



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

[www.ct.gov/csc](http://www.ct.gov/csc)

September 7, 2018

Helen M. Taylor, MBA  
Eversource Energy  
Project Siting Specialist  
56 Prospect Street  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06103-0270

**RE: DOCKET NO. 474** - The Connecticut Light & Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Hartford, West Hartford, and Newington, which consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line within existing Eversource, Amtrak and public road rights-of-way and associated facilities extending overhead approximately 2.4 miles and underground approximately 1.3 miles between Eversource's existing Newington Substation in the Town of Newington and existing Southwest Hartford Substation in the City of Hartford; (b) modifications to a .01 mile section within existing Eversource right-of-way of the existing overhead 115-kV electric transmission line connection to the Newington Substation (Newington Tap); and (c) related modifications to Newington Substation and Southwest Hartford Substation.

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your e-mail correspondence, dated September 7, 2018, describing a conflict between the conditions of the Council's February 1, 2018 Decision and Order (D&O) and the Council's August 31, 2018 staff report for the Partial Development and Management (D&M) Plan relative to the frequency of the construction progress reports and the recipients of the construction progress reports for the above-referenced project.

**Condition No. 9 of the Council's February 1, 2018 D&O states:**

9. The Certificate Holder shall comply with Sections 16-50j-60 through 16-50j-62 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and submit quarterly construction progress reports. 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.

**Condition No. 1 under "Reports" of the Council's August 31, 2018 staff report on the Partial D&M Plan states:**

1. **Monthly Construction Progress Report:** As required by RCSA § 16-50j-62(b)(3), this report shall summarize construction progress, as well as identify changes and deviations to the approved D&M Plan. A copy will also be provided to the municipalities traversed by the project.

Unfortunately, this inadvertent conflict between Condition No. 9 of the Council's February 1, 2018 D&O and Condition No. 1 under "Reports" of the Council's August 31, 2018 staff report for the Partial D&M Plan relative to the frequency of the construction progress reports and the recipients of the construction progress reports was caused by a clerical error.

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-181a (c), which provides that an agency "may, without further proceedings, modify a final decision to correct any clerical error," the Council hereby issues a corrected Partial D&M Plan staff report in connection with the above-referenced project.

A copy of the corrected Partial D&M Plan staff report is enclosed for your convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/MP/lm

c: Parties and Intervenors  
Council Members

Enc: Revised Staff Report, September 7, 2018

## Bachman, Melanie

---

**From:** Taylor, Helen M <helen.taylor@eversource.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 07, 2018 12:53 PM  
**To:** Bachman, Melanie  
**Subject:** DKT 474: GHCCRP Compliance Matrix

Hi Melanie:

Per our conversation yesterday, in accordance to the Docket 474 Decision and Order No. 9, Eversource will be submitting a quarterly construction progress report to the Council. The Docket 474 – D&M Plan - Council Staff Report, Page 10, Reports line item 1 is not applicable to this docket.

Docket 474: GHCCRP  
Decision and Order  
Page 3

9. The Certificate Holder shall comply with Sections 16-50j-60 through 16-50j-62 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and submit quarterly construction progress reports. 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

Docket No. 474 - D&M Plan  
Council Staff Report  
Page 10

### Reports

The following reports will be provided to the Council:

1. **Monthly Construction Progress Report:** As required by RCSA § 16-50j-62(b)(3), this report shall summarize construction progress, as well as identify changes and deviations to the approved D&M Plan. A copy will also be provided to the municipalities traversed by the project.

Thank you,

Helen M. Taylor, MBA  
Project Siting Specialist  
56 Prospect Street  
Hartford, CT 06103  
860-728-4545

---

This electronic message contains information from Eversource Energy or its affiliates that may be confidential, proprietary or otherwise protected from disclosure. The information is intended to be used solely by the recipient(s) named. Any views or opinions expressed in this message are not necessarily those of Eversource Energy or its affiliates. Any disclosure, copying or distribution of this message or the taking of any action based on its contents, other than by the intended recipient for its intended purpose, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Email transmission cannot be guaranteed to be error-free or secure or free from viruses, and Eversource Energy disclaims all liability for any resulting damage, errors, or omissions.

