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Kathleen M. Shanley

Manager – Transmission Siting Tel: (860) 728-4527

September 1, 2021

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

Re: Sub-Petition No. 1293-PWS -01

Dear Attorney Bachman:

The Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy ("Eversource") is filing the attached Sub-Petition No.1293-PWS-01 with the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council"), regarding maintenance work within its transmission right-of-way in Plymouth, Wolcott, and Southington, Connecticut. The work includes replacing 10 existing wood transmission structures with new weathering steel transmission structures.

Eversource notified the officials of the municipalities of Plymouth, Wolcott, and Southington of Eversource's submission of the Sub-Petition and sent copies of the Sub-Petition to owners of directly abutting properties (see Proof of Notice).

Enclosed please find an original and three (3) copies of this filing.

Please contact me at 860-728-4527 if you have any questions regarding the enclosed Sub-Petition.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Sub-Petition Exhibit B: Photographs

Exhibit C: Maps

Exhibit D: Abutter Letter and Proof of Notice

ATTACHMENT A SUB-PETITION

THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY doing business as <u>EVERSOURCE ENERGY</u>

Sub-Petition

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL — PETITION NO. 1293
TRANSMISSION FACILITY ASSET CONDITION MAINTENANCE
IMPROVEMENTS TO COMPLY WITH THE UPDATED NATIONAL
ELECTRICAL SAFETY CODE CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

Towns: Plymouth, Wolcott, and Southington

Sub-Petition No: 1293-PWS-01

Project: 329 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project

Structure Locations: 10 Transmission Line Structures located in Plymouth, Wolcott, and

Southington, Connecticut

I. <u>Introduction:</u>

In accordance with Condition 1 of the March 30, 2017 ruling by the Connecticut Siting Council (the "Council") (as set forth in the Council's March 31, 2017 letter) regarding Petition No. 1293, The Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy ("Eversource") submits this Sub-Petition.

II. <u>Description of Transmission Work Activities:</u>

Eversource's 329 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project ("Project") is part of an ongoing maintenance program that evaluates the integrity of its utility structures and implements repair, upgrade or replacement in order to ensure the safe and reliable transmission of power to its customers. Due to asset condition, 10 structures require replacement on portions of the 329 Line between a location just east of Spruce Brook Road in Plymouth and a location just north of Amber Road in Southington. The 329 Line, in its entirety, is a 345-killovolt line that extends from Eversource's Frost Bridge Substation in Watertown to Southington Substation in Southington. The 10 replacement structures require an increase in structure height to comply with current clearance requirements.

Eversource plans to conduct transmission structure replacement work to remediate damage caused by structure age, weather, wood decay, and woodpecker activity. The following work ("Work Activities") will be performed:

Replace 10 existing wood H-frame structures with 10 new weathering steel structures.
 Each replacement structure will be of the same design as its corresponding existing structure.

III. No Substantial Adverse Environmental Effect:

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

a) All Work Activities would take place within Eversource's property or existing right-of-way ("ROW") utilizing existing access roads, some new permanent access roads, as well as some temporary access roads (collectively the "Work Areas"). Some of the existing access roads in upland areas would be improved.

Eversource can access nine of the structure replacement locations utilizing its existing rights. However, to reach Structure 8208, which is located along Eversource's ROW in Mattatuck State Forest (Plymouth), Eversource proposes to use an existing access road, portions of which will extend off-ROW through Mattatuck State Forest. To use the off-ROW portions of this road, Eversource has applied to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("CTDEEP") for a Special Use License ("SUL") that would allow access to the ROW from Spruce Brook Road (State Route 262) via the existing road within the state forest. For previous projects in this area, Eversource sought and received SULs from CTDEEP to allow temporary access using this off-ROW road. The use of the road would minimize environmental impacts by avoiding water resources and steep terrain that would otherwise have to be crossed if the construction of an in-ROW access road were required.

b) Collectively, the Work Activities would result in approximately 59,587 square feet ("SF") of temporary wetland impacts from the temporary use of construction mats required for the installation of access roads and work pads for five structures as follows:

Wetland Number	Structure Number	Construction Work Pads Temporary Impacts (SF)	Access Roads Temporary Impacts (SF)
W10	8231	±3,842	0
W12	8231	0	±2,648
W14	8252	±13,702	±270
W15	8253	±11,860	±2.589
W15	8254	±4,865	±3,345
W15	8256	±12,334	±6,718
Sul	ototals:	±46,603	±12,984
TC	OTAL:	±59	,587

Work would be conducted in accordance with Eversource's *Best Management Practices Manual for Massachusetts and Connecticut (Construction and Maintenance Environmental Requirements)*, September 2016 ("BMPs") to avoid impacts to nearby wetland and watercourse resources.

c) No adverse impacts to vernal pools ("VPs") or vernal pool envelopes ("VPEs") are anticipated from the proposed Work Activities. However, a small section of the existing access road to Structure 8208 is located within the VPE associated with VP2 and a portion of the existing access road to Structure 8231 is located within the VPE associated with VP5. Vernal pool species protection measures will be implemented where Work Activities extend into the VPEs. The existing access roads in these areas are established and would not be widened or altered

and vegetation removal would be limited to hand clearing only within the VPEs. With the implementation of these protective measures, no permanent adverse impacts to the VPs or VPEs are anticipated from the proposed Work Activities.

