

STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: <u>siting.council@ct.gov</u> Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 2, 2022

Kathleen M. Shanley Manager – Transmission Siting Eversource Energy 56 Prospect Street P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06103 kathleen.shanley@eversource.com

RE: **SUB-PETITION NO. 1293-HC-01 (Harwinton and Canton)** – Eversource Energy declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for all transmission facility asset condition maintenance improvements statewide to comply with the updated National Electrical Safety Code clearance requirements.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated May 31, 2022 regarding project changes to the Petition No. 1293 sub-petition for the above-referenced section of transmission line that was approved by the Council on September 21, 2020, the withdrawal of the May 31, 2022 Notice of Completion of the associated transmission facility asset maintenance improvements and the request for an extension of time to complete construction of the associated asset maintenance improvements, including the requested project changes, to September 21, 2023.

The proposed project changes will occur on Eversource right-of-way and on Eversource property, and include the following:

- Replace Structure 2552, an existing double circuit lattice structure on the 1732/1900 Lines, with a single circuit weathering steel monopole that will support the 1732 line (designated Structure 3223A);
- Replace Structure 13026A a single circuit wood H-frame with a single circuit weathering steel monopole that will support the 1900 line (designated Structure 13026A)
- Replace Structure 4266, an existing single circuit wood H-frame structure on the 1732 Line, with a new a single circuit weathering steel monopole (designated Structure 4266A);
- Replace Structure 4171, an existing single circuit wood H-frame structure on the 1732 Line, with a new single circuit weathering steel H-frame; and
- Remove the existing tap support Structure 2553, a double circuit steel lattice structure, and Structure 13027, a single circuit wood H-frame structure.

The new replacement structures are necessary due to recent in-field surveys that identified the existing structures as deteriorated. The new structures will be located 40 to 171 feet from the existing structures and will be 6.5 feet to 40 feet taller than the existing structures to accommodate new line configurations and to comply with National Electrical Safety Code standards.

The work areas will be accessed using existing gravel roads, a temporary road and a new gravel road.

Temporary wetland impacts related to construction matting to facilitate the work will total approximately 2,534 square feet. Temporary matting for a work pad will be used in a flood zone. No other impacts to environmental or cultural resources will occur.

Pursuant to the Council's Petition No. 1293 decision of March 31, 2017 and September 21, 2020 decision on this sub-petition, your request for the proposed project changes, withdrawal of the May 31, 2022 Notice of Completion and request for an extension of time to complete construction to September 21, 2023, as detailed in your May 31, 2022 correspondence, are hereby approved. This approval applies only to the project changes dated May 31, 2022. Any additional changes to the sub-petition decision require advance notification and approval.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mulikhan

Melanie Bachman Executive Director



56 Prospect Street P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06103

Kathleen M. Shanley Manager – Transmission Siting Tel: (860) 728-4527

May 31, 2022

Melanie Bachman, Esq. Executive Director Connecticut Siting Council Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Sub-Petition No. 1293-HC-01 (Harwinton and Canton): Amendment and Withdrawal of Notice of Competition Letter and Request for Extension

Dear Attorney Bachman:

The Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy ("Eversource") is filing the attached amendment to Sub-Petition No.1293-HC-01 with the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council"), regarding additional maintenance work within its transmission right-of-way in Harwinton and Canton, Connecticut. The work includes design modifications to two existing structures that were previously acknowledged by the Council but not yet replaced, the replacement of two additional existing structures, and the removal of two existing structures. Eversource notified the officials of the municipalities of Harwinton and Canton of Eversource's submission of the Sub-Petition amendment and sent copies of the Sub-Petition amendment to owners of directly abutting properties.

In addition, on May 31, 2021 Eversource erroneously submitted a Notice of Completion letter to the Council for the subject project. The project has experienced delays due to a number of factors, including final engineering and Eversource would like to revoke the Notice of Completion to complete the structure replacement work detailed within the enclosed amendment request. Eversource also hereby requests an extension of the Council's approval to complete the work by September 21, 2023.

Eversource is submitting this filing electronically and will be providing three hard copies for the Council's records.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-728-4527.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

Attachments: A: Revised Map Sheets 3 and 12 B: Cross Sections May 31, 2022

56 Prospect Street

P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06103

Kathleen M. Shanley Manager – Transmission Siting Tel: (860) 728-4527

Melanie Bachman, Esq. Executive Director Connecticut Siting Council Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Sub-Petition No. 1293-HC-01: 1900/1732 Line Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project, Amendment to Sub-Petition pursuant to Condition 2 of the Connecticut Siting Council Sub-Petition Approval

Dear Attorney Bachman:

On September 21, 2020, Eversource Energy ("Eversource") received from the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council"), acknowledgement of the subject sub-petition to replace 19 existing transmission structures within its transmission right-of-way ("ROW") in the Towns of Harwinton and Canton, subject to conditions.

