



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System

Donald D. Biondi
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Northeast Utilities Service Company
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July 24, 2009

Mr. Frederick L. Riese
Senior Environmental Analyst
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

RE: Connecticut Light & Power Company's Greater Springfield Reliability Project and
Manchester to Meekville Junction Circuit Separation Project
Towns of Bloomfield, East Granby, Suffield, Enfield, and Manchester
Connecticut Siting Council Docket No. 370

Dear Mr. Riese:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 15, 2009 presenting the comments of the staff of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding The Connecticut Light & Power Company's (CL&P) proposed Greater Springfield Reliability Project and Manchester to Meekville Circuit Separation Project. We appreciate the DEP staff's efforts that are reflected in this very thorough review of the Projects.

The purpose of this letter is to respond to and update certain issues raised in the DEP letter. As described below, these issues relate to clarifications concerning:

- The state and federal permits, other than the approval of the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC), anticipated to be required for the Projects;
- Surveys and mitigation measures to minimize or avoid effects on species listed in the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB);
- The potential transition station site depicted as within the Newgate Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in East Granby;
- The anticipated consultations with the National Park Service regarding the status of the ongoing feasibility study regarding the potential designation of the lower Farmington River as a wild and scenic river;

- Section O of the CSC Application referencing Electric and Magnetic (EMF) field estimates along the rights-of-way;
- Observation of a low hanging service wire leading to the river crossing structure in Suffield; and
- All other things being equal, CL&P should first consider mitigation options in, or adjacent to, the corridor rights-of-way if possible, and secondly, mitigation opportunities with the same watersheds as the impacts.

Update Regarding Permits

CL&P concurs with DEP's assessment of the state and federal approvals likely to be required for the Projects and has updated Table Q-2 (Section Q, Volume 1 of the CSC Application) accordingly. A revised version of Table Q-2 is attached. In addition, since the submission of the CSC Application in October 2008, CL&P has continued to consult with the involved regulatory agencies regarding the Projects and has submitted certain regulatory applications. The following updates the status of these efforts:

- On June 5, CL&P submitted to the DEP an application for a Stream Channel Encroachment Line (SCEL) permit for the unavoidable installation of structures within the Hockanum River SCELs (for the Manchester to Meekville Circuit Separation Project). CL&P acknowledges that a similar SCEL application would be required for the crossing of the Connecticut River in Suffield, along the Southern Route Alternative (as discussed in Sections H and Section M.5 of the CSC Application). However, because CL&P does not prefer this alternative route, no SCEL application for the river crossing has been submitted to DEP.
- On June 19, 2009, CL&P submitted a Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.
- On July 10, 2009, CL&P submitted to the DEP an application for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Projects.
- CL&P's Project engineers are continuing to review options for the North Bloomfield Substation expansion that would potentially avoid the need for fill within the 100-year floodplain of Griffin Brook. If the substation expansion can be designed to avoid the floodplain, then there will be no loss of flood storage and no need for floodplain storage mitigation.

Update Regarding Natural Diversity Data Base Listed Species

With only the exceptions listed below, the mitigation measures summarized in the DEP staff's letter accurately reflect the results of discussions between CL&P and DEP regarding the measures to be implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on NDDDB-listed species.

- *Dwarf wedge mussel*. For this species, which is reported to be present in the Farmington River, CL&P does not propose to conduct habitat surveys in the river and to relocate the mussels, if found. Although such surveys were originally contemplated, during CL&P's discussions on March 26, 2009 with the staff of the DEP Wildlife Division, it was determined

that in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line span of the river (i.e., the Tarriffville Gorge area), conditions in the river (i.e., very fast moving water) do not provide suitable habitat for the mussels. The known mussel populations occur downstream of CL&P's right-of-way, therefore, surveys are not required.

- *Eastern pond mussel*. For this species, which is reported to occur in the Muddy Brook, CL&P does not propose to conduct surveys in the river and to relocate the mussels, if found. The identified habitats of known mussel populations occur to the east of Granby Junction (within Muddy Brook) and do not intersect with the right-of-way. The wetlands and watercourses occurring on the right-of-way however are tributary to the Muddy Brook.
- *Bush's sedge*. During transmission line construction work, CL&P proposes to install protective fencing around the known population of this plant in order to avoid inadvertent adverse effects.