- d) Based on review of the CTDEEP Natural Diversity Database ("NDDB"), the Work Activities associated with the access roads and/or work pads for Structures 8208, 8251, 8252, 8253, 8254, and 8269 are proposed within NDDB buffered areas and wetland jurisdictional areas and/or CTDEEP owned/managed land and therefore are subject to a NDDB review request. Eversource is currently in consultation with CTDEEP regarding the proposed Work Activities in the NDDB areas and will adhere to any state-listed species protection measures recommended by CTDEEP, as necessary. Any recommended measures will be incorporated into Eversource's BMPs during construction. With these protective measures, no adverse impacts to state-listed rare species are anticipated.
- e) The Work Activities will not require any tree clearing. However, Eversource may need to undertake tree trimming and vegetation removal/mowing, as well as some limited tree removal within the existing ROW for conductor clearance and/or to improve access to portions of the Work Areas. Vegetation removal/mowing within the currently maintained ROW will be minimized to the extent practicable to maintain the existing scrub-shrub habitat, while meeting conductor clearance and safe access requirements.
- f) Given the overall limited extent of forest conversion to shrubland, or emergent vegetation, there will be no significant adverse effect to forested habitat.
- g) A Phase 1A assessment review of previously recorded cultural resources on file with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office conducted by Heritage Consultants, LLC ("Heritage") did not identify any National or State Register of Historic Places properties/districts or archeological sites within 500 feet of the Work Areas. Based on a review of historic maps, aerial photographs, and available soil profiles, two of the work pad locations and one access road, were identified to possess a potential for moderate to high archaeological sensitivity. Based on the results of a pedestrian survey all three locations were characterized as having previous disturbance, wet soils, and/or steep slopes. Consequently, Heritage reclassified these areas as no to low sensitivity for having intact archaeological deposits. Therefore, Heritage advised that no further examination is recommended or warranted.
- h) The average height increases of the 10 replacement structures would be approximately 8 feet to comply with current conductor clearance requirements. The heights of the existing structures range from 61 to 88 feet above ground level. The replacement structures will range in height from 70 to 92.5 feet above ground level. Eight of the replacement structures would increase 10 feet or less. Structure 8208 would increase by 22.5 feet for an overall height of 92.5 feet above ground level. Structure 8250 would increase 13.5 feet for an overall height of 83.5 feet above ground level.
- i) Work activities associated with Structure 8256 are partially located within the 100-year flood zone associated with Roaring Brook. Eversource would utilize its BMPs to minimize any impacts to the flood zone by utilizing temporary construction matting and/or by not placing any fill that would increase the elevations of the existing road surfaces or proposed work pad to ensure that the floodplain hydrology would not be adversely affected. With these protective measures and use of the BMPs, no adverse impact to the 100-year flood zone would result from the proposed Work Activities.
- j) Work Areas associated with Structures 8252 and 8253, where the ROW crosses Beecher Road, are located within a portion of the Woodtick Trail, a hiking trail managed by the

Connecticut Forest and Park Association ("CFPA"). During the performance of the Work Activities, Eversource will post construction warning signs along Woodtick Trail near the ROW crossing and will coordinate with CFPA as necessary.

- k) Portions of the Work Areas associated with Structures 8250, 8251, 8252, 8253, 8254 and 8256, located in the Town of Wolcott, are within the Public Water Supply Watershed for the City of New Britain's Shuttle Meadow Reservoir. The Work Activities will not adversely affect the watershed or municipal water supply.
- I) No change in noise levels would result from the installation of the new structures and the applicable line would continue to comply with the State of Connecticut noise regulations.
- m) Any changes in electric and magnetic field levels outside the ROW would be negligible.

IV. <u>Mitigation:</u>

Temporary environmental effects from construction will be mitigated as follows:

- Erosion and sediment controls ("E&S") will be employed and maintained, as needed, for the duration of the Work Activities in accordance with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control and the BMPs.
- No Work Activities will be performed at Structure 8208 until the CTDEEP issues a SUL for the
 use of the existing off-ROW road through Mattatuck State Forest to reach this location.
 Eversource will adhere to the requirements of the SUL for such work.
- Potential impacts to wetlands and watercourses will be mitigated with the use of temporary construction matting and adherence to the BMPs.
- Vernal pool protective measures will be incorporated into Eversource's BMPs during construction, as necessary.
- Any NDDB recommended rare species protective measures will be incorporated into Eversource's BMPs during construction.
- Eversource's contractor will perform construction sequencing such that any earth materials
 are exposed for a minimum amount of time before they are covered, seeded, or otherwise
 stabilized to prevent erosion.
- During construction, when necessary, anti-tracking mats would be installed at construction entrances onto public roads to prevent tracking of soil onto local roads.
- Upon completion of the Work Activities, all disturbed/exposed areas will be stabilized and revegetated as needed. After permanent ground cover is established, Eversource's contractor would remove the temporary E&S controls and remove/dispose of any accumulated sediments and debris from areas where such measures were used.

V. Access:

Some new permanent access roads would be constructed to facilitate access to structures within the ROW and existing access roads in upland areas may be hardened and widened at turning areas to facilitate the safe passage of construction vehicles. Construction matting will be used for temporary access roads within wetlands. The matting will be removed upon completion of the Work Activities and the areas restored, as necessary.

Eversource will access the Work Areas by entering its property and/or the ROW from existing access points on public roads as follows:

Waterbury:

 Spruce Brook Road (State Route 262) for structure 8208. CTDEEP SUL conditions will apply to the use of this road.