Since the time of the Council's acknowledgement letter, Eversource has identified two additional structures at Weingart Road Junction in Harwinton that require replacement due to asset condition, Structures 2552 and 4266. In addition, replacement structure 13026¹ will now be relocated approximately 90 feet northeast from its originally proposed location to accommodate the reconfiguration of the1900 Line, which is discussed below. In conjunction with the modifications detailed above, Eversource plans to improve system reliability by eliminating the flying tap connections at Weingart Road Junction and removing the associated aging tap structures 13027 and 2553 and the three wood guy support structures associated with Structure 2553. With the removal of the flying tap connections, associated tap structures, and proposed structure replacements, the 1732 and 1900 Lines would be reconfigured to each run as single circuit lines supported by single circuit structures. All of the Work will take place on Eversource property or within its ROW.

In addition to the modifications at Weingart Road Junction, Eversource has identified the need to relocate replacement Structure 4171² in Canton due to constructability challenges resulting from its close proximity to both the Farmington River and Albany Avenue (US Highway 44) and concerns for potential undermining of the structure base due to the low water table or flooding/bank erosion associated with the Farmington River.

The following work ("Work Activities") will be performed:

- Replace Structure 2552, a double circuit lattice supporting the 1732/1900 Lines, with Structure 3223A, a single circuit weathering steel monopole. The new structure will be relocated approximately 40 feet southeast from its existing location to accommodate the reconfiguration of the 1732 Line. Structure 3223A would support the 1732 Line and the 1900 Line will be relocated to replacement Structure 13026A. Details of Structure 13026A are described below.
- Replace Structure 13026¹, a single circuit wood H-frame with Structure 13026A, a single circuit weathering steel monopole to support the 1900 Line. The new structure will be relocated approximately 90 feet from its existing location to accommodate the reconfiguration of the 1900 Line.

¹ Structure 13026 was previously approved in the above-mentioned Sub-Petition.

² Structure 4171 was previously approved in the above-mention Sub-Petition.

- 3) Replace Structure 4266, a single circuit wood H-frame supporting the 1732 Line, with Structure 4266A, a single circuit weathering steel monopole. Structure 4266A will be relocated approximately 131 feet southwest from its existing location to accommodate the reconfiguration of the 1732 Line.
- 4) Remove tap support Structure 2553, a double circuit steel lattice, and Structure 13027, a single circuit wood H-frame.
- 5) Replace Structure 4171, a single circuit wood H-frame, with a new single circuit weathering steel H-frame. The new structure will be relocated approximately 171 feet from its existing location due to constructability challenges at its existing location resulting from its close proximity to both the Farmington River and Albany Avenue (US Highway 44) and concerns for potential undermining of the structure base due to the low water table or flooding/bank erosion associated with the Farmington River

Please see revised map sheets 3 and 12 in Attachment A; "1900/1732 Line - Structure Replacement Project" "Sub-Petition Map Set", dated August 19, 2020, revised May 2, 2022, and Attachment B; "Weingart Road Junction Reconfiguration Plan and Transmission Line Right of Way Cross Section".

Eversource respectfully submits that the proposed modifications would have no "substantial adverse environmental effect" pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-50k, based on the following factors:

- The Work Activities would take place in areas within Eversource's property and existing ROW (collectively the "Work Areas"). To access the Work Areas located south of Weingart Road in Harwinton Eversource would utilize a previously approved existing access road. To access the Work Areas located north of Weingart Road, Eversource would utilize an existing access road and a temporary matted access road. To access Structure 4171 in Canton, Eversource would utilize an existing off-ROW gravel access road from Albany Avenue, but then install a new permanent gravel access road spur leading to the new structure location. A portion of the new access is located outside Eversource's ROW on private property and an access agreement has been secured from the property owner. In addition to providing access to the structure, the road will provide the owner improved access to a farm field. See revised Attachment A; "1900/1732 Line Structure Replacement Project" "Sub-Petition Map Set", dated August 19, 2020, revised May 2, 2022.
- The Work Activities will result in approximately 2,534 square feet of additional temporary wetland impacts from the use of temporary construction matting associated with the removal of the three wood guy support poles associated with Structure 2553. Work would be conducted in accordance with Eversource's *Best Management Practices Manual for Massachusetts and Connecticut (Construction and Maintenance Environmental Requirements), April 2022 (*"BMPs") to avoid impacts to nearby wetland and watercourse resources.
- No vernal pools or vernal pool envelopes are located within the Work Areas.
- Based on a review of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's ("CTDEEP") Natural Diversity Database ("NDDB"), no Work Areas are proposed within a NDDB buffered area and wetland jurisdictional area and/or CTDEEP owned/managed land; therefore, they would not be subject to a NDDB review request.
- Work Activities will not require any tree clearing. However, Eversource may need to undertake tree trimming and/or vegetation removal/mowing to establish required conductor clearance, to improve access roads and/or to install work pads within the Work Areas.
- A Phase 1A assessment review of previously recorded cultural resources on file with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") conducted by Heritage Consultants, LLC ("Heritage") did not identify any National or State Register of Historic Places properties/districts located within 500 feet of the Work Areas. However, the review did result in the identification of two previously recorded

archaeological sites located within 500 feet of Structure 4171. Heritage concluded that neither of the sites would be impacted by the construction associated with the Project.