Potential Transition Station in the Newgate WMA

CL&P concurs with the DEP staff's assessment regarding the potential effects of this station on the recreational uses in the WMA and also regarding the potential issues with respect to the exchange or transfer of property within the WMA. This potential transition station site was conceptually situated along the transmission line right-of-way in an upland portion of the WMA, in order to accommodate an alternative underground route that would avoid a large wetland crossing to the south, and to provide a shorter and lower-cost option than the other three underground variations, each of which were developed as potential replacements for an overhead line section in a focus area of residential development which begins just north of the WMA.

While CL&P does own property to the south of the WMA, such property is also used for recreational purposes, including hunting, under an agreement with DEP. The location of a transition station on this property also could potentially affect more wetlands.

In sum, as described in the CSC Application, CL&P does not prefer any of the underground route variations, including the 3.6-mile in-right-of-way option that would involve the development of a transition station in or near the WMA.

Lower Farmington River Wild and Scenic Feasibility Study

CL&P is aware that the Lower Farmington River is being studied for designation as a wild and scenic river. The feasibility study process, which commenced in late 2006, typically requires three years and results in the development of a conservation plan for the river. The study is being conducted by the National Park Service in consultation with stakeholders such as the 10 towns along the Lower Farmington River and the Farmington River Watershed Association.

CL&P's proposed transmission line would span the river within its existing right-of-way, at the same location where two existing 115-kV transmission lines cross the river. CL&P owns the property on both sides of the river crossing, as well as in the vicinity.

CL&P is in the process of consulting with the National Park Service regarding the status of the feasibility study, and anticipates that the National Park Service will provide comments as part of the USACE Section 10 / Section 404 application review process.

Corrections to Section O of the CSC Application - Electric and Magnetic (EMF) Field Estimates

CL&P also concurs with the corrections pointed out by the DEP in Section O of the CSC application. These corrections, along with other similar updates, were submitted to the Council on July 20, 2009 in a supplemental interrogatory response OOC-001-SP02, a copy of which is attached to this letter.

Observation of a Low Hanging Distribution Wire in Suffield

CL&P wants to thank the DEP for the completeness of its field review and for notifying the company by telephone on July 2, 2009 of the low hanging service wire observed at the crossing structure in Suffield. Action was initiated immediately thereafter to rectify the situation and everything has since been repaired.

Mitigation

CL&P is considering mitigation opportunities in and adjacent to the ROW, and in off-ROW locations in the same watershed where resources would be affected, where feasible sites have been identified. The GSRP and MMP Projects are located within multiple watersheds and therefore the compensatory wetland mitigation may end up being located at a consolidated site within one of the sub-watersheds as opposed to each individual sub-watershed.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-665-6716.

Sincerely,



Donald D. Biondi
Transmission Siting and Permitting

Encl.

Table Q-2: Possible Permits, Reviews and Approvals for the GSRP and MMP

Agency	Certificate, Permit, Review, Approval or Confirmation	Activity Regulated
FEDERAL		
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act; Section 404 CWA	Discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S. (wetlands or watercourses), installation of transmission line across navigable waterbodies
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Coordinates with Corps regarding endangered or threatened upland species; provides input to Corps permit application review	Construction or operation activities that may affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species
National Marine Fisheries Service	Coordinates with Corps regarding endangered or threatened marine species and essential fish habitat; provides input to Corps permit application review	Construction or operation activities that may affect federally-listed endangered or threatened marine species or essential fish habitat
National Park Service	Coordinates with Corps regarding avoiding adverse effects to the river; provides input to Corps permit application review	Lower Farmington River is under study for possible designation as a National Wild and Scenic River.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Provides input to Corps permit application review	Construction or operation activities that may affect water, air, or other resources
STATE		
Connecticut Siting Council	Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Development & Management Plan approval prior to construction	General transmission line need, construction, environmental compatibility and operation

Agency	Certificate, Permit, Review, Approval or Confirmation	Activity Regulated
Department of Environmental Protection	Coastal Zone Consistency Certificate	Determination that Project is consistent with state coastal zone management policies and objectives
	401 Water Quality Certificate	Conformance to Section 401 of the CWA
	General Permits	Storm Water Management and other activities as they may apply
	Structures, Dredge and Fill Permit	Underground crossings of tidal waterbodies
	Tidal Wetlands Permit	
	Stream Channel Encroachment Line Permit(s)	Placement of new structures within encroachment lines (Hockanum River; Connecticut River)
	General Permit(s) for the Placement of Utilities and Drainage	Placement of new structures within encroachment lines (Hockanum River; Connecticut River)
	General Permit for the Release of Groundwater Remediation Wastewaters to a Sanitary Sewer (preferred) or to a Surface Water	In the event groundwater contamination is discovered in water intended to be discharged.
Connecticut Historical Commission	Approval of proposed Project as consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act; comments during Council process	Construction and operation activities that may affect archaeological or historic resources.
Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture	Comments during Council and DEP review processes regarding issues pertaining to commercial shell fishing	Activities that may affect tidal or tidally-influenced waters that support shellfish resources