<p><b>DOCKET NO. 474</b> - The Connecticut Light &amp; Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Hartford, West Hartford, and Newington, which consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line within existing Eversource, Amtrak and public road rights-of-way and associated facilities extending overhead approximately 2.4 miles and underground approximately 1.3 miles between Eversource's existing Newington Substation in the Town of Newington and existing Southwest Hartford Substation in the City of Hartford; (b) modifications to a .01 mile section within existing Eversource right-of-way of the existing overhead 115-kV electric transmission line connection to the Newington Substation (Newington Tap); and (c) related modifications to Newington Substation and Southwest Hartford Substation.</p>	<p>} Connecticut</p> <p>} Siting</p> <p>} Council</p> <p>} August 30, 2018</p>
---	--

**Development and Management Plan**

**Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project**

**Modifications to the Newington and Southwest Hartford Substations and Newington Tap  
New Underground 115-kV Transmission**

**Staff Report**

**Introduction**

On July 6, 2018, The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) the first phase of the Development and Management Plan (Phase I D&M Plan) for the construction of the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project (GHCCRP). The GHCCRP traverses the municipalities of Hartford, West Hartford, and Newington and consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line within existing Eversource, Amtrak and public road rights-of-way and associated facilities extending overhead approximately 2.4 miles and underground approximately 1.3 miles between Eversource's existing Newington Substation in the Town of Newington and existing Southwest Hartford Substation in the City of Hartford; (b) modifications to a .01 mile section within existing Eversource right-of-way of the existing overhead 115-kV electric transmission line connection to the Newington Substation (Newington Tap); and (c) related modifications to Newington Substation and Southwest Hartford Substation. This Phase I D&M Plan is limited to the modifications to Newington Substation, Newington Tap, and Southwest Hartford Substation as well as the underground portions of the new 115-kV line. The Phase I D&M Plan conforms to the Council's February 1, 2018 Decision and Order (D&O), and the details are summarized in this staff report. Eversource will file the second phase of the D&M Plan for the overhead portion of the new 115-kV transmission line in the near future.

**Permits and Agency consultations**

During the preparation of the Phase I D&M Plan, Eversource consulted with state and federal agencies, including, but not limited to: United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE); United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP); Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA); Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT); and Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Eversource registered for the DEEP *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* for the management of discharge of stormwater and dewatering wastewaters from construction sites (DEEP General Permit) and submitted its Stormwater Pollution Control Plan to DEEP on May 24, 2018. The DEEP General Permit is currently under review. Eversource received its USACE Section 404 authorization on June 25, 2018.

### **Municipal and other public consultations**

On June 8, 2018, Eversource submitted a draft of the Phase I D&M Plan to the chief elected officials of Newington and Hartford. Eversource also met with municipal officials from the City of Hartford and the Town of Newington on June 21, 2018 and June 29, 2018, respectively. Eversource did not consult with the Town of West Hartford regarding the Phase I D&M Plan because no portions of the underground transmission construction or substation/tap work will be performed in West Hartford. Eversource will consult with the Town of West Hartford on the draft of the next phase of the D&M Plan for the overhead portion of the 115-kV line. There are no other municipalities located within 2,500 feet of the project.

The Town of Newington had no comments on the draft Phase I D&M Plan. City of Hartford representatives inquired about mitigation for vegetation removal at two properties: Eversource's Southwest Hartford Substation property and along the underground cable alignment across the Bow Tie Cinema property. Accordingly, during the Project construction, Eversource will coordinate with City of Hartford representatives regarding vegetation replacement, as appropriate, on these two properties. Any such vegetation replacement which will be performed as part of the restoration phase of the project, will comply with Eversource's requirements for the protection of the 115-kV line and substation facilities and, for any replacement vegetation planned on the Bow Tie Cinema property, also will be performed per agreement with the property owner.

No substantive changes were made between the draft June 8, 2018 version of the Phase I D&M Plan and final version of the Phase I D&M Plan received by the Council on July 6, 2018. In accordance with Condition 2 of the D&O, final copies of the Phase I D&M Plan were sent to the Town of Newington and the City of Hartford on or about July 6, 2018. No work identified in the Phase I D&M Plan would take place within the Town of West Hartford. Notwithstanding, on or about August 3, 2018, a copy was submitted to the Town of West Hartford because it is required by the D&O.

