Petition No. 1024

The United Illuminating Company

Pequonnock Substation, Bridgeport

Staff Report

March 29, 2012

On February 9, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from The United Illuminating Company (UI) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to the Pequonnock Substation at 10 Henry Street in Bridgeport. This Petition was field reviewed by Council member Dr. Barbara Bell and Council staff member Robert Mercier on March 26, 2012. UI representatives Bohdan Katreczko, Chris Hughes, and Yan Lachowicz also attended the field review.

UI seeks to improve the fault capabilities of the substation by upgrading the existing 1950’s era bus work and replacing supporting hardware. UI has determined that the existing bus conductors can withstand a sustainable fault current of 17,800 amperes. The most recent design standard requires a 63,000 ampere rating. The existing low rating could cause internal bending stress on the bus in the event of a short circuit.

UI proposes to replace the existing 2.5-inch bus on the upper and lower sections of Bay 1 with a 5-inch diameter bus to achieve the 63,000 ampere design standard. Ancillary work includes replacing post insulators and support brackets and strengthening the support frame, as necessary.

All work would be within the existing fenced area of the substation. The substation is located adjacent to the PSEG Bridgeport Harbor power plant. This project is not expected to have a substantial adverse environmental effect. The work, anticipated to start in September of 2012, would take approximately two months and would require four scheduled outages.