATION.

3. PROPOSED TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AREA: THIS IS THE PROPOSED AREA THAT WILL BE OCCUPIED BY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DURING THE INSTALLATION ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION, POLE, INSULATORS AND HARDWARE, AND WIRE. THE WORK AREA IS SIZED TO ACCOMMODATE VEHICULAR TURNING RADII AND MOVEMENT. EQUIPMENT WILL NOT TAKE UP THE ENTIRE AREA AT ANY ONE TIME. WORK ACTIVITIES AND DURATIONS INCLUDE:

FOUNDATION DRILLING AND CONCRETE POURING: 3 DAYS OR NIGHTS

OPGW AND 115kV CONDUCTOR INSTALLATIONS: PORTIONS OF 3 DAYS OR NIGHTS

PROPOSED TEMPORARY BONNET REMOVAL WORK PAD AREA: THIS IS THE PROPOSED AREA THAT WILL BE OCCUPIED BY CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT DURING THE REMOVAL OF TRANSMISSION LINE BONNET STRUCTURES FROM THE EXISTING CTDOT CATENARY STRUCTURES. IT IS ANTICIPATED REMOVAL OF ONE BONNET STRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED ASSEMBLIES CAN BE COMPLETED IN ONE TO TWO WORK SHIFTS. THE CONTRACTOR WILL UTILIZE THE EXISTING PAVEMENT AREAS TO STAGE THEIR EQUIPMENT. MATTING AND CRIBBING WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT ANY EQUIPMENT OUTRIGGERS. THE BONNET REMOVAL WORK WILL NOT OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME AS THE FOUNDATION/POLE

5. FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE TO RESTORE, AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE, ANY WORK AREAS/ ACCESS ROUTES TO CONDITIONS THAT WERE PRESENT PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

PROPOSED TEMPORARY BONNET REMOVAL WORK PAD

ORMATION			UI 115 KV PROJECT FAIRFIELD TO CONGRESS					
			DESIGN PER SITING COUNCIL APPLICATION					
			DR.		SCALE AS SHOWN	FILE:		
			CK.		NO.		REV.	
			APP.		FSL	EXHIBIT 1A		
DESCRIPTION		APP.	DATE:					



PROPOSED POLE LOCATION: THIS OPTION SHIFTS THE POLE 18' WEST COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL LOCATION IN THE APPLICATION, 23' - 6" FROM THE CORNER OF THE FSL PROPERTY AND 36' - 3" FROM THE CORNER OF THE APARTMENT

PROPOSED TEMPORARY EQUIPMENT ACCESS PATH: THIS IS THE PROPOSED ROUTE THROUGH THE PROPERTY THAT UI AND CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT WILL GENERALLY FOLLOW. THIS ROUTE WILL STAY WITHIN THE CTDOT RAILROAD CORRIDOR. EQUIPMENT WILL NOT OCCUPY THIS AREA FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT DURATION.

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FOUNDATION DRILLING AND CONCRETE POURING: 3 DAYS OR NIGHTS

OPGW AND 115kV CONDUCTOR INSTALLATIONS: PORTIONS OF 3 DAYS OR NIGHTS

**GROUNDING INSTALLATION / RESTORATION: PORTIONS OF 4 DAYS OR NIGHTS** 

ALTHOUGH AT THIS TIME. IT CANNOT BE DICTATED WHERE EACH INDIVIDUAL PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WILL BE LOCATED DURING THE WORK ACTIVITIES, UI WILL WORK WITH FSL TO ENSURE THAT ALL RESIDENTS WILL HAVE SAFE ACCESS TO THE APARTMENT BUILDING AND THAT EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE WESTERLY SIDE OF THE FSL APARTMENT BUILDING. WHERE THE EXISTING SURFACE AREA IS NOT PAVEMENT OR GRAVEL, THE CONTRACTOR WILL UTILIZE TIMBER OR COMPOSITE MATTING LAID UPON THE EXISTING GROUND SURFACE TO LIMIT EARTH DISTURBANCE AND SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. IN PAVEMENT AND GRAVEL AREAS, THE CONTRACTOR WILL STAGE THEIR EQUIPMENT ON THE EXISTING PAVED SURFACES. THEY WILL USE APPROPRIATE PROTECTION MEASURES FOR OUTRIGGER SUPPORT, ETC. EXISTING FENCES WITHIN PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AREAS WILL BE REMOVED TEMPORARILY TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. UPON COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION, THESE WILL BE

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PROPOSED TEMPORARY BONNET REMOVAL WORK PAD

ORMATION				UI 115 KV PROJECT FAIRFIELD TO CONGRESS					
					DESIGN WITH P689S AT REVISED LOCATION				
				-					
			DR.		SCALE AS SHOWN	FILE:			
			CK.		NO.		REV.		
			APP.		FS	L EXHIBIT 1B			
DESCRIPTION		APP.	DATE:						