Based on the results of a Phase 1A and Pedestrian Survey conducted by Heritage, the proposed access to Structure 4171 and the work pad at Structure 3223A has been identified to possess the potential for moderate to high archaeological sensitivity and Heritage recommended a Phase IB Cultural Resource Assessment and Reconnaissance Survey (shovel pit testing). A Phase IB Survey conducted by Heritage revealed a single quartz flake along the edge of the access road to Structure 4171. The find lacks research potential and the qualities of significance applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). No other cultural material or evidence of cultural features were identified at the two locations. Heritage advised that no additional testing is recommended and no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated as a result of the proposed Work Activities.

- To comply with current conductor clearance requirements the heights of the replacement structures will be increased. The existing structures range in height from 54 to 83.5 feet. The replacement structures will range in height from 90 to 110 feet. Structure 13026A would increase by 40 feet for an overall height of 110 feet. Structure 3223A would increase 36 feet for an overall height of 90 feet. Structure 4266A would increase by 6.5 feet for an overall height of 90 feet. Structure 4171 would increase by 32.5 feet for an overall height of 98 feet.
- Activities associated with Structure 4171 will be undertaken within the mapped 100-year flood zone
 associated with the Farmington River. Eversource would utilize its BMPs to minimize any impacts to the
 flood zone by utilizing the existing gravel work pad at the existing structure location, temporary
 construction matting at the proposed structure location, and by not placing fill that would increase the
 elevations of the road surfaces or work pads to ensure that the floodplain hydrology would not be
 adversely affected. With these protective measures and the use of the BMPs, no adverse impacts to
 the 100-year flood zones are anticipated from the proposed Work Activities.
- No change in noise levels would result from the installation of the new structures and the applicable lines would continue to comply with the State of Connecticut noise regulations. Any changes in electric and magnetic field levels outside the ROW would be negligible.
- Eversource would access the Work Areas at Weingart Road Junction in Harwinton by entering its property and ROW at existing access points from Weingart Road. Eversource would access Structure 4171 from an existing point off Albany Avenue (US Highway 44) in Canton by constructing a permanent gravel access road in an upland area. An off-ROW access agreement was obtained for this access.
- Temporary environmental effects from construction will be mitigated as referenced in Sub-Petition 1293-HC-01.

Eversource respectfully seeks Council approval of this proposed amendment to Sub-Petition 1293-HC-01.

Please contact me at 860-728-4527 if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

