



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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August 12, 2013

Bruce L. McDermott, Esq.
UIL Holdings Corporation
157 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06506

RE: **DOCKET NO. 433** – The United Illuminating Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 115/13.8 kilovolt substation located at 14 Old Stratford Road, Shelton, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney McDermott:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on August 8, 2013, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on July 18, 2013, with the condition that United Illuminating provide the Council with correspondence regarding the disposition of the conservation parcel once it is resolved with the U.S. Army Corps and the Public Utility Regulatory Authority.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on July 18, 2013. Any changes to the D&M Plan require advance Council notification and approval.

Please be advised that deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated August 8, 2013.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RM/cm

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated August 8, 2013

c: Parties and Intervenors
The Honorable Mark A. Lauretti, Mayor, City of Shelton
Richard Schultz, Planning Administrator, City of Shelton

Docket No. 433
The United Illuminating Company
Shelton Substation

Development and Management Plan
Staff Report
August 8, 2013

On March 7, 2013, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to The United Illuminating Company (UI) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new 115-kV to 13.8-kV substation located at 14 Old Stratford Road in Shelton, Connecticut. As required in the Council's Decision and Order, UI submitted a Development and Management Plan for this project on July 18, 2013.

The proposed substation will be located on six-acre parcel owned by UI. The parcel is bound by Old Stratford Road to the south, Pootatuck Place to the west, the Far Mill River to the north, and Route 8 to the east. A Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) transmission right-of-way with 115-kV transmission lines and associated towers traverses the western portion of the parcel.

The parcel was previously developed with several industrial buildings that have since been demolished. Groundwater underlying the site was contaminated by past industrial activities and is presently being treated through an on-site remediation system consisting of various groundwater wells and a groundwater remediation building in the northeast corner. UI has surveyed the property with the groundwater remediation consultants and have developed a plan to move certain wells, and abandon others in place per state guidelines, to accommodate substation construction. Several groundwater wells within the construction footprint will be maintained in an operable condition.

The substation will occupy an approximate two-acre portion of the parcel, adjacent to the CL&P lines. Access to the substation would be from Pootatuck Place. Separate access to the existing groundwater remediation building would be maintained during and post-construction. Utilities to the remediation building will be maintained during construction.

Silt fencing and anti-tracking pads will be established around the construction area. Construction laydown and soil stockpile areas would be maintained on the west side of the parcel. The soil stockpile will be composed of soil removed during initial site-clearing activities and the demolition of abandoned underground utilities and existing asphalt. The soil stockpile will be enclosed by erosion control fencing and hay bales. Unsuitable materials will be disposed of off-site. Any suspected contaminated soil will be segregated, characterized and disposed of appropriately. To attain the engineered substation grades, most backfill material will be imported to the site.

Substation equipment will include two 115/13.8-kV power transformers, a 115-kV loop feed with a single circuit breaker and associated bus work, four dead-end structures (2- 65 feet tall, 2- 95 feet tall) three steel H-frame takeoff structures, six shielding masts (55 feet tall), a radio tower pole (90 feet tall), two light masts (50 feet tall), two power distribution center enclosures, and a 26-foot wide, 68-foot long, control house. As required in the Decision and Order, UI will install critical infrastructure foundations one-foot above the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated 500-year floodplain. The substation would be surfaced with gravel and surrounded by an eight-foot tall chain link fence topped with barbed wire.

The two transformers will feature oil containment basins to collect and control any oil that could leak as a result of an equipment failure. UI will periodically inspect the basins for the presence of oil. Any oil that accumulates will be disposed in accordance with regulatory criteria.

Site drainage will consist of five catch basins at grade to collect run-off throughout the site. Run-off will be directed to a detention basin at the south end of the site. The first one-inch of run-off would be contained. Greater volumes will be conveyed into an adjacent brook via a concrete block overflow spillway.

Upon consultation with the City, landscaping will be installed along Pootatuck Place, Route 8, and Old Stratford Road to shield views into the substation from these locations. Approximately 80 junipers will be planted along Pootatuck Place to provide a solid, natural screening wall along the road. The juniper, a low growing species, was selected due to the location of the overhead power lines and steep embankment along this section of Pootatuck Place. Per the City's request, UI will also plant red cedar trees within open areas of an existing deciduous wooded strip along the property line abutting Route 8. The cedar trees will be planted with appropriate set-backs coordinated with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Plantings along Old Stratford Road will consist of juniper and inkberry.

Development of the substation will require the filling of a 0.17-acre wetland on the east side of the parcel. UI filed a permit with the US Army Corp of Engineers on July 17, 2013 for this filling and identified a 0.9-acre area along the Far Mill River as compensation for the loss of the wetland. UI is in the process of determining if UI or another entity would retain ownership of the 0.9-acre conservation parcel.

UI will provide the City and adjacent landowners one week advance notice of the commencement of construction. UI will perform work between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. In certain situations, work will be performed up to 24 hours per day, seven days a week for critical infrastructure components.

UI has complied with the Council's Decision and Order and with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-61 Elements of a D&M Plan; thus staff recommends approval with the condition that UI provide correspondence to the Council regarding the disposition of the conservation parcel, once resolved with the US Army Corp and PURA.