Wolcott:

- Spindle Hill Road for structure 8231.
- Woodtick Road for structures 8248, 8250 and 8251.
- Beecher Road for structures 8252, 8253, 8254 and 8256.

Southington:

• West Street (State Route 229) for structure 8269.

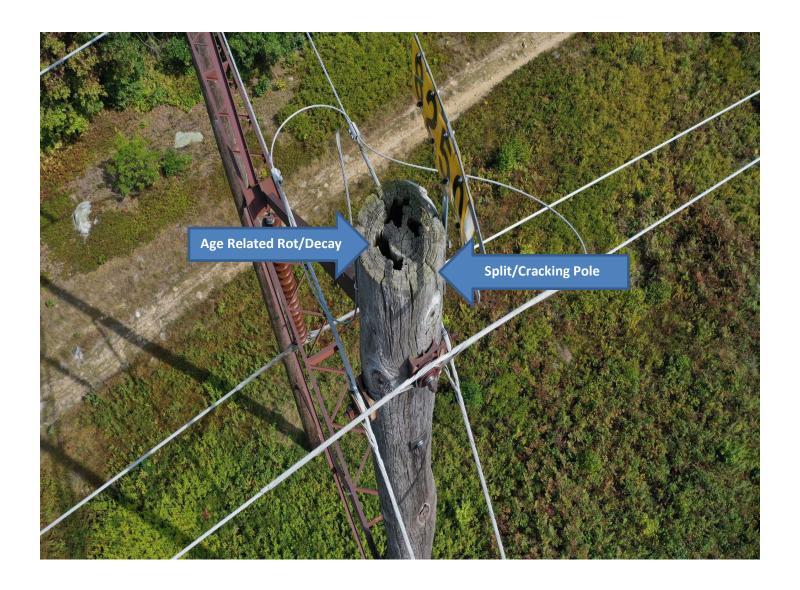
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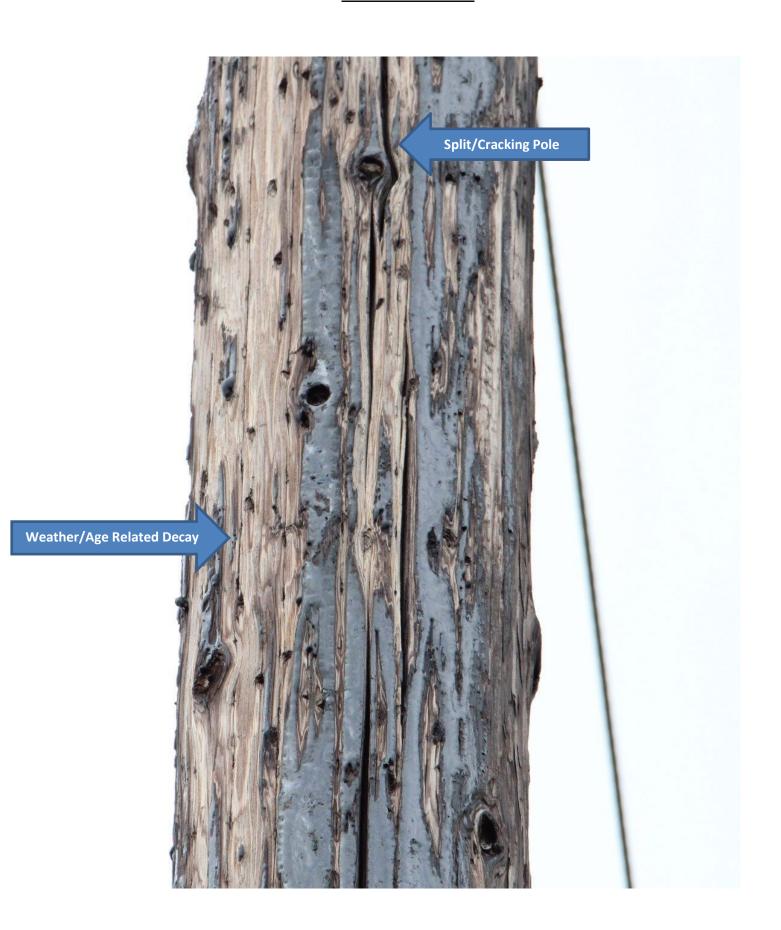
Kathleen M. Shanley