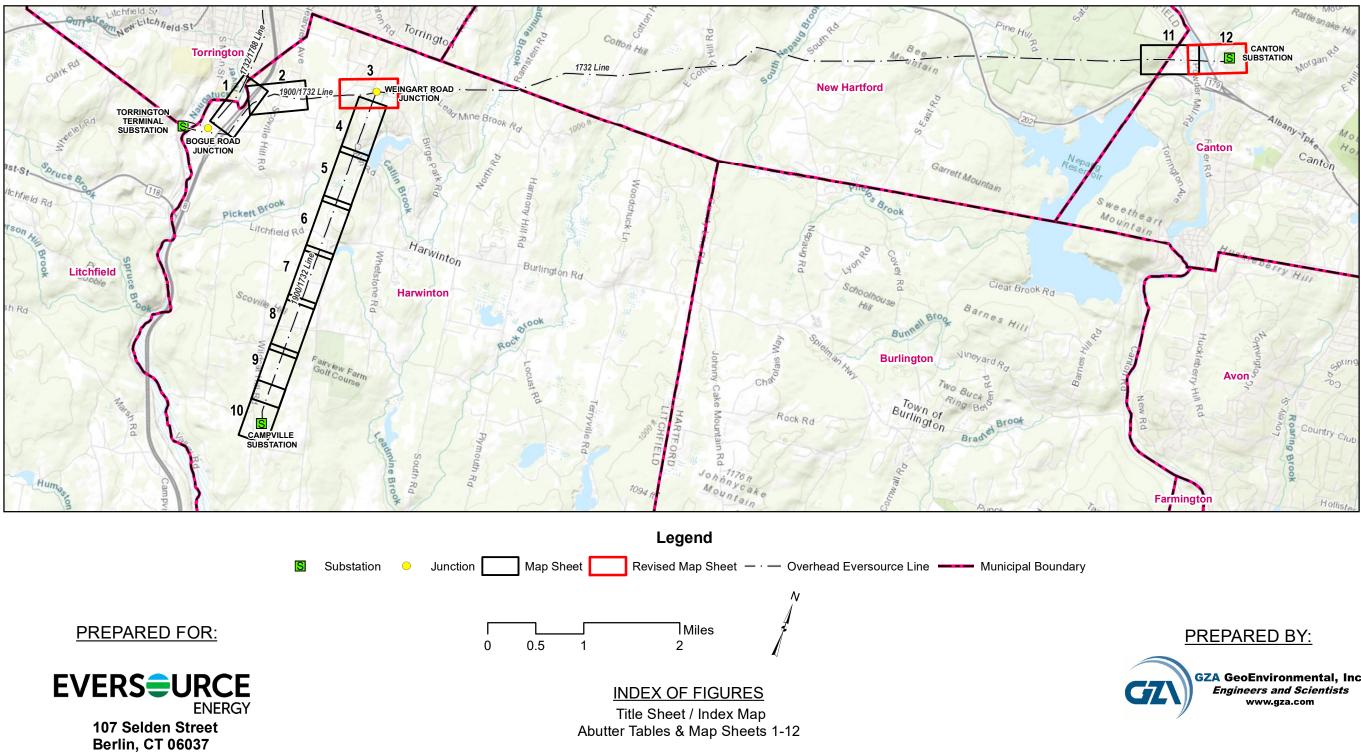
Enclosure

ATTACHMENT A

1900/1732 LINE - STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Harwinton and Canton, CT Sub-Petition Map Set

