

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

<p>DOCKET NO. 490 – The United Illuminating Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Old Town Substation Rebuild Project that entails construction, maintenance and operation of a 115/13.8-kilovolt (kV) air-insulated replacement substation facility located on the existing Old Town Substation parcel at 282 Kaechele Place and two parcels immediately north totaling approximately 3 acres that are owned by The United Illuminating Company at 312 and 330 Kaechele Place, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and related transmission structure and interconnection improvements</p>	<p>DOCKET 490</p> <p>November 6, 2020</p>
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The Connecticut Light and Power Company Doing Business As Eversource Energy **Proposed Findings of Fact**

The Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) respectfully submits the following proposed findings of fact as to its facilities, if the Old Town Substation Rebuild Project were to be approved.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On June 26, 2020, The United Illuminating Company (the “Applicant”) filed an application with the Connecticut Siting Council (the “Council”) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (“Certificate”) in connection with the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 115/13.8-kilovolt (kV) air-insulated replacement substation facility located on the existing Old Town Substation parcel at 282 Kaechele Place and two parcels immediately north totaling approximately 3 acres that are owned by the Applicant at 312 and 330 Kaechele Place, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and related transmission structure and interconnection improvements (the “Project”). (Applicant 1)
2. On September 22, 2020, Eversource filed a Motion for Party Status with the Council to allow the Council to consider not only the Project proposed by the Applicant, but also the facilities and upgrades to Eversource’s transmission system that are required for the Project. (Eversource 1; Eversource 2, pp. 2-3; Tr. p. 82)
3. At a public meeting on October 8, 2020, the Council granted Eversource’s request for party status. (Council Letter Re: Decision on Eversource’s Request for Party Status dtd. 10/8/20)
4. In June and July 2020, Eversource, in coordination with Applicant, consulted with municipal officials in the City of Bridgeport (the “City”) to brief them on the proposed Project. In September 2020, Eversource again consulted with the City regarding Eversource’s desire to obtain off right-of-way (“ROW”) access across the City’s property on Kaechele Place. Eversource also provided City representatives with a draft of a permanent access agreement. (Eversource 2, pp. 8-9; Tr. p. 78)

II. PROPOSED PROJECT

5. Applicant's proposed rebuilt substation would be served by and interconnected with two of Eversource's 115-kV transmission lines. Those transmission lines are located as follows: The 1710 Line extends between Eversource's Devon Substation in Milford and Applicant's Pequonnock and Old Town Substations in Bridgeport. Eversource's 1222 Line extends between Applicant's Old Town Substation in Bridgeport and its Hawthorne Substation in Fairfield. (Eversource 1, pp. 1-2; Eversource 2, p. 2)
6. A third Eversource 115-kV line (known as the 1714 Line), which presently bypasses Applicant's existing Old Town Substation and connects Applicant's Trumbull Substation and Eversource's Weston Substation, would be re-routed to the new substation yard to accommodate a future connection to the rebuilt substation. (Eversource 1, p. 2; Eversource 2, p. 2)
7. If the Project is approved, the facilities and upgrades to be owned by Eversource that would be necessary for the associated electrical interconnection to Eversource's electric transmission are (a) installation of four new transmission structures; and (b) relocation and/or replacement of transmission line conductors, communication and shield wires and other associated fixtures and appurtenances from Eversource's two existing lattice structures to the four new monopole structures. Additionally, the operation of Applicant's rebuilt substation would need to be appropriately integrated into Eversource's transmission network. (Eversource 2, p. 3)
8. Eversource's existing transmission structures are double-circuit lattice steel towers, which would be replaced by single-circuit galvanized steel monopoles. (Eversource 2, p. 4)
9. The upgrades to Eversource's transmission system will allow Eversource to replace aging lattice tower structures in the vicinity of the Old Town Substation, and to upgrade its protection systems at the remote ends of the transmission lines. (Tr. p. 84)
10. Eversource would own and maintain its new transmission line structures and the attachments to such structures. (Eversource 2, p. 5)
11. The sections of the 1710 and 1222 transmission lines from the Eversource-owned new monopole transmission structures to the respective line terminal structures within Applicant's rebuilt substation would be owned by Applicant. The re-routed portion of the 1714 transmission line through the rebuilt substation would also be owned by Applicant. (Eversource 2, p. 2)
12. Two of the new transmission structures would be installed on concrete drilled pier foundations within a separately fenced area adjacent to the west side of the rebuilt substation, and two would be installed on drilled shaft foundations within Eversource's existing ROW to the east of the rebuilt substation. (Eversource 2, p. 4)
13. The structures in the existing Old Town Substation are approximately 105 feet above grade; Eversource expects that the height of the new transmission structures would be approximately the same height as the existing structures. (Eversource 2, p. 6)