Agency	Certificate, Permit, Review, Approval or Confirmation	Activity Regulated
Department of Public Utility Control	Approval pursuant to C.G.S. Section 16-243	Method & Manner of Construction Approval to Energize
LOCAL		
Town of Bloomfield Zoning Commission (North Bloomfield Substation)	Location review pursuant to C.G.S. Section 16-50x(d)	Location Review
Town of Bloomfield Inland Wetlands Commission (North Bloomfield Substation)	Location review pursuant to C.G.S. Section 16-50x(d)	Location Review



**Northeast
Utilities System**

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CL&P Exhibit 28
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July 20, 2009

Mr. S. Derek Phelps
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Docket No. 370 - CT Greater Springfield Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Phelps:

This letter provides the response to requests for the information listed below.

Response to OCC-01 Interrogatories dated 04/02/2009
OCC-001-SP02

Very truly yours,

Robert Carberry
Project Manager
NEEWS Siting and Permitting
NUSCO
As Agent for CL&P

cc: Service List

The Connecticut Light and Power Company
Docket No. 370

Data Request OCC-01
Dated: 04/02/2009
Q-OCC-001-SP02
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Witness: CL&P Panel
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

Since filing its Application, has CL&P become aware of any statements in that Application that require correction or clarification? If so, please provide such corrections/clarifications. Please treat this interrogatory as a continuing request, which CL&P should update periodically as appropriate.

Response:

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection comments dated July 16, 2009, on page 9, brought attention to some small corrections needed in Section O of the Application, in addition to pointing out two corrections which CL&P already made in its responses to either OCC-01, Q-OCC-001 or OCC-01, Q-OCC-001-SP01. The additional corrections needed are as follows:

- Some data in Table 7 on page 12 of Appendix O-1 was incorrect. Please see page 2 of 2 of this response for a revised Table 7.
- In the header of Figure O-11 on Page O-37, the parenthetical "(2107)" should be "(2017)".
- On page O-38 in section O.4.2.1, the sentence should end as follows: "...totaling 5.4 miles within Suffield and Enfield, Connecticut." Suffield had been inadvertently omitted in this sentence.

In addition, some other needed corrections are:

- footnote 2 on page F-2 is missing the word "Electric" in North American Electric Reliability Corporation
- on page G-2 the acronym at the end of the first sentence should be "CT", not "SWCT"
- a reference at the end of the second paragraph on page H-15 to Section H.4 should be to Section H.3
- on Figure G-6, page G-24, the orange line should also extend between South Agawam Junction and Agawam Substation.

Table 7: Magnetic Field Management Results for a 3.2-mile Section of the GSRP ROW

XS-2 Cross Section Configuration	Typical Structure Height (ft)	Average Annual Load Case					Cost	
		Maximum Level on ROW (mG)	West ROW Edge		East ROW Edge		Section Amount (\$)	Project Increase (%)
			Level (mG)	Change (%)	Level (mG)	Change (%)		
Base Line Design H-Frame	90	269.2	23.5		12.6		\$11,293,000.00	-
Alt 1 - H-Frame +20 feet	110	179.5	22.8	- 3%	12.3	- 2%	\$11,795,000.00	0.4%
Alt 2 - Delta Configuration	110	173.4	17.9	- 24%	9.8	- 22%	\$13,454,000.00	1.6%
Alt 3 - Delta +20 feet	130	82.8	15.7	- 33%	9.2	- 27%	\$15,303,000.00	3.0%
Alt 4 - Vertical Configuration	130	149.7	15.6	- 34%	9.6	- 24%	\$14,794,000.00	2.6%
Alt 5 - Vertical +20 feet	150	72.5	13	- 45%	9	- 29%	\$16,000,000.00	3.5%
Alt 6 - Split Phase	130	77.0	2.4	- 90%	1.9	- 85%	\$24,776,000.00	10.1%
Alt 7 - 345/115-kV Composite	130	132.0	18.9	- 20%	8.3	- 34%	\$25,960,000.00	11.0%