



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051
Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950
E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov
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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 28, 2020

Kathleen M. Shanley
Eversource Energy
56 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06103
kathleen.shanley@eversource.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1414** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed replacement of an existing 25.5-foot wall-mounted steel pipe-mast with a new 34-foot wall-mounted galvanized steel pipe mast and associated radio communications equipment located at its East Windsor Area Work Center, 112 Prospect Hill Road, East Windsor, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting held on August 27, 2020, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the above-referenced proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50k, would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need with the following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable.
3. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the Town of East Windsor.
4. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, the existing pipe-mast structure shall be removed within 180 days of the installation of the new pipe-mast structure;

5. The Council shall be notified in writing within 45 days of when the existing pipe-mast structure is removed and the new pipe-mast structure is operational unless a written request for an extension is submitted to the Council within that timeframe;
6. Any nonfunctioning antenna and associated antenna mounting equipment on this facility owned and operated by the Petitioner shall be removed within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function;
7. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v;
8. If the facility ceases to provide wireless services for a period of one year the Petitioner shall dismantle the tower and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council within 90 days from the one year period of cessation of service. The Petitioner may submit a written request to the Council for an extension of the 90 day period not later than 60 days prior to the expiration of the 90 day period;
9. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided the facility owner/operator/transferor is current with payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v and the transferee provides written confirmation that the transferee agrees to comply with the terms, limitations and conditions contained in the Declaratory Ruling, including timely payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v; and
10. If the facility owner/operator is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation or other entity and is sold/transferred to another corporation or other entity, the Council shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition dated June 17, 2020.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Sincerely,

s/ Melanie A. Bachman

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/CMW/emr

Enclosure: Staff Report dated August 27, 2020

c: The Honorable Jason E. Bowsza, First Selectman, Town of East Windsor
(jbowsza@eastwindsorct.com)



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Petition No. 1414
Eversource - Tower Replacement
112 Prospect Hill Road, East Windsor

Staff Report
August 27, 2020

On June 17, 2020, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed replacement of an existing wall-mounted pipe mast and associated radio communications equipment located at