



56 Prospect Street
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06103

Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager – Transmission Siting
Tel: (860) 728-4527

March 6, 2020

Ms. Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Eversource Plumtree Substation, Bethel, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Bachman:

I am in receipt of your March 2, 2020 letter to me on behalf of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requesting an explanation as to why the Plumtree Substation lighting scheme at the substation on February 29, 2020 was different than any other night. A further request was for Eversource to conduct an analysis of the existing lighting scheme at the substation detailing any potential methods to mitigate light intensity from the substation. These requests were made following complaints received by the Council from residents of Great Hill Drive regarding bright lights from the substation. Below is Eversource Energy's (Eversource) response to these requests.

The lighting at Plumtree Substation was upgraded during late summer/early fall of 2019. This upgrade consisted of replacing older lights – many of which were not working – with efficient LED lights equipped with photocells. These newer replacement lights, primarily around the perimeter of the substation, were left energized so they would turn on from dusk to dawn. The new LED perimeter lights remained operating at night until the initial complaint was received by the Council in mid-January. At that time Eversource responded by de-energizing the upgraded LED perimeter lights and the Council has acknowledged Eversource's swift response in this regard.

However, as the Council is aware, any emergency or other night work that must take place at the substation requires the work area to be well lit for worker safety. On the evening of February 29 and into the early morning hours of March 1, Eversource substation crews were performing switching operations to take a transmission line out of service and begin the scheduled line outage to facilitate other work on the transmission system. While the switching operations were underway, the perimeter lights were in use. When the switching work was concluded, the perimeter lights were de-energized. Remaining lighting consisted of existing security lighting around the building and a spotlight directed at the walkway to the substation and away from the residences on Great Hill Drive. The remaining lighting was also upgraded to LED this past summer and so may appear to be brighter than the old lights.

Eversource has instructed all crews that lights turned on at the substation during night work, need to be turned off upon completion of the work. Eversource also plans to reinforce this directive with signage at the gate reminding employees to turn off the perimeter lights upon leaving the facility if the lights have been turned on for any reason.

Eversource regrets any disturbance to the residents resulting from the need to adequately light the substation during the recent night work. Eversource has responded to the initial complaint by de-energizing the previously functioning perimeter lights and will continue this practice unless the lights are needed for future work. Eversource has also reached out to one of the residents to personally explain the reason behind the February 28-March 1 lighting observed at the substation and has provided direct contact information to the resident to respond to any further questions or concerns about the substation.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me at via email at kathleen.shanley@eversource.com or telephone at 860-728-4527.

Sincerely,



Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman, Town of Bethel
Beth Cavagna, Director/Town Planner, Town of Bethel
Leon Karvelis