

<p>DOCKET NO. 466 - The Connecticut Light & Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Frost Bridge to Campville 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project that traverses the municipalities of Watertown, Thomaston, Litchfield, and Harwinton, which consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kV overhead electric transmission line entirely within existing Eversource right-of-way and associated facilities extending approximately 10.4 miles between Eversource’s existing Frost Bridge Substation in the Town of Watertown and existing Campville Substation in the Town of Harwinton; (b) related modifications to Frost Bridge Substation and Campville Substation; and (c) reconfiguration of a 0.4 mile segment of two existing 115-kV electric transmission lines across the Naugatuck River in the Towns of Litchfield and Harwinton within the same existing right-of-way as the new 115-kV electric transmission line.</p>	<p>} Connecticut } Siting } Council } April 14, 2016</p>
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Decision and Order

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 16-50p and the foregoing Findings of Fact and Opinion for the Frost Bridge to Campville 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) finds that there is a public need for the proposed facility and the effects associated with the construction of a new 115-kV overhead electric transmission line, associated facilities and related improvements to the Frost Bridge Substation in Watertown and the Campville Substation in Harwinton (Project), including effects on the natural environment; ecological integrity and balance; forests and parks; scenic, historic, and recreational values; air and water purity; fish and wildlife; and public health and safety are not disproportionate either alone or cumulatively with other effects compared to need, are not in conflict with the policies of the State concerning such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny the application. Therefore, the Council directs that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, as provided by Connecticut General Statutes §16-50k, be issued to Eversource Energy (hereinafter referred to as the Certificate Holder) for the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project.

Unless otherwise approved by the Council, the Project shall be constructed, operated, and maintained substantially as specified in the Council’s record in this matter, and subject to the following conditions:

1. The Certificate Holder shall construct the proposed electric transmission line overhead along the proposed route and perform related Project improvements, as proposed, subject to modifications during final site design and approval of the Development and Management (D&M) Plan for the project.
2. The Certificate Holder shall prepare two D&M Plans for this Project; one specific to the proposed substation improvements and one specific to the proposed construction of the new transmission line and improvements to the existing transmission lines. Both D&M Plans shall be in compliance with Sections 16-50j-60 through 16-50j-62 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The D&M Plans shall be served on the Towns of Watertown, Thomaston, Litchfield, Harwinton, and Plymouth and the City of Waterbury for comment, and all parties and intervenors as listed in the service list, and submitted to and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of facility construction. The D&M Plans shall include:
 - a. Detailed site plans showing the placement of the access roads, structure foundations, equipment and material staging area for the overhead route;
 - b. A site plan that includes fencing detail for the replacement fence at Campville Substation with the recommendation of less than 2-inch mesh fencing;

- c. Identification of areas for staging and equipment lay down, field office trailers, sanitary facilities and parking;
 - d. A site plan including landscaping at Frost Bridge Substation;
 - e. An erosion and sediment control plan, consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, as amended;
 - f. Identification of wetland and watercourse resources, related temporary and permanent construction impacts and methods to reduce such impacts including a measure to allow the natural removal of decoy pools by providing appropriate road drainage features;
 - g. Details of ground disturbance;
 - h. Vegetative clearing plan;
 - i. Wetland restoration plan;
 - j. A spill prevention and countermeasures plan;
 - k. Invasive species control plan;
 - l. Provisions to manage the discovery of undocumented Native American Archaeological resources;
 - m. A schedule of construction hours;
 - n. A blasting plan, if necessary;
 - o. Plans and strategies to prevent post-construction use of the right-of-way by all-terrain vehicles;
 - p. Provisions for site specific measures to reduce impacts to State listed endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as vernal pools and associated fauna; and
 - q. EMF Monitoring Plan.
3. The Certificate Holder shall comply with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection recommendations, or coordinate with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for construction of the route in the area of endangered, threatened, or special concern species identified along the Project route.
 4. The Certificate Holder shall hire an independent environmental inspector, subject to Council approval, to monitor and provide a bi-weekly report to the Council regarding environmental compliance with the approved D&M Plan.
 5. The Certificate Holder shall obtain necessary permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection prior to the commencement of construction, in areas where said permits are required.
 6. The Certificate Holder shall conform to the Council's Best Management Practices for Electric and Magnetic Fields.
 7. The Certificate Holder shall comply with all future electric and magnetic field standards promulgated by State or federal regulatory agencies. Upon the establishment of any new standards, the facilities granted in this Decision and Order shall be brought into compliance with such standards.
 8. The Certificate Holder shall provide to the Council an operating report within three months after the conclusion of the first year of operation of all facilities herein, and annually thereafter for a period of three years, with information relevant to the overall condition, safety, reliability, and operation of the new transmission line.
 9. This Decision and Order shall be void if all construction authorized herein is not completed within four years of the effective date of the Decision and Order, or within four years after all appeals to this Decision and Order have been resolved.

10. This Certificate may be surrendered by the Certificate Holder upon written notification to the Council.
11. In accordance with Section 16-50j-62 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Certificate Holder shall provide the Council with written notice two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities. In addition, the Certificate Holder shall provide the Council with written notice of the completion of site construction, and the commencement of site operation.
12. The Certificate Holder shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v.
13. This Certificate may be transferred in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50k(b), provided both the Certificate Holder/transferor and the transferee are current with payments to the Council for their respective annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v. In addition, both the Certificate Holder/transferor and the transferee shall provide the Council a written agreement as to the entity responsible for any quarterly assessment charges under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v(b)(2) that may be associated with this facility.

We hereby direct that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order be served on each person listed in the Service List, dated January 21, 2016, and notice of issuance published in the Waterbury Republican-American.

By this Decision and Order, the Council disposes of the legal rights, duties, and privileges of each party named or admitted to the proceeding in accordance with Section 16-50j-17 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.