### **Community outreach during the construction process**

Eversource has conducted community outreach during the Project planning and siting processes. Outreach efforts will continue throughout construction and will include notification of upcoming construction activities to affected stakeholders.

Eversource representatives will be available to brief residents and businesses affected by the Project construction activities and other interested stakeholders regarding the construction process, key construction stages and expected construction timeline. Project representatives will also contact adjacent and nearby residents and businesses to notify them of upcoming construction activities and will be available throughout the construction process to address any specific questions or concerns.

## Schedule

### *Modifications to Newington Substation, Newington Tap and Southwest Hartford Substation*

In the third quarter of 2018, construction contracts will be awarded; material laydown yards and field offices will be established; materials will begin to be received; contractors will be mobilized; and vegetation clearing and site grading will commence.

Eversource will perform construction such as foundation installations, equipment installations, clean-up and restoration from the third quarter of 2018 through the fourth quarter of 2019.

In the fourth quarter of 2019, testing, energization, substation site clean-up, and restoration will occur. Final substation re-vegetation and verification of final stabilization pursuant to regulatory requirements will likely extend into 2020.

The final construction schedule is dependent on the issuance of applicable permits from the USACE and DEEP, which are required for portions of work at Newington Substation and at Newington Tap that will involve temporary activities in wetlands. The schedule for the modifications may change in accordance with receipt of these approvals, as well as on approved Connecticut Valley Electric Exchange (CONVEX) outage schedules.

### *Underground Portion of Transmission Line*

In the third quarter of 2018, construction contracts will be awarded; material laydown yards and field offices will be established; materials will be begin to be received; contractors will be mobilized; and vegetation clearing, access road installation and work space preparation will commence.

Eversource will perform construction such as vegetation removal, road/work area installation, duct back installation, splice vault installation, cable installation, and begin right-of-way clean-up and restoration from the third quarter of 2018 through the third quarter of 2019.

Eversource will connect the new 115-kV transmission line at Newington and Southwest Hartford Substations, perform line testing, energization, finish right-of-way clearing and restoration during the third quarter of 2019. Where feasible, restoration may begin in some portions of the ROW when line installation work is completed. Final ROW re-vegetation and stabilization pursuant to regulatory requirements could extend into the second quarter of 2020.

### *Construction Hours*

Typical construction work will occur between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., six days per week (Monday through Saturday). For work within road ROWs and private properties (e.g. Shepard Steel and Bow Tie Cinema), these typical hours will vary as specified in Table 5-2 of Volume 1-UG of the Phase I D&M Plan.

Certain activities may require work outside of the typical construction hours, in some cases on a 24-hour basis and/or on Sundays. Such non-typical work includes, but is not limited to, activities that must be performed during a CONVEX-approved outage.

## General Project Overview

Eversource will construct a 2.4-mile overhead portion of the new 115-kV transmission line along the east side of the Amtrak right-of-way from Newington to West Hartford to Hartford, and that will be the subject of the

next phase of the D&M Plan. The new 115-kV transmission line will also have two underground route segments, which is the subject of this first phase of the D&M Plan. The southern underground route segment will connect Newington Substation to the southern limits of the overhead line. The northern underground route segment will connect the northern limits of the overhead line to Southwest Hartford Substation.

The underground line segments will consist of a single-circuit, solid dielectric cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE) cable. The XLPE cable will be installed within polyvinyl chloride (PVC) conduits that will be encased in a concrete duct bank.

#### *Southern Underground Route Segment in Newington*

This underground 115-kV line segment will be approximately 1.16 miles long. For approximately 0.81 mile between Newington Substation and Route 173 (Willard Avenue, a State Road<sup>1</sup>), the underground cable will be located on Eversource's property and within an existing Eversource ROW. The cable will extend east across State Route 173, and then it will continue north for approximately 0.14 mile within the state road ROW to Shepard Drive, a town road. From there, the cable will extend for approximately 0.21 mile east to the Amtrak ROW, first aligned along the south side of Shepard Drive before traversing beneath a small unnamed tributary to Piper Brook and then across a paved and graveled parking lot for Shepard Steel, a privately-owned, industrial use property. The underground cable segment will terminate at a new transition structure<sup>2</sup> to be located on the Shepard Steel property, west of and adjacent to the Amtrak ROW.

