



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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August 4, 2009

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET 370A** - The Connecticut Light & Power Company application for Certificates of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut Valley Electric Transmission Reliability Projects which consist of (1) The Connecticut portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Bloomfield, East Granby, and Suffield, or potentially including an alternate portion that traverses the municipalities of Suffield and Enfield, terminating at the North Bloomfield Substation; and (2) the Manchester Substation to Meekville Junction Circuit Separation Project in Manchester, Connecticut.

Comments have been received from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, dated July 28, 2009. Copies are attached for your review.

SDP/CMW/laf

c: Council Members



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Northeast Region Office
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ORIGINAL

July 28, 2009

Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RECEIVED
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CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

Re: Greater Springfield Reliability Project
New England National Scenic Trail
Lower Farmington & Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study
Docket No. 370a

Dear Chairman Caruso:

I am writing on behalf of the National Park Service (NPS) to express concern and interest in the above proceeding (Docket 370a – Greater Springfield Reliability Project). The NPS is concerned about the project's potential environmental and scenic/recreational impact to the recently designated New England National Scenic Trail (Public Law 111-11) and congressionally authorized Wild and Scenic River Study of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook (Public Law 109-370).

Additionally, being aware that several parties to Docket 370a have already brought these two issues to the attention of the Connecticut Siting Council, (including the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and Farmington River Watershed Association), I would like to confirm NPS interest and identify myself as a point of contact concerning both projects.

New England National Scenic Trail

The New England National Scenic Trail was designated in March of 2009 through legislation passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Obama (PL 111-11). In Connecticut, the Trail is based upon the Metacomet and Mattabesett Trails - - two of the most significant of Connecticut's "blue blaze" trails managed by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

Dating back to the 1930's, these trails have long been recognized for their scenic, recreational and cultural significance to the State of Connecticut, its communities, and citizens. In 2001, the trails gained official state recognition and protection through designation as official state greenways, and were listed as such in the State Plan of Conservation and Development. At the municipal level, 18 communities abutting the Metacomet Ridge (and Metacomet Trail) were signatories to the 1998 Metacomet Ridge Compact which established a common basis of concern for the uniqueness, value and protection of this special, shared resource. All of this, and much more, is documented in the NPS' 2006 report to congress (copy enclosed).

Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study

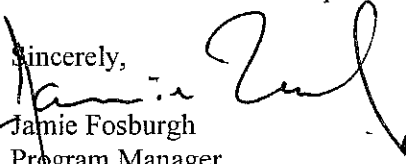
The NPS is currently engaged in a three year study to determine whether segments of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook should be added to the existing 14 miles of the Farmington River that are designated a

component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This study was authorized by the US Congress based upon the interest and commitment of the State of Connecticut, abutting communities, and other state and local partners in the protection and enhancement of the outstanding natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Farmington River. During the period of the study, the protections of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are in effect on an interim basis, raising a particular area of potential concern for the proposed project's potential impact to the Farmington River crossing below Tariffville – an area of high scenic and recreational significance. This area of concern has been previously identified, and initial contact made with NPS' Study Coordinator, Joyce Kennedy-Raymes.

In sum, both the New England National Scenic Trail and Lower Farmington/Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study embody local-state-federal commitments to plan for, and ensure the protection and enhancement of, these special resources. The NPS asks that the Connecticut Siting Council recognize and adequately consider the potential environmental, scenic and recreational impacts of the proposed project to these two federally recognized areas as it evaluates the Greater Springfield Reliability Project, its alternatives, and potential mitigation measures.

The NPS looks forward to providing whatever assistance we can in this process.

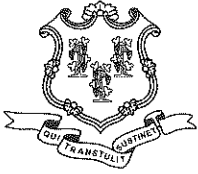
Sincerely,



Jamie Fosburgh
Program Manager
Jamie_fosburgh@nps.gov
(617) 223-5191

Copy (electronic):

Eric Hammerling, CFPA
Eileen Fielding, FRWA
Joyce Kennedy, NPS
Laurie Gianotti, CT DEP



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NOTICE OF SERVICE

I hereby affirm that a photocopy of this document was sent to each Party and Intervenor on the service list dated July 22, 2009.

Dated: August 4, 2009

Lisa Fontaine
Custodian of Docket No. 370