Manager - Transmission Siting

ATTACHMENT B PHOTOGRAPHS







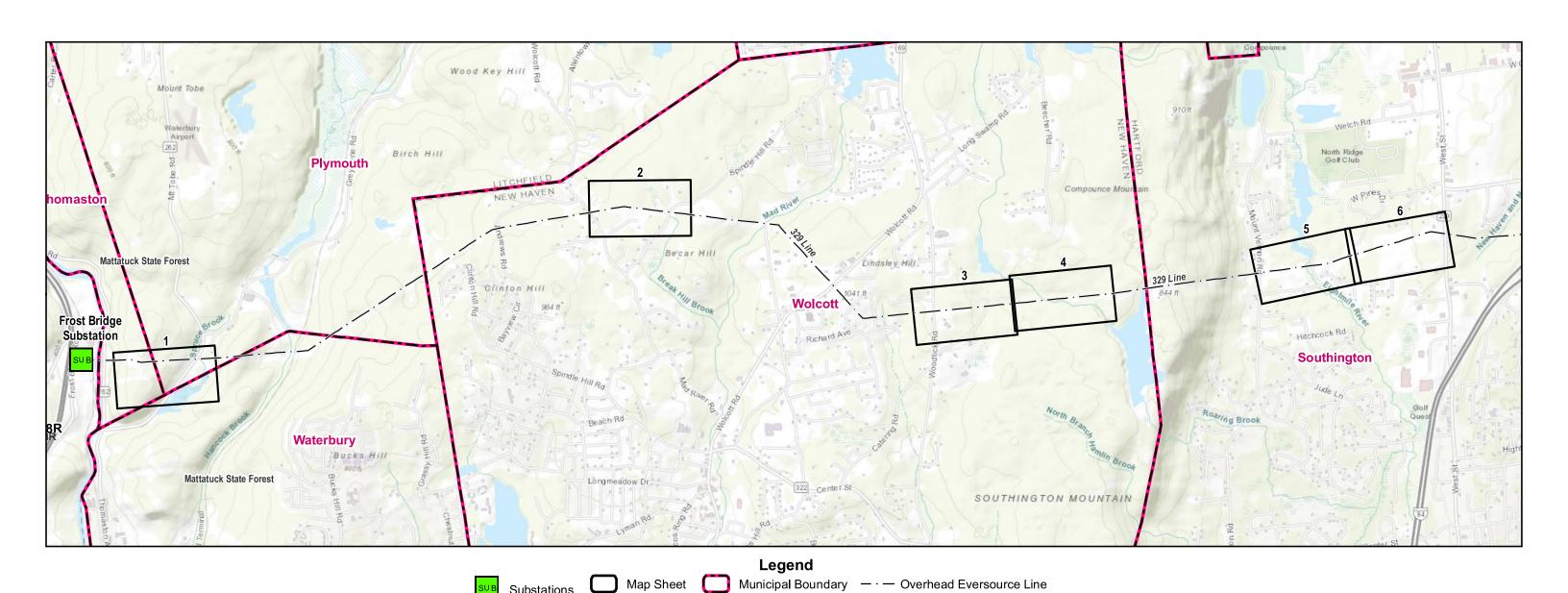


ATTACHMENT C MAPS

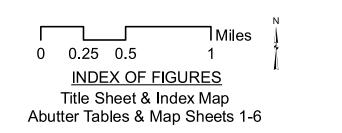
329 Line - Structure Replacement Project

