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Kathleen M. Shanley

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September 25, 2020

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

Re: Sub-Petition No. 1293-SO-02: 1394/1976 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project,

Amendment

Dear Attorney Bachman:

On May 6, 2020, the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") issued a ruling that the subject Project would not have an adverse environmental effect and would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

Since the time of the Council's ruling, Eversource has identified one additional transmission structure on the 1394/1976 Line, Structure 7902A, that requires replacement due to asset condition. Eversource plans to conduct the transmission structure replacement work ("Work Activities") to remediate structure damage caused by age, weather, and woodpecker activity. The wood monopole structure will be replaced with a light duty weathering steel structure of the same design. The replacement structure will be raised in height by 4.5 feet to comply with current conductor clearance requirements. Work Activities would take place within Eversource's existing right-of-way ("ROW") utilizing an existing access road, (the "Work Area"). See revised Attachment C; "1394/1976 Line - Structure Replacement Project", (map sheet 2), dated March 12, 2020, revision September 16, 2020.

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

Work Activities associated with structure 7902A will not result in any additional wetland impacts and there are no vernal pools or vernal pool envelopes located in the Work Area. Temporary environmental effects from construction will be mitigated using appropriate erosion and sediment controls ("E&S") in accordance with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control and Eversource's Best Management Practices Manual for Massachusetts and Connecticut (Construction and Maintenance Environmental Requirements), dated September 2016.

Work activities associated with Structure 7902A are partially located within the mapped 100-year flood zone associated with the Scantic River and entirely within the floodway associated with the Scantic River. Eversource would utilize its BMPs to minimize any impacts to the flood zone and floodway by utilizing temporary construction matting and/or by not placing any fill that would increase the elevations of the existing or proposed road surfaces or work pads to ensure that the floodplain and floodway hydrology would not be adversely affected. With these protective measures and the use of the BMPs, no adverse impact to the 100-year flood zone and floodway will result from the proposed Work Activities.

Upon completion of the Work Activities, all disturbed/exposed areas would be stabilized and revegetated. After the establishment of permanent ground cover, Eversource's contractor would remove temporary E&S controls and remove/dispose of any accumulated sediments and debris from areas where such measures were used.

Based on review of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's ("CTDEEP") Natural Diversity Database ("NDDB"), the Work Activities associated with the work pad for Structure 7902A is proposed within a NDDB buffered area and wetland jurisdictional area and therefore was subject to a NDDB review request. Eversource submitted an NDDB review request to CTDEEP on June 22, 2020 and received a response from CTDEEP on August 12, 2020 with recommendations for the protection of rare species potentially present. The recommended protection measures have been accepted by Eversource and will be incorporated into the Company's BMPs, project plans and construction activities. With these protection measures, no adverse impacts to state-listed rare species are anticipated.

A Phase 1A assessment 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. Based on a review of historic maps, aerial photographs, and available soil profiles, the proposed access and work pad location associated with Structure 7902A was identified as having no to low archaeological sensitivity, therefore, Heritage advised that no further examination is recommended or warranted.

The Work Activities will not require any tree clearing. However, Eversource may need to undertake tree trimming and/or vegetation removal/mowing within the managed ROW corridor to improve access to the Work Area.

No change in noise levels would result from installation of the new structure. Any changes in electric and magnetic field levels off the ROW would be negligible.

Prior to submitting this amendment an Eversource representative briefed officials in the town Somers concerning the project modifications. In addition, Eversource provided the abutter with a written notice of the filing of the Amendment.

Eversource would access the Work Area by entering its ROW from an existing access point off Durkee Road in Somers.

Eversource herewith respectfully requests approval for the requested change. Per the Council's instructions in response to COVID-19, Eversource is submitting this filing electronically and will be providing one hard copy for the Council's records. Should you, the Council members or Council staff have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at kathleen.shanley@eversource.com or telephone at (860) 728-4527.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Shanley

Manager - Transmission Siting

Enclosure

Attachment: Revised Sub-Petition Map Sheet 2

ATTACHMENT

