



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 22, 2007

Robert E. Carberry
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

RE: **PETITION NO. 800** - Connecticut Light & Power Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the replacement of an existing telecommunications facility located at Willis Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Carberry:

At a public meeting held on January 18, 2007, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that this proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition, dated December 22, 2006.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Very truly yours,

Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

DFC/CDM/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report dated January 18, 2007

c: The Honorable William T. Stortz, Mayor, City of Bristol
Alan Weiner, Planner/Dev. Coordinator, City of Bristol

Petition No. 800
Connecticut Light & Power
Bristol, Connecticut
Staff Report
January 18, 2007

CL&P is seeking to replace an existing guyed lattice tower that supports microwave, two-way radio, and commercial wireless antennas with a self-supporting tower of the same height at a site on South Mountain in Bristol.

Council member Ed Wilensky and staff member David Martin met with Northeast Utilities Service Company representatives John Natcherly and John D'Ambra at the site to review the proposal.

The existing guyed tower is approximately 40 years old. It is 125 feet high with whip antennas at the top that extend the overall height of the tower to 150 feet. This tower is one of the most important sites in CL&P's wireless communications network. The tower's structural integrity was recently analyzed as part of a company service program and was found to be out of compliance with current engineering standards. The age and condition of the tower make it impossible to reinforce the tower to bring it into compliance. Therefore, CL&P needs to replace it. The replacement tower would be a self-supporting lattice tower, the same height as the one being replaced, that would be located approximately 40 feet to the northeast of the existing tower. The location of the replacement tower would necessitate the expansion of the existing equipment compound by approximately 700 square feet and the removal of some scrub vegetation. The operating antennas (these include T-Mobile antennas) on the existing tower would be relocated to the new tower. Antennas not currently being used would be eliminated.

The site is on the ridge that runs along the top of South Mountain. It is owned by CL&P, which leases space for two other nearby towers — one a guyed tower owned by Comcast and the other a monopole owned by Cingular. There are no residences in view from the tower site. There are, however, a few residences in the vicinity along Willis Street, which is the street that provides access to the site. The relatively low height of the tower(s) and thick stands of trees minimize the visual presence of the tower in the near vicinity. The elimination of the guy wires would make the site less unsightly and would remove a potential hazard for birds.

CL&P contends that the proposed replacement tower would not have any substantial environmental effects and that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need would not be needed.

Existing guyed lattice tower

