Petition No. 1037

The Connecticut Light and Power Company

315 Belleview Avenue, Southington

Staff Report

October 4, 2012

On August 27, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required to replace an existing self-supporting lattice tower at 315 Belleview Avenue, Southington. This Petition was field reviewed by Council member Phil Ashton and Michael Perrone of the Council staff on September 5, 2012. The following representatives from CL&P also attended the field review: John Morissette, Manager – Siting and Permitting; Michael Carbary, IT Telecommunications Engineer; and Steven Florio, IT Telecommunications Engineer.

Specifically, CL&P seeks to replace an existing 90-foot self-supporting lattice tower. The existing tower provides critical radio communications for CL&P field crews that operate in Southington and surrounding areas, paging services for local employees, and load management. The tower is also a microwave hub that provides backhaul for a number of remote locations for CL&P.

However, the existing tower, an old transmission line structure installed about 1960, is overstressed at about 117 percent of its structural capacity. The structural engineer concluded that there is no practical way to adequately reinforce the tower. Accordingly, CL&P would replace the existing 90-foot four-legged tower with a new 90-foot three-legged lattice tower that would meet structural code requirements and provide necessary rigidity for the microwave system.

The height of the new tower would be the same, so the area of visibility is not expected to increase. However, there would be a difference in width. The existing tower faces are 8.66 feet wide at the base and taper to 1.33 feet wide at the top. The new tower faces would be 10.75 feet wide at the base and taper to 6.75 feet wide at the top. The existing tower would remain in place temporarily to maintain continuity of service until the antennas are moved to the new tower. Then the existing tower would be removed.

There are no wetlands or watercourses located on or near the location of the proposed installation. To the extent applicable, CL&P would apply soil erosion and sedimentation control practices consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.* No impact on wildlife is anticipated since this is a developed site with no known existing habitat. The maximum worst-case power density would be 4.18 percent of the applicable limit. The nearest residence is located approximately 174 feet to the south and is screened by trees.

Notice was provided to abutting property owners on August 24, 2012 with a reply deadline of September 27, 2012. No replies have been received.

If approved, this project would be completed by spring of 2013.