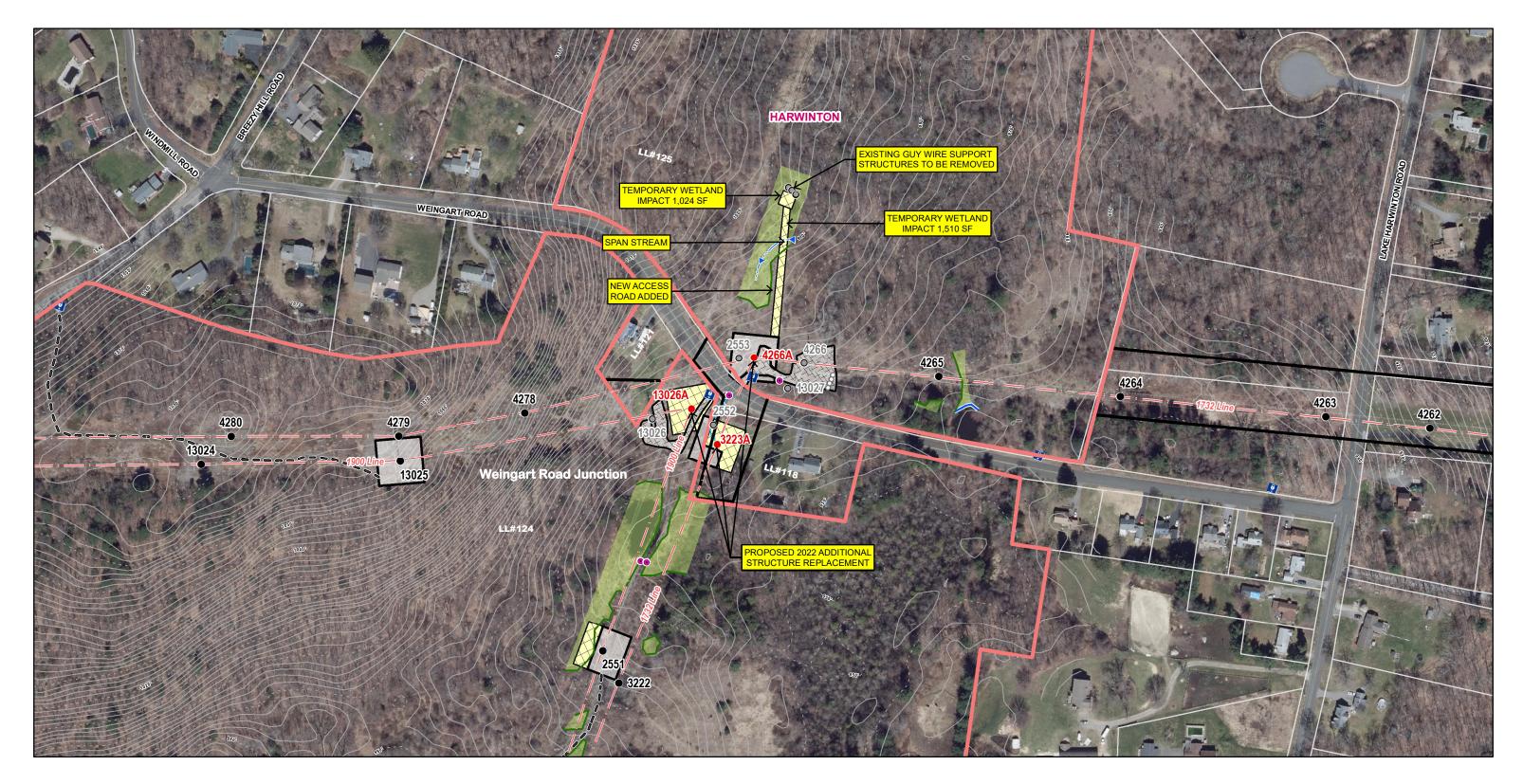
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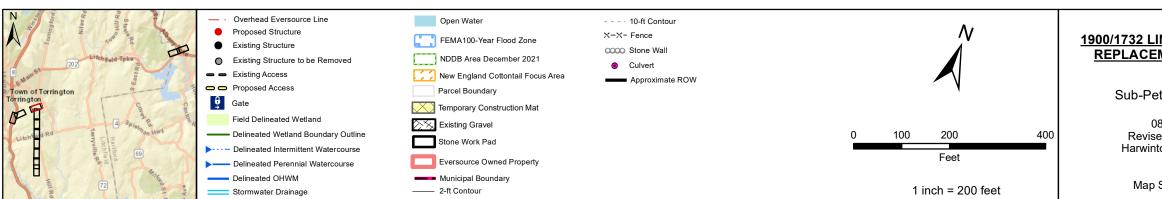


GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Map Sheet 3 of 12 1900/1732 Line - Structure Replacement Project Sub-Petition Abutter Table

LINE LIST NO.	OWNER NAME	Parcel Address	PARCEL TOWN	PARCEL STATE
118	JASON N ABBOTT	45 WEINGART RD	HARWINTON	СТ
121	TIMOTHY DANGELO	59 WEINGART RD	HARWINTON	СТ
124	THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER CO	WEINGART RD	HARWINTON	СТ
125	THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER CO	WEINGART RD	HARWINTON	СТ





1900/1732 LINE - STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Sub-Petition Map Set

08/19/2020 Revised: 05/02/2022 Harwinton, Connecticut

Map Sheet 3 of 12



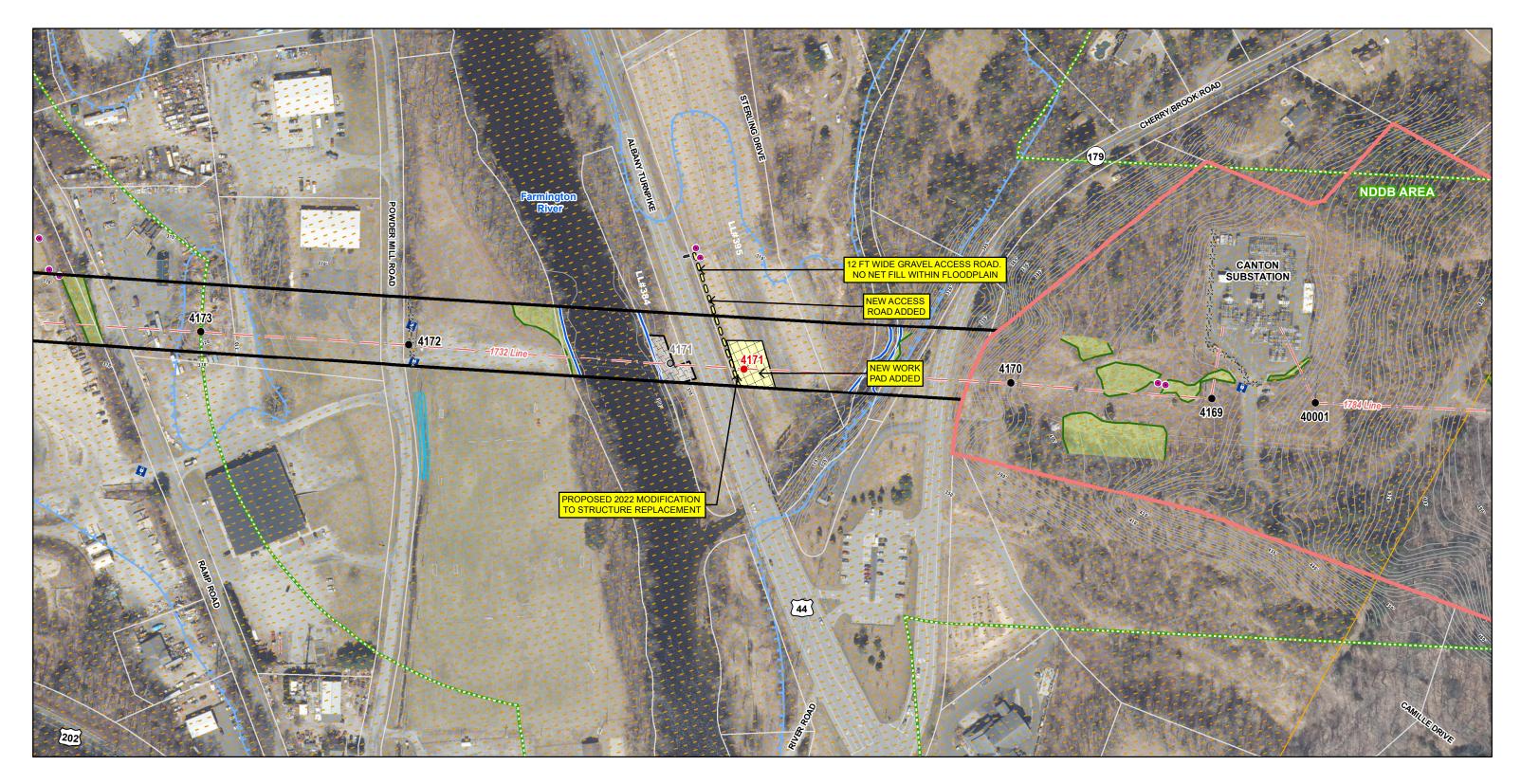


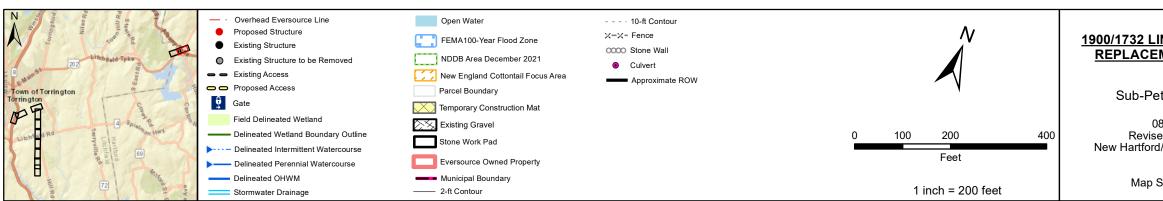
GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Engineers and Scientists www.gza.com

Map Sheet 12 of 12 1900/1732 Line - Structure Replacement Project Sub-Petition Abutter Table

	LINE LIST NO.	OWNER NAME	Parcel Address	PARCEL TOWN	PARC
Γ	384	TOWN OF CANTON	540 ALBANY TURNPIKE	CANTON	СТ
	395	BRISTOLS FARM LLC	541 ALBANY TURNPIKE	CANTON	СТ

ARCEL STATE





1900/1732 LINE - STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Sub-Petition Map Set

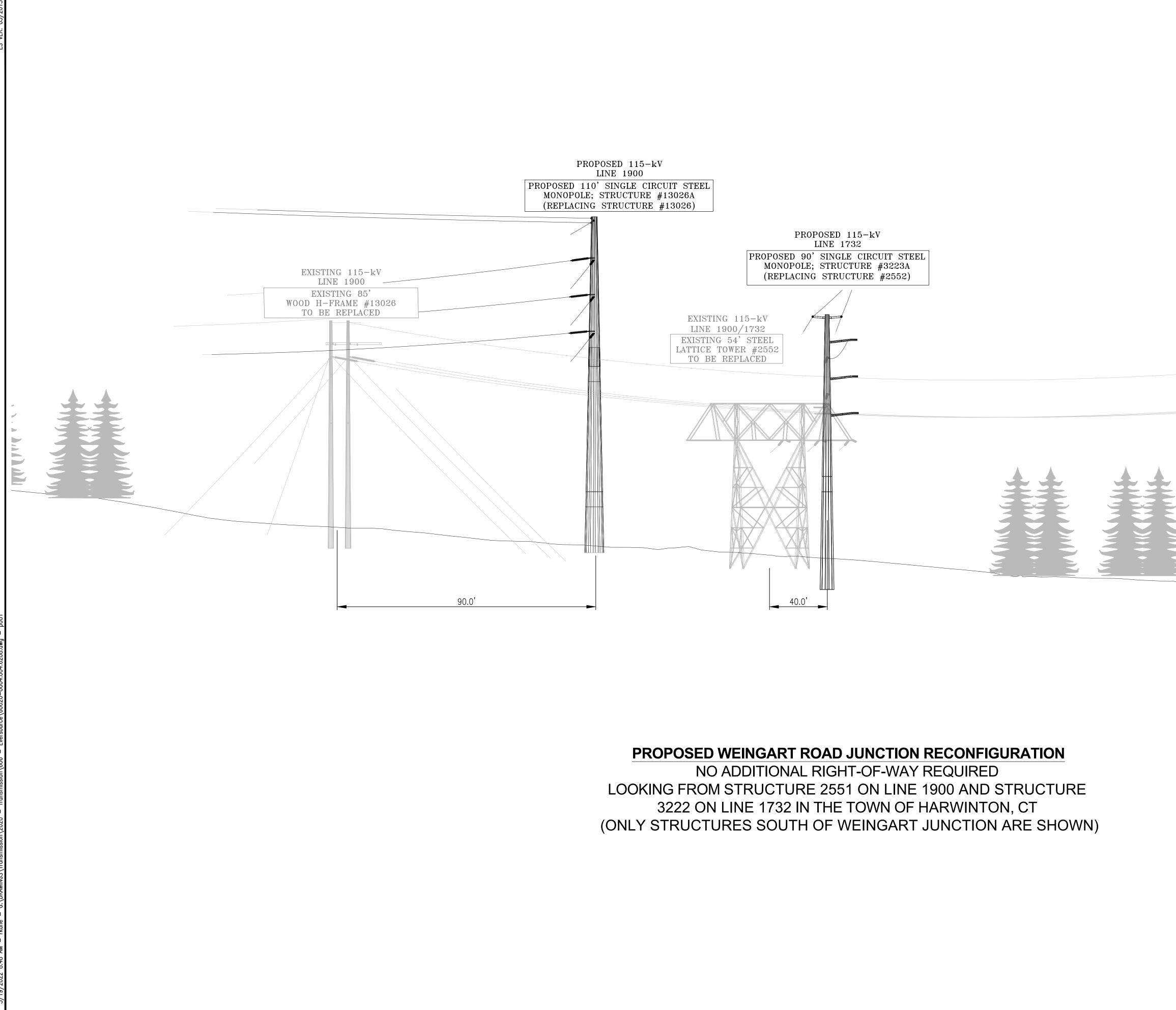
08/19/2020 Revised: 05/02/2022 New Hartford/Canton, Connecticut