Along this underground segment, three pre-cast splice vaults will be installed. These splice vaults are required to interconnect the cable (which will be pulled into the PVC conduits in sections) and to provide access to the underground cable for maintenance. Two of the splice vaults will be buried on Eversource's property, and the third will be located within the Town of Newington Shepard Drive ROW.

#### *Northern Underground Route Segment in Hartford*

This underground 115-kV line segment will be approximately 0.17 mile long and will extend from a new transition structure located on the north end of the overhead line segment to Southwest Hartford Substation. From the new transition structure located on commercial property adjacent to the Amtrak ROW, the underground cable will extend west for approximately 0.1 miles across lawn area adjacent to the paved parking lot for the Bow Tie Cinema (a multiplex movie theater), which is located directly south of Interstate 84 (I-84). Then the underground segment will turn north along New Park Avenue (a City of Hartford road), crossing beneath I-84 to Southwest Hartford Substation.

No splice vaults are required for this underground line segment.

#### *Modifications to Newington Substation*

The existing Newington Substation will be expanded to the south and west by a total of approximately 0.3 acre. The Newington Substation modifications include, but are not limited to, the following: cutting, filling and grading the south and west side of the substation for the expansion; installing a cast-in-place concrete retaining wall (roughly 490 feet long and eight feet high above grade) around the expanded substation area;

---

<sup>1</sup> To the extent that underground transmission will be located within state highway ROW, the duct bank depth will comply with the requirements of the Connecticut Department of Transportation Utility Accommodation Manual.

<sup>2</sup> Transition structures are outside of the scope of the Phase I D&M Plan. Transition structures are expected to be included in the next phase of the D&M Plan.

installing a new section of seven-foot high fence<sup>3</sup> around the expanded area with 1.25-inch mesh topped with one foot of three-strand barbed wire; reconfiguring the existing substation 115-kV yard into a ring bus, with two new 115-kV circuit breakers; constructing a new battery enclosure (approximately 36 feet long by 14 feet wide by 12 feet high) for new protection and control equipment; connecting the new 115-kV #1346 Line to the substation at the existing #1783 Line Terminal position; installing three lightning arrestors, three potential transformers, and one three-phase disconnect switch for the configuration for each line terminal position; transition the new underground #1346 Line to a rigid substation bus, using one pothead per phase; installing a new galvanized steel deadend structure within the substation to relocate the #1783 Line interconnection in the substation to the south; installing drainage for the substation modifications; extending the existing substation ground grid as required to accommodate the expanded footprint; removal of existing yard lighting on the southwestern portion of the substation to accommodate the expansion; installing additional low-level lighting along the new fence in accordance with National Electrical Safety Code and Eversource design standards; and install additional task lighting that would illuminate specific equipment or control boxes when required.

#### *Modifications to Newington Tap*

The Newington Tap modification will consist of the following: replacing existing Structure No. 16072 (a 67-foot tall three-pole wood structure) with one new approximately 95-foot tall steel galvanized monopole structure on a new concrete caisson foundation within the existing #1783 Line right-of-way south of Newington Substation; installing a new supporting 1272-kcmil aluminum conductor with steel reinforced support (ACSR); connecting the new line tap from Structure No. 16072 to the substation to the south; and removing existing Structure No. 16074 (a 57-foot tall single wood pole), conductors, and related equipment that comprises the current tap.

