



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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November 4, 2013

Andrew W. Lord, Esq.  
Murtha Cullina LLP  
CityPlace I, 185 Asylum Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-3469

RE: **DOCKET NO. 190B** – Meriden Gas Turbines, LLC Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for a 530 MW combined cycle generating plant in Meriden, Connecticut. Reopening of this docket pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 4-181a(b) limited to Council consideration of changed conditions and Decommissioning Plan.

Dear Attorney Lord:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on October 31, 2013, the Council evaluated the site conditions pursuant to Condition No. 2 of the Decision and Order dated September 19, 2013 and determined that there are no outstanding Certificate or Development and Management Plan conditions that Meriden Gas Turbines, LLC or its parent company, NRG, need to address at this time.

Therefore, the Council hereby acknowledges the surrender of the certificate as of October 31, 2013. Please be advised that Condition No. 1 of the Decision and Order still remains in full force and effect. Failure to comply with Condition No. 1 may result in an enforcement action under the provisions of C.G.S. §16-50u.

A copy of the staff report for this matter is enclosed.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Council office.

Very truly yours,

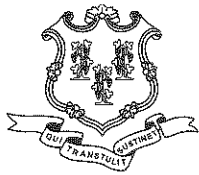
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Stein" with the initials "LMB" written to the right.

Robert Stein  
Chairman

RS/MB/cm

c: Parties and Intervenors

En.: Staff Report dated October 31, 2013



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Docket 190B  
Field Review Report  
Meriden, Connecticut  
October 31, 2013

In accordance with Condition 2 of the Decision and Order for Docket 190B dated September 19, 2013, a public field review of the site of the Meriden Gas Turbines (NRG) abandoned generating plant was conducted on October 10, 2013. Chairman Robin Stein, Dr. Barbara Bell and Dan Lynch were the Siting Council members who attended. Melanie Bachman, Christina Walsh, and David Martin were Council staff members present. Attorney Andrew Lord and Robert Spooner, an environment consultant, represented NRG. Robert Bass, Public Works Director, represented the City of Meriden. The site conditions observed during the field review are summarized by the following topics.

### Steep slopes

Steep slopes along the east and north sides of the project property have been stabilized with large, crushed trap rock. The effectiveness of this stabilization is apparent in the absence of any signs of erosion after 10 years since construction activity was suspended at the site. The retaining walls are positioned one on top of each other to stabilize the top of the steepest slope near where the buildings are located. The walls are functioning as designed.

### Created Wetland

The 0.9 acre wetland that was to be created to compensate for the filling of a smaller wetland has been created and is located at the bottom of the steep slope on the east side of the project property. Although it is in an area that was inaccessible during the field review, it appeared to have been created in accordance with D&M requirements, with certain plantings at the edge, others in a more marshy middle area, still others on an "island" in the center. Although the term "pond" is used in the D&M, the wetland didn't contain enough water on this day for it to have surface water. Nevertheless, the depressed shape of the wetland, prolific growth, and characteristic plants such as wetland grasses and cattails were apparent.

### Vernal Pool

The vernal pool that was the subject of some questioning during the hearings in this proceeding is located to the south of the project property on property that has been deeded to the City. It has a small basin-like topography. At this time of year, it did not contain any surface water.

### Landscaping

It was the opinion of Council members that planting ornamental trees and grassing certain slopes around the plant buildings for aesthetic purposes would be superfluous at this time. The D&M Plan indicated that evergreens were to be planted along the rock face at the western edge of the project property. However, planting evergreens against this rock face behind the existing buildings would also be superfluous. It's hard to imagine how even hardy evergreens could get established in such rocky conditions, and they would provide no visual screening of the existing buildings.



Docket 190B  
D&O Field Review Report

Conclusions

Issues that seemed to be unresolved during the hearings for this docket—the status of the created wetland, the stabilization of the site, the need for ornamental or screening plantings, and the status of the vernal pool—were cleared up during this field review. The wetland is in place and appears to be functioning as intended. The slopes are well stabilized. The vernal pool is in place. At this juncture, there appears to be little to be gained by requiring additional plantings.

The visibility of the existing buildings remains an issue, but there are indications that it will be resolved as part of the settlement agreement being negotiated between NRG and the City of Meriden.

The consensus of the Council and staff members was that there are no outstanding D&M or D&O issues that NRG needs to address at this time. Whatever site conditions are problematic for the City can be resolved as part of its settlement agreement with NRG.