Plymouth, Wolcott, and Southington, CT Sub-Petition Map Set

August 26, 2021



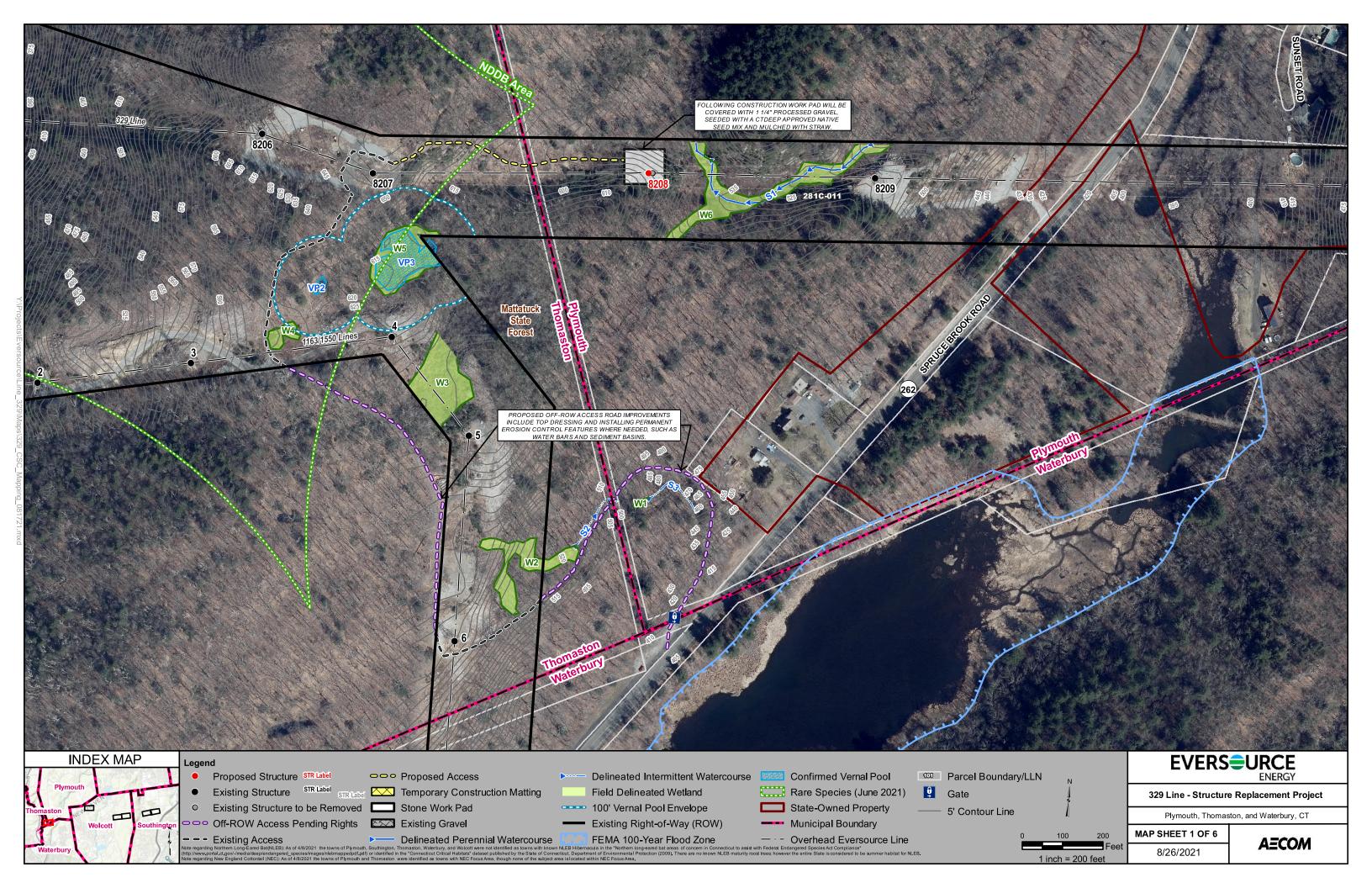






Map Sheet 1 of 6 329 Line - Structure Replacement Project Project Abutters List

Line List Number	Owner Name	Parcel Address	Town	State
281C-011	STATE OF CONNECTICUT	446 MT TOBE ROAD	PLYMOUTH	CT



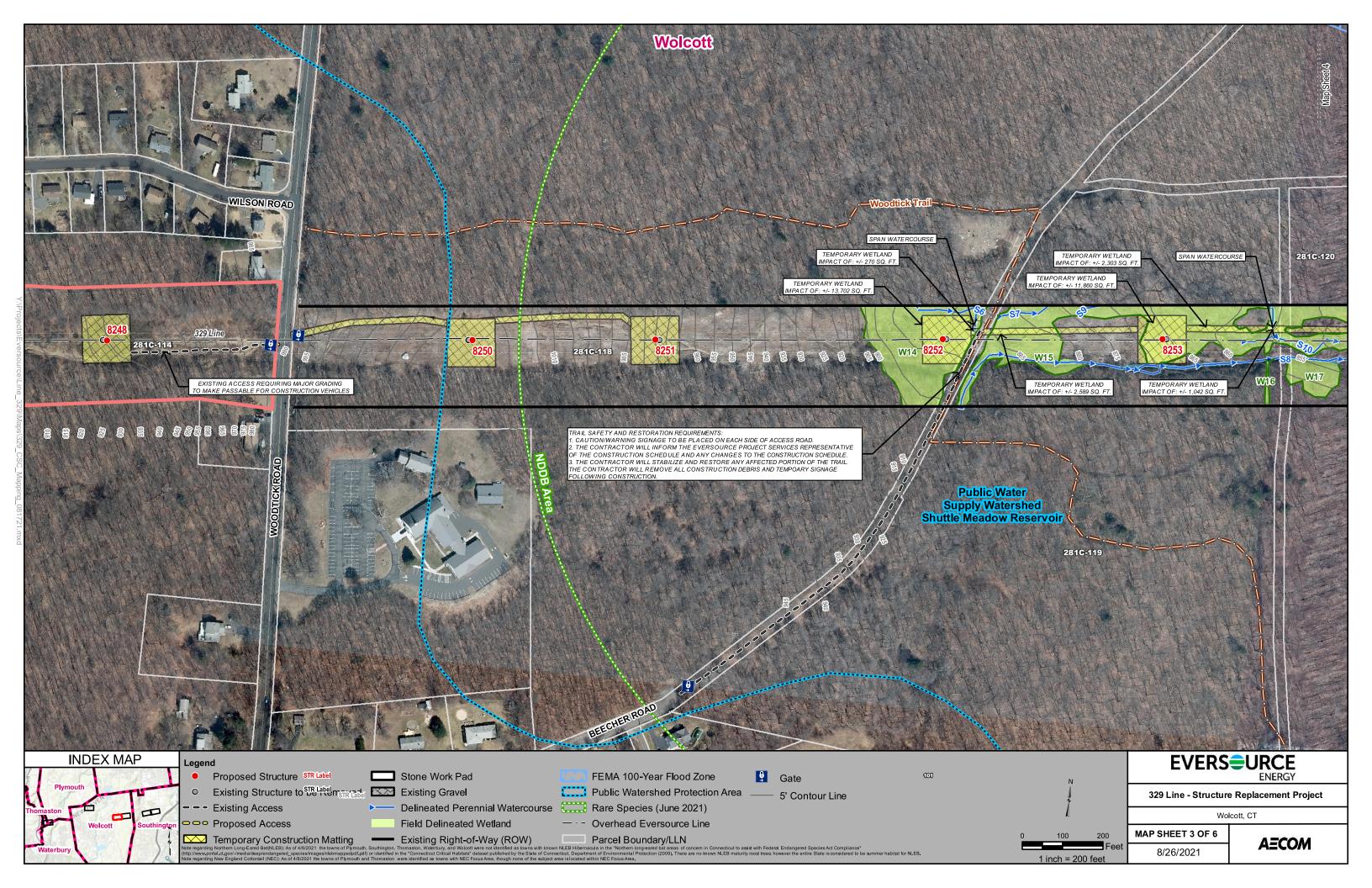
Map Sheet 2 of 6 329 Line - Structure Replacement Project Project Abutters List

Line List Number	Owner Name	Parcel Address	Town	State
281C-058	KENNETH L JR & SUSAN L PICCOLO	929 SPINDLE HILL ROAD	WOLCOTT	CT
281C-059	KENNETH W POND	31 BEACON HILL BOULEVARD	WOLCOTT	CT
281C-060	JASON & JOHNNA L CHIN	37 BEACON HILL BOULEVARD	WOLCOTT	CT