#### *Modifications to Southwest Hartford Substation*

The existing Southwest Hartford Substation will be expanded to the east by a total of approximately 0.3 acre. The Southwest Hartford Substation modifications include, but are not limited to, the following: reconfiguring the existing substation 115-kV yard into a ring bus, with two new 115-kV circuit breakers; adding one line terminal position; installing (for both the #1704 and #1346 lines) one series reactor, circuit switcher, disconnect switch, arrestor, PT, and pothead per phase; installing four new 65-foot tall deadend structures (consisting of two 2-bay H-frame deadend structures) with associated 10-foot tall lighting rods to support the connection of the new reactors; extend the existing substation ground grid to accommodate the expanded substation footprint; remove the existing oil pump house and relocate or remove existing high-pressure fluid filled (HPFF) interconnection piping and associated valve cabinet; installing a new fence section around the expanded substation area consisting of seven-foot high fence<sup>4</sup> around the expanded area with 1.25-inch mesh topped with one foot of three-strand barbed wire; installing additional low-level lighting along the new fence in accordance with National Electrical Safety Code and Eversource design standards; and install additional task lighting that would illuminate specific equipment or control boxes when required.

#### **General Construction Procedures**

The D&M Plan contains site plans for provisions for access roads and duct banks. Eversource will construct these portions of the Project in several stages, some overlapping in time. The following generally summarizes

---

<sup>3</sup> The existing Newington Substation fence is seven feet high with barbed wire on top on the eastern side and eight feet high with barbed wire on the remaining northern, western, and southern sides.

<sup>4</sup> The majority of the existing Southwest Hartford Substation fence is seven feet high with barbed wire on top, and a small section of fence directly south of the control enclosure and adjacent to I-84 is 12 feet high with barbed wire on top.



the sequence of construction activities common to both the underground transmission and substation/tap work:

- Survey, stake, paint, or otherwise mark work area boundaries, vegetation clearing boundaries and underground utilities.
- Mark the boundaries of previously-delineated wetlands, watercourses, as well as other areas to be avoided or other protected, as applicable.
- Prepare material staging sites (e.g. storage, staging and laydown areas) to support the construction effort;
- Establish construction field offices and yards, typically including space for an office trailer, equipment storage and maintenance, sanitary facilities, and parking.
- Establish construction field office area(s), typically including space for an office trailer, equipment storage and maintenance, sanitary facilities, and parking.
- Remove vegetation as necessary and perform site preparation (grading or filling).
- Construct new and/or improve existing access roads.

Additional construction sequence specific to the substation/tap work is identified below:

- Construct foundations and erect/assemble new equipment and the battery enclosure at Newington Substation.
- Install grounding systems.
- Install control cable and test all new equipment.
- Remove temporary access roads and construction debris and restore disturbed sites.
- Maintain temporary erosion and sedimentation controls until sites are re-stabilized (e.g., paved, re-graveled, or re-vegetated)

Additional construction sequence specific to the underground transmission work is identified below.

- Temporarily relocate sections of the 23-kV distribution circuit, as necessary, within the Eversource ROW.
- Install splice vaults and handholes.
- Construct duct bank systems.
- Install cable system.
- Return the temporarily-relocated Eversource distribution circuit(s) to existing configuration along the Eversource ROW and remove any temporary poles.
- Perform any remaining site restoration work (e.g. pave affected road ROWs and parking lots, re-vegetate non-paved or graveled areas, such as those along the Eversource ROW).

Eversource will conduct work consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control*.

#### *Rock removal*

Geotechnical investigations have been performed along the cable system route. These investigations indicate that rock is not likely to be present. If encountered, rock will typically be removed using mechanical methods. Excavated rock will be transported to either a suitable final disposal site or a temporary storage site

prior to final off-site disposal. No blasting is expected to be required for the underground portion of the project or the substation modifications.

#### *Access Roads and Work Pads/Spaces*

During construction, linear access and work space will be required along the underground cable route. Where the cable system is routed along roads or through parking lots, the existing roads and paved parking areas will provide both access and work space for construction activities. An approximately 30-foot wide construction area will be needed to install the cable system within paved areas. A slightly wider work space (up to 50 feet wide) will be needed in the vicinity of the planned splice vault adjacent to Shepard Drive. Along State Route 173, Eversource continues to pursue and obtain rights on certain private properties for temporary work space abutting the road ROW.

At intersections with public roads, access road/work spaces will typically be wider to accommodate equipment turning radii. In upland areas, access roads/work spaces will typically be graveled. Eversource will utilize anti-tracking stone pads to minimize the tracking of dirt from the access road onto public roads. Eversource contractors would utilize Eversource BMPs as warranted to maintain access road stability and minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

Through wetland areas along the Eversource ROW, access roads/work spaces will be constructed using timber mats. Within and near wetlands and watercourses, erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed as necessary adjacent to such access roads/work spaces.