Map Sheet 12 of 12



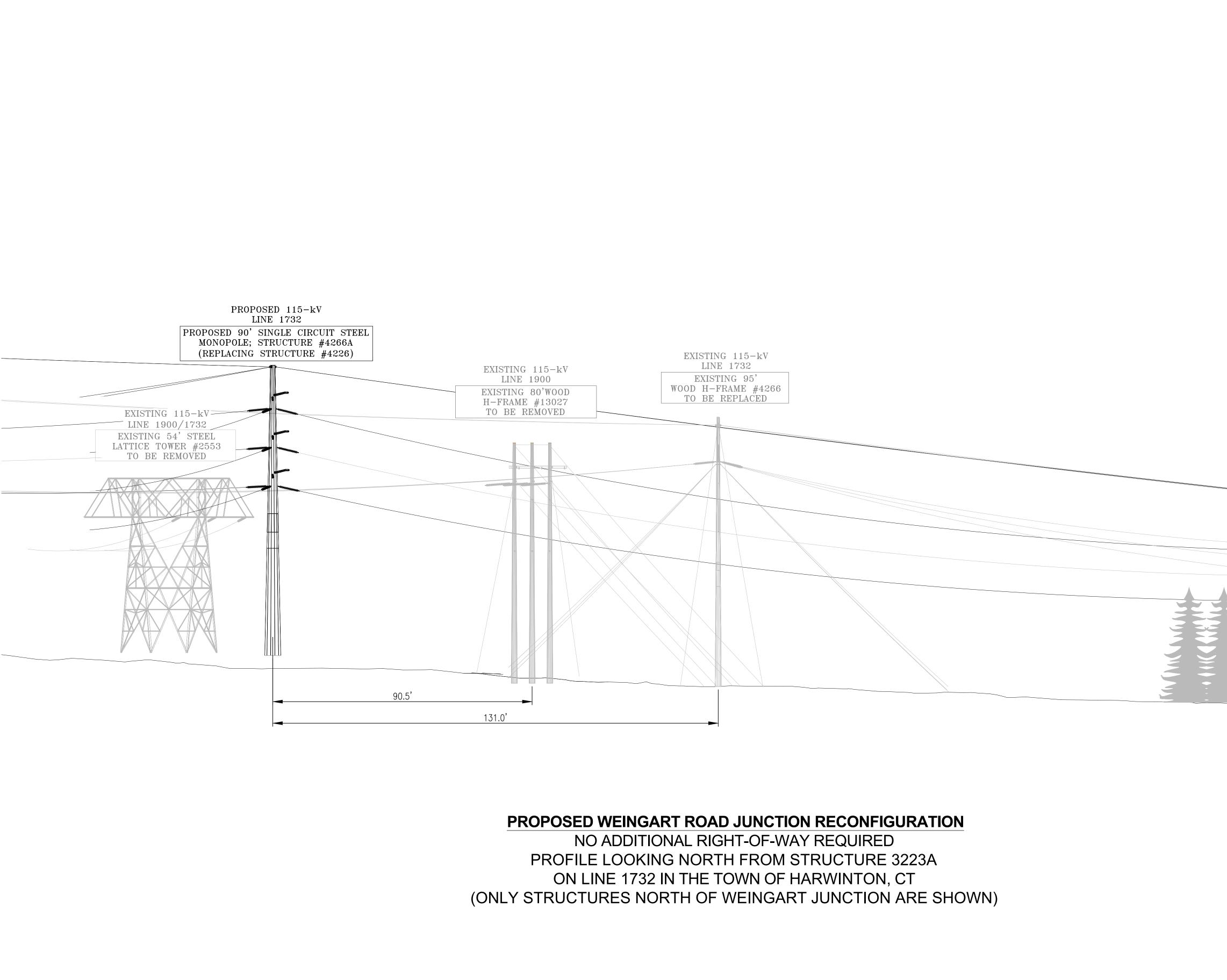


GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Engineers and Scientists www.gza.com

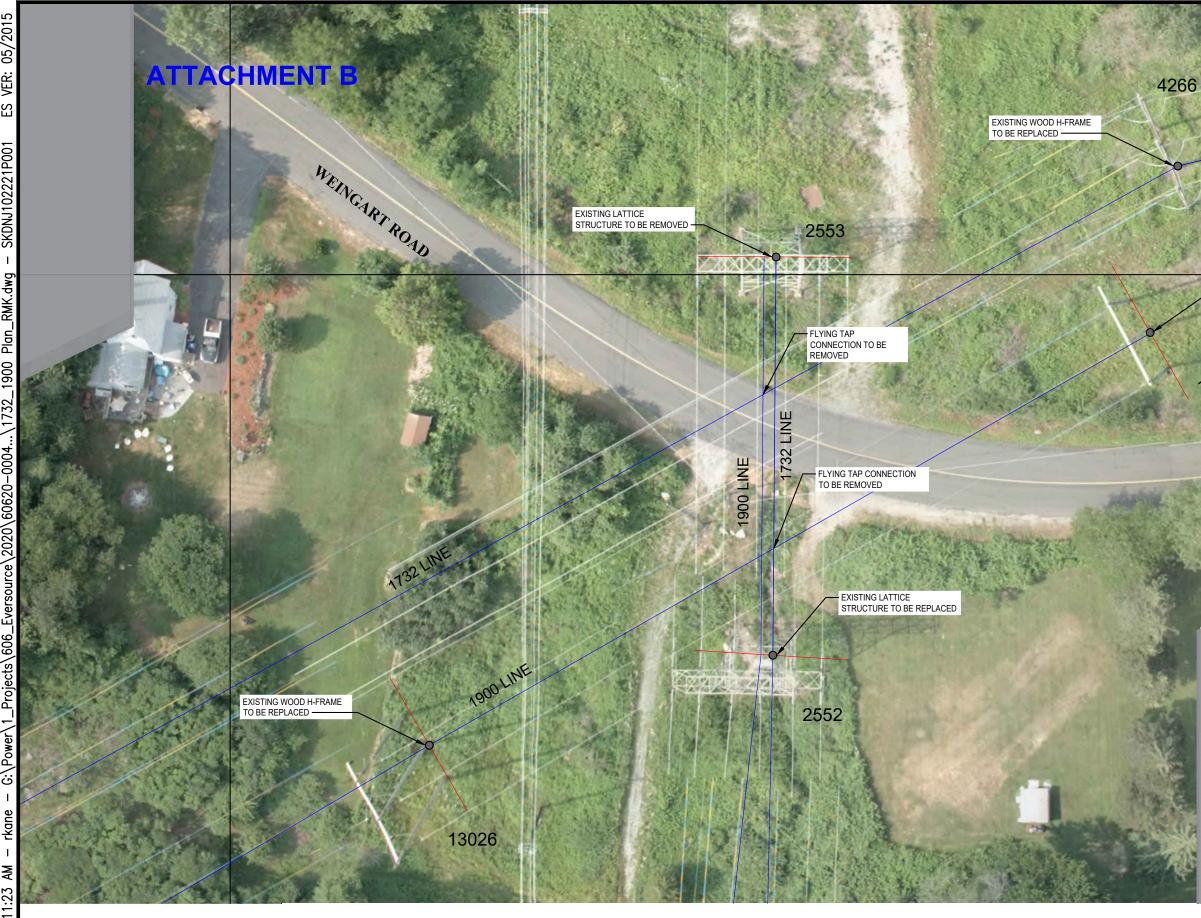


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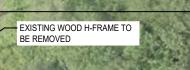




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PROPOSED CONFIGURATION

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	PLAN						
	HARWINTON, CT						
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