



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 28, 2016

James R. Morrissey
Attorney
UIL Holdings Corporation
157 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06506

RE: DOCKET NO. 465 – 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 (kV) replacement substation facility located on an approximately 1.5 acre portion of two adjoining UI-owned parcels directly adjacent to UI's existing Baird Substation, 1770 Stratford Avenue, Stratford, Connecticut, and related transmission structure and interconnection improvements.

Dear Attorney Morrissey:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than February 18, 2016. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available.

Please forward an original and 15 copies to this office, as well as send a copy via electronic mail. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies the Council is requesting that all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Copies of your responses shall be provided to all parties and intervenors listed on the service list, which can be found on the Council's pending proceedings website.

Yours very truly,

Melanie Bachman
Acting Executive Director

MB/MP

c: Parties and Intervenors
Council Members

Docket No. 465
Pre-Hearing Questions
Set One

1. Of the letters sent to abutting property owners, how many certified mail receipts were received? If any receipts were not returned, which owners did not receive their notice? Were any additional attempts made to contact those property owners?
2. Do the numbering "squares" 1 through 14 on the abutters aerial view drawing correspond with the locations of the first 14 abutters on the list? If necessary, provide a revised drawing with the numbering squares in the correct locations.
3. Which municipalities make up The United Illuminating Company's (UI) service area for electrical distribution service in Connecticut?
4. While the replacement Baird Substation would occupy approximately 1.5 acres, given the replacement substation's irregular shape, estimate the area of the replacement substation (as bounded by the proposed fencing) in both square feet and acres.
5. How tall is the fence for the existing Baird Substation in comparison to the proposed 14-foot fence for the replacement Baird Substation?
6. Which chain link mesh size does UI plan to utilize for the replacement substation fence? Would the replacement opaque slats be installed on all sides of the substation fence or only certain sides? Would the opaque slats act as both a visual barrier and an anti-climbing measure? If approved, could the final fence design be provided in the Development and Management Plan (D&M Plan)?
7. What kind of architectural design and/or color/painting scheme has UI considered for its control house to improve aesthetics or minimize visual impact? If approved, could the final design of the control house be included in the D&M Plan?
8. Is any landscaping around the replacement substation being considered at this time? If the project is approved, could the final details of any landscaping, if applicable, be included in the D&M Plan?
9. Would the replacement access be asphalt and the interior of the substation traprock?
10. Is UI proposing galvanized steel structures consistent with Petition No. 1176? Has UI considered weathering or "Corten" steel? Indicate any pros and cons of Corten steel versus galvanized steel.
11. Is the replacement overhead connection from the substation to the transmission lines a more economical option than an underground transmission connection?
12. Provide the functions and values of the wetland to be filled. Also, provide an aerial view drawing similar to Figure 2 – Delineation Wetland Mapping (behind Appendix C) that depicts both the wetland and the replacement substation equipment in order to demonstrate the proximity of the wetland to the proposed substation equipment.

13. Would the erosion and sedimentation controls comply with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*? If approved, could the final erosion and sedimentation control plan be included in the D&M Plan?
14. Did UI receive any written correspondence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or additional written correspondence from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection related to this project? (See Appendix K of the Application.) If yes, include such information.
15. Approximately how far away is the nearest known bat hibernaculum?
16. If approved, could a final stormwater management report be included in the D&M Plan?
17. Is any notice to the Federal Aviation Administration required for the replacement substation and transmission structures or cranes to install such equipment?
18. Is the replacement substation expected to cause any interference with radio, wireless telecommunications, or cable or satellite television?
19. Did UI have to apply to the ISO New England Reliability Committee for a "no significant adverse effect on the transmission system" determination letter for the replacement Baird Substation, or was it exempt because it would be a replacement of an existing facility, or is this otherwise not applicable? If yes, please provide a copy of such ISO-NE determination if available.
20. Would a battery backup system be included in the control house? Will an emergency generator be needed for backup power for control equipment? If yes, provide the estimated size of the emergency generator in kilowatts and the fuel type.
21. Would the replacement substation have a position for a temporary mobile transformer in the event of an emergency such as a loss of an existing transformer?
22. Roughly how many lightning masts would be needed at 55 feet in height as noted on page 35 of the Application?
23. Would the existing Baird Substation be decommissioned and removed and the site restored after the replacement Baird Substation is in service? Could the construction details related to decommissioning, removing, and restoring the existing substation site be included in the D&M Plan of the replacement substation, if approved?
24. How many residences are located within 1,000 feet of the center of the replacement substation?
25. What is the address and direction (from the center of the replacement substation) of the closest residence?
26. How far away is the nearest state-designated or locally-designated scenic road?
27. Calculate the amounts of cut and fill required to develop the replacement substation and access.

28. Is the site located in an aquifer protection area?
29. Are both the replacement substation and the existing substation located outside of the 100-year and 500-year flood zones?
30. Identify the safety standards and/or codes by which equipment, machinery, or technology would be used or operated at the replacement facility (e.g. National Electrical Safety Code).
31. How would the replacement 50 MVA transformers be delivered, e.g. by truck or rail?
32. The "Baird Substation Condition Assessment – Distribution Capacity and Voltage Regulation" was performed in November 18, 2011 with a ten-year forecast to 2020. The peak loads through 2020 do not exceed the firm rating of the existing Baird substation of 78.52 mega-volt-amperes (MVA). Has more recent forecasting been performed? If yes, provide the estimated annual peak loads for this existing substation for a 2015-2024 forecast or most recently available forecast.
33. Would the replacement substation have roughly 100 MVA of capacity (based on two 50 MVA transformers)? Would it meet the needs of UI's most currently available ten-year load forecast (either 2015-2024 or 2016-2025)?
34. How many distribution feeders would leave the replacement substation?