III. PROJECT CONSTRUCTION and WORK PROCEDURES

14. All of Eversource's work associated with the Project would be performed by Eversource or its contractors. (Eversource 2, p. 5)
15. Eversource would dismantle and remove the existing overhead connections including the two steel lattice structures, conductors and arms. The existing foundations would be removed to a depth slightly below final grade. Eversource would break the concrete just below grade. If inside the UI substation, the broken concrete would be covered with trap rock. To the east where the transmission line structure foundations would be installed in native soil, the broken concrete would be covered with topsoil. (Eversource 2, p. 5; Tr. pp. 84-85)
16. Eversource anticipates that it would require a work pad of approximately 100 feet by 100 feet for each of the four new monopole structures and around each of the existing lattice structures #857 and #857 1/2, for a total of six work pads. Access to these work pads would be off Kaechele Place. (Eversource 2, p. 6)
17. To replace the lattice tower east of the existing Old Town Substation and to re-route the 1710 and 1714 lines, Eversource would need a 0.15-acre access easement from the City along an existing off-ROW accessway from Kaechele Place to the Eversource ROW. (Eversource 2, p. 7)
18. Eversource is engaged in ongoing discussions with City officials and has agreed with them on the steps required to obtain such easement rights. (Eversource 2, p. 7)

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

19. Based on information provided by Applicant and Eversource's evaluation of the proposed transmission structure locations, construction of the structures and the attachments to such structures would have no substantial adverse environmental effects. (Eversource 2, p. 5)
20. Eversource's portion of the Project would conform to Best Management Practices ("BMPs") for soil erosion and sedimentation ("E&S control"), including those provided in the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control ("Connecticut Guidelines") and Eversource's BMPs. (Tr. pp. 80-81)
21. Within the 0.15-acre access easement area, removal of overgrown vegetation, such as bushes and shrubs and some tree-trimming, would be required; however, no tree clearing would be necessary. (Eversource 2, p. 7)
22. Changes in the visual effects from the structures within the rebuilt substation would be negligible due to the adjacent substation equipment. Visual effects in the ROW would be minimal and slightly improved with the elimination of a lattice tower structure and the more streamlined appearance of the two new monopole structures. (Eversource 2, p. 6)
23. No wetland area within the existing Eversource ROW would be permanently impacted by the work of installing Eversource's new transmission structures or removing its existing transmission structures. (Eversource 2, p. 8)

24. Depending upon the type of species identified, Eversource would employ appropriate wildlife protection measures, including time of year construction. (Tr. p. 81)

V. PROJECT COST

25. The total cost of Eversource's portion of the Project will be approximately \$3 million. (Tr. p. 82)
26. Eversource expects the entire cost for its portion of the Project to be regionalized. (Tr. p. 85)

VI. ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

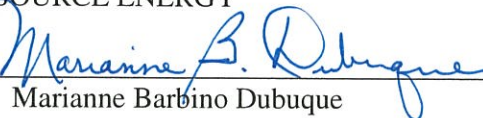
27. Once the rebuilt substation is substantially completed by Applicant, Eversource line construction work would commence, with construction expected to last approximately four months. (Eversource 2, p. 8)
28. Normal work hours would be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Sunday work hours may be necessary if delays occur due to inclement weather and/or outage constraints. (Eversource 2, p. 8)
29. Eversource, in coordination with Applicant, would notify City officials and abutting property owners to provide information on Eversource's portion of the Project. (Eversource 2, p. 9)

VII. SAFETY AND SECURITY

30. All of Eversource's work would be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with sound engineering practices and in full compliance with Eversource's standards, the National Electrical Safety Code and good utility practices. (Eversource 2, p. 8)

Respectfully submitted,
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER
COMPANY DOING BUSINESS AS
EVERSOURCE ENERGY

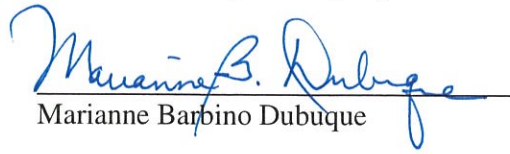
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of Eversource's Proposed Findings of Fact has been electronically sent on this 6th day of November, 2020 to all parties as referenced in the Connecticut Siting Council's Service List dated July 10, 2020, as updated on October 8, 2020 (grant of party status to Eversource).


Marianne Barbino Dubuque