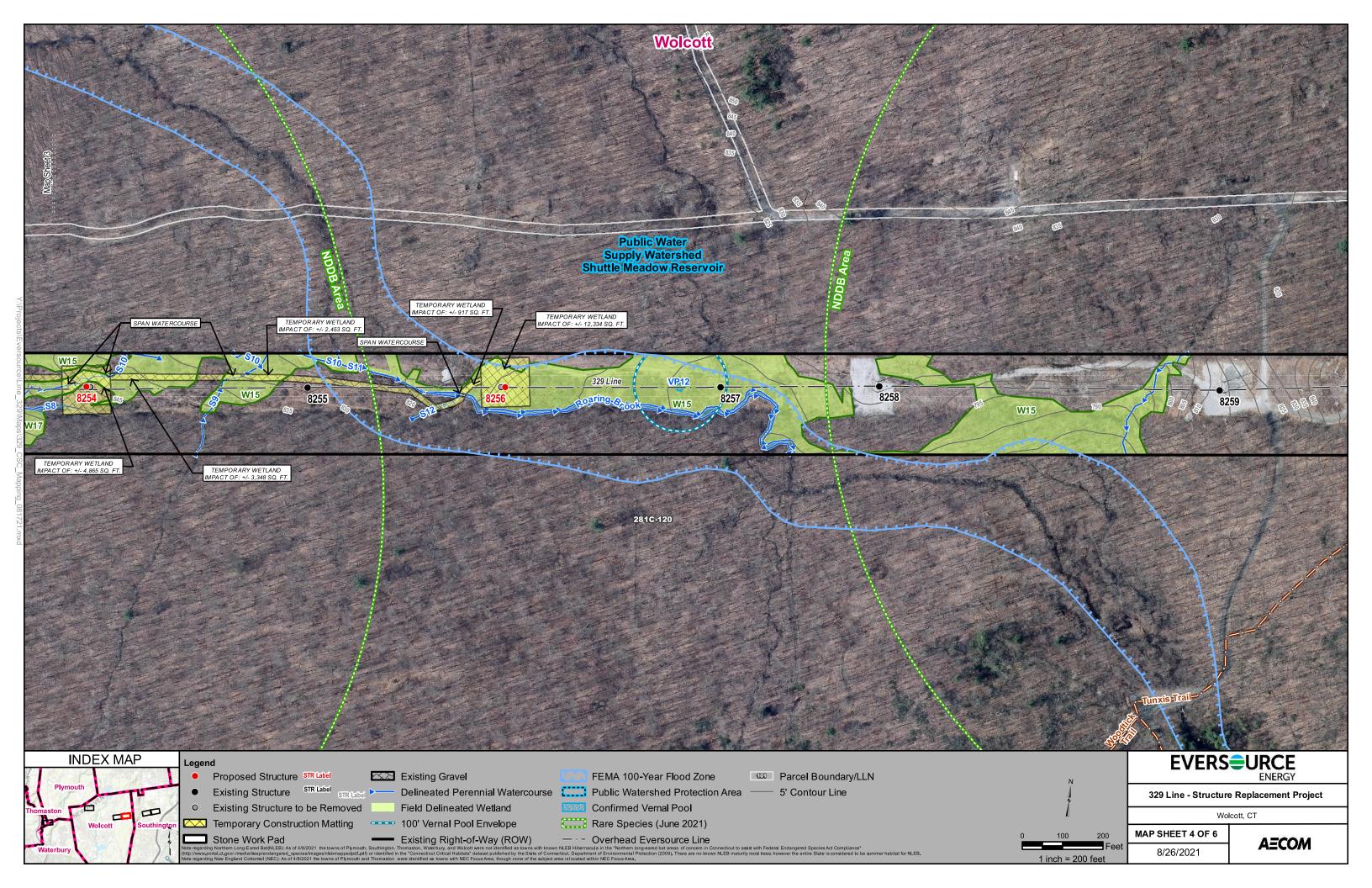
Map Sheet 3 of 6 329 Line - Structure Replacement Project Project Abutters List

Line List Number	Owner Name	Parcel Address	Town	State
281C-114	CONN LIGHT & POWER CO	WOODTICK ROAD	WOLCOTT	CT
281C-118	TOWN OF NEW BRITAIN WATER DEPT	WOODTICK ROAD	WOLCOTT	CT
281C-119	TOWN OF NEW BRITAIN WATER DEPT	BEECHER ROAD	WOLCOTT	CT