Work pads will be required at each of the transmission line structures affected by the Newington Tap modifications. All work pads for the Newington Tap work will consist of timber mats or equivalent. Multiple layers of mats may be installed as required based on site-specific conditions at the time of construction. Upon completion of the Newington Tap modifications, all timber mat work pads will be removed, and the affected wetland areas will be restored.

To support construction equipment required to install the Newington Tap modifications, all access roads will have a 16-foot wide travel way, with associated road shoulders of approximately two feet on each side. However, access road widths will vary depending on site-specific conditions. The access road to Structure No. 8001, located in an upland area south of Wetland 1-A, will be constructed of processed rock/gravel. Eversource will utilize an anti-tracking stone pad at the intersection of Quincy Lane to minimize tracking of dirt onto public roads. Eversource's contractor will also utilize Eversource's BMPs as warranted to maintain access road stability and minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

During winter, snow clearing activities will conform with DEEP BMPs for disposal of snow accumulations from roadways and parking lots.

#### *Wetlands and Watercourses*

The planned modifications to Southwest Hartford Substation will not involve any work in wetlands or watercourses. For the modifications to Newington Substation and Newington Tap, approximately 0.51 acres of wetlands will be temporarily impacted. Such temporary impacts will result from the use of timber mats for construction support in wetlands. Secondary impacts from tree clearing within forested portions of Wetland N-1 and Wetland N-1A will be required and will affect about 0.01 acre of forested wetland.

In Newington, the underground segment of the proposed 115-kV transmission line will cross five wetlands and an intermittent stream along the Eversource ROW, as well as an unnamed tributary to Piper Brook and an associated linear wetland, located at the end of Shepard Drive.

Eversource has also provided a wetland restoration plan and a wetland invasive species control plan, as applicable. All construction activities in wetlands will be performed in accordance with USACE and DEEP regulatory approvals and the Eversource BMP Manual.

Two potential vernal pools were initially identified in August 2016 along the portion of the proposed route within Eversource's distribution line ROW in the Town of Newington. Because these potential vernal pools were identified outside of the typical spring to early summer amphibian breeding and migration seasons, additional field investigations were performed in 2017. Specifically, in the spring of 2017, vernal pool surveys were performed in these previously-identified potential vernal pool locations. No evidence of vernal pool use by obligate vernal pool species were observed during these surveys. Thus, no vernal pools were confirmed within the Project area.

#### *Rare and endangered species*

By letter dated August 1, 2017, DEEP identified two state-listed species of special concern as potentially occurring in the vicinity of Newington Substation and Newington Tap. In the spring of 2018, Eversource performed a pre-construction survey of potential species habitat in the Project area. This survey confirmed the presence of one state-listed species of special concern within portions of the Project area covered by this phase of the D&M Plan.

Prior to the commencement of construction in this species' habitat, Eversource will submit best management practices to DEEP that will identify the measures to be implemented during construction to avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts to the species. The provisions are species specific and generally include, but are not limited to, the following: contractor awareness, daily sweeps of work areas, and exclusionary fencing as necessary. The Project contractors will be required to adhere to the species protection measures as identified in the plan and approved by DEEP.

The northern long-eared bat (NLEB), a Federally-listed Threatened Species, may occur within the Project area. The preferred habitat for the NLEB includes caves or mines (where bats hibernate in the winter) and within cavities or crevices of both live and dead trees (where bats roost in the summer). However, no critical habitat (e.g. roosting sites, caves) are known or designated for this species in the Project area. The proposed Project area also does not support large stands of mature trees.

#### *Public trails and recreational areas*

The Project route does not cross the Trout Brook Greenway and Trail (Trout Brook Trail), but it spans Trout Brook approximately 265 feet to the east of Trout Brook Trail's terminus at New Park Avenue. However, this is related to the overhead portion of the line, and it not applicable to this Phase I D&M Plan.