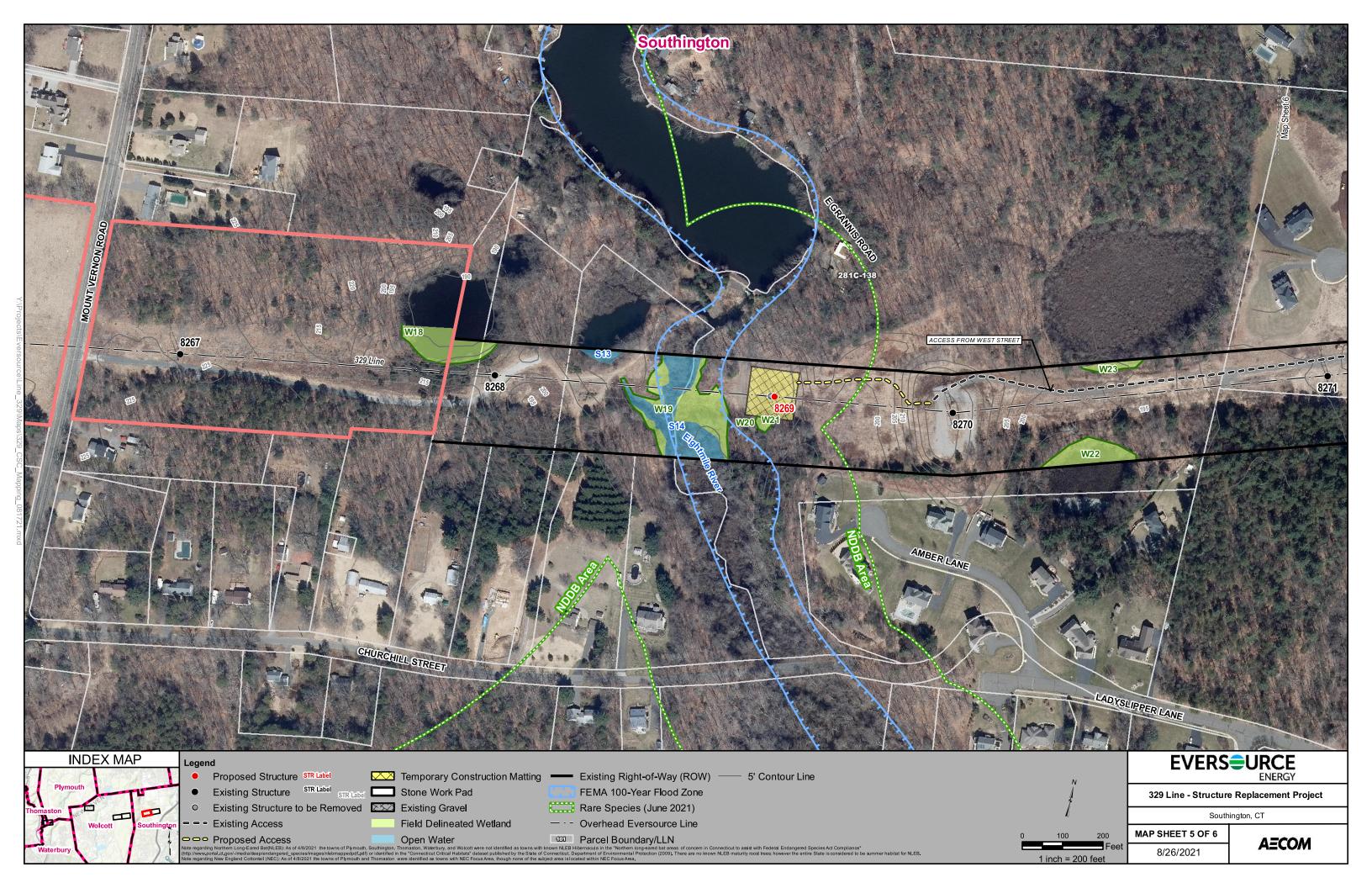
Map Sheet 4 of 6 329 Line - Structure Replacement Project Project Abutters List

Line List Number	Owner Name	Parcel Address	Town	State
281C-120	TOWN OF NEW BRITAIN WATER DEPT	NEW BRITAIN RESERVOIR	WOLCOTT	CT



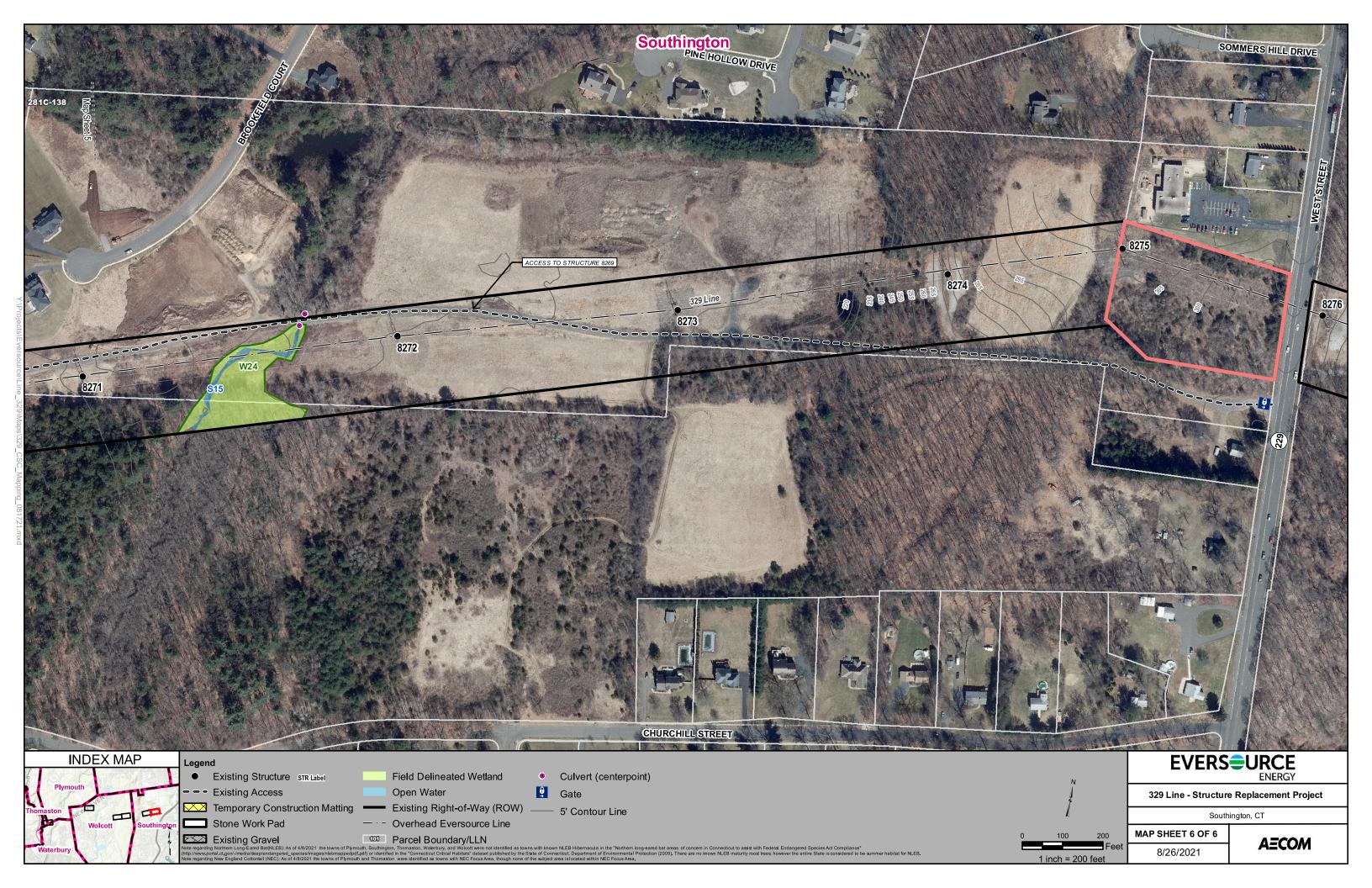
Map Sheet 5 of 6 329 Line - Structure Replacement Project Project Abutters List