#### *Cultural Resources*

By letters dated August 17, 2017 and June 25, 2018, SHPO indicated that the Project would not have an adverse effect on historic resources. It is also unlikely that cultural materials would be discovered during construction. However, Eversource would brief construction contractor managers regarding the procedures to be followed should potential cultural materials be discovered during construction. Construction work at a potential cultural resource discovery site would stop and would not resume until authorized by Eversource following review and approval by a professional archaeologist.

### *Vegetative Clearing*

Approximately 0.3 acres of shrub and herbaceous species will be removed in upland areas to accommodate the Newington Substation expansion/modification. Approximately 0.3 acres of lawn with six trees would be removed to accommodate the expansion of Southwest Hartford Substation.

The construction of the Newington Tap modification will require vegetation removal within Eversource's ROW on Eversource property, including within Wetland N-1 and Wetland N-1A. Limited tree clearing adjacent to an intermittent tributary to Piper Brook will also be required. Most of the vegetation to be removed for the tap modifications will be within portions of the ROW that Eversource presently manages in low-growing species. However, the approximately 0.21 acre of tree removal, along with selective pruning, will be performed along the southern portion of the ROW to maintain clearances between the vegetation and the conductors.

For the underground transmission construction in the Eversource ROW, approximately 1.54 acres of forested vegetation (including 0.52 acre of forested wetland) will be cleared along the Eversource ROW. The remaining vegetation (consisting of about three acres) affected by the cable system consists of herbaceous and shrub vegetation that Eversource presently manages beneath and near the 23-kV distribution circuits.

Where other portions of the underground transmission utilize road ROWs, adjacent vegetation clearing is minimized. Total tree clearing areas adjacent to road ROWs and other areas includes approximately 0.22 acres (including 0.006 acres of forested wetland).

All vegetation removal will be performed in accordance with Eversource specifications and other applicable permits from USACE and DEEP, as well as pursuant to property owner agreements.

### **Spill Prevention and Countermeasures Plan**

As part of its D&M Plan, Eversource submitted a Spill Prevention and Countermeasures Plan (SPCP). The SPCP describes measures to minimize potential for a spill of petroleum products or hazardous or toxic substances and, if a spill does occur, to contain the release of the spill and minimize effects.

### **Post-Construction EMF Monitoring Plan**

Consistent with the Council's D&O, Eversource has submitted a post-construction Electric and Magnetic Field Monitoring Plan for the Project. Electric and magnetic field measurements will be made to compare actual levels to calculated levels. Eversource will collect measurements along the perimeter of Newington Substation, along a portion of Avery Road, Newington for the underground transmission line, along a portion of Flatbush Avenue in West Hartford for the overhead transmission line<sup>5</sup>, and the perimeter of Southwest Hartford Substation. Within 12 months of the in-service date of the new 115-kV line, Eversource will submit a report to the Council containing the results of the measurements with "true up" comparisons to predicted values.

---

<sup>5</sup> While overhead transmission is not technically within the scope this Phase I D&M Plan, the Post-Construction EMF Monitoring Plan was provided as one item (including overhead transmission) for completeness/simplicity.

## Reports

The following reports will be provided to the Council:

1. **Quarterly Construction Progress Reports:** As required by RCSA § 16-50j-62(b)(3) and Condition No. 9 of the D&O, these reports shall summarize construction progress, as well as identify changes and deviations to the approved D&M Plan.
2. **Final Report:** As required by RCSA § 16-50j-62(c), Eversource shall provide this report no later than 180 days after completion of all site construction and rehabilitation. The report shall identify:
  - a) All agreements with abutters or property owners regarding special maintenance precautions;
  - b) Significant D&M Plan changes necessary due to property rights/ landowner concerns or for other reasons;
  - c) The location of any construction materials left in place;
  - d) The location of areas where special plantings and reseeded have been performed; and
  - e) The actual construction cost of the facility.
3. **Operating Report:** As required by Condition No. 5 of the D&O, Eversource shall provide this report within three months after the conclusion of the first year of the operation of all project facilities. The report will describe the overall condition, safety, reliability, and operation of the new transmission line.

## Recommendations

The D&M Plan complies with requirements of RCSA § 16-50j-60 to 16-50j-62 and is consistent with the Council's D&O dated February 1, 2018.