Line List Number	Owner Name	Parcel Address	Town	State
281C-138	FORESTVILLE FISHING CLUB INC	433 CHURCHILL STREET	SOUTHINGTON	CT



Map Sheet 6 of 6 329 Line - Structure Replacement Project Project Abutters List

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NO ABUTTERS TO JURISDICTIONAL WORK AREAS



ATTACHMENT D ABUTTER LETTER AND PROOF OF NOTICE



September 1, 2021

Dear Neighbor,

As part of our everyday effort to deliver reliable energy to our customers and communities, we're planning work in your area to replace electric transmission structures. Maintaining the infrastructure that supports the electric lines is one of the ways Eversource ensures the safe, secure transmission of electricity throughout the region.

You're receiving this letter and a copy of the Sub-Petition because the proposed work would be taking place within the Eversource right of way on or near your property in Plymouth, Wolcott and Southington. A Sub-Petition is a document with detailed information about the proposed upgrades. Eversource is submitting Sub-Petition No. 1293-PWS-01 this week to the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) for its review and approval.

Please know that Eversource remains committed to prioritizing public health as well as the health of employees and contractors. All Eversource personnel follow applicable health and safety guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

About This Electric System Improvement: What You Can Expect

First, we want you to know that this work will not interrupt electric service to your property.

As part of this project, we are proposing to replace 10 wood structures due to structure age, weather, and/or woodpecker activity. The new structures will comply with current clearance requirements and provide continued reliability of the transmission system.

Connecticut Siting Council Process and Timing

With this letter, Eversource is providing notice to you of its proposed work activity, as described in the enclosed Sub-Petition. If you have any comments or concerns about the project, please send them to the CSC at the following address within 30 days of the date of this letter: Melanie Bachman, Acting Executive Director; Connecticut Siting Council; Ten Franklin Square; New Britain, CT 06051. You may also email them to the siting.council@ct.gov. If you choose to send comments to the CSC, please reference Sub-Petition No. 1293-PWS-01 in your correspondence.

Our Commitment to You

We are committed to be a good neighbor and doing our work with respect for you and your property. If you would like more information about this work, please call 1-800-793-2202 or send an email to ProjectInfo@eversource.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Everton Robinson

Everton Robinson Eversource Project Manager

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF NOTICE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
) ss. Hartford
COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

In accordance with Condition 2 of the Connecticut Siting Council's ("Council") March 31, 2017 declaratory ruling on Petition No. 1293, I hereby certify that on September 1, 2021, I caused notice of the proposed maintenance activities including a copy of the Sub-Petition No.1293-PWS-01 of The Connecticut Light and Power Company dba Eversource Energy ("Eversource") to be served on the municipalities listed below and 8 abutters. The notice of the proposed maintenance activities states that comments or concerns regarding the maintenance activities described in the Sub-Petition should be submitted to the Council within 30 days of the date of such notice.

Municipal Officials:

Town of Plymouth David V. Merchant, Mayor Town Hall, 80 Main Street Terryville, CT 06786

Town of Wolcott Thomas G. Dunn, Mayor 10 Kenea Avenue Wolcott, CT 06716

Town of Southington Mark J. Sciota, Town Manager 75 Main Street Southington, CT 06489

James Smith

James L. Smith Project Siting Specialist

On this the <u>1st</u> day of Septembert 2021, before me, the undersigned representative, personally appeared, James L. Smith, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

Signature

Officer of the Superior Court /Juris No. 413393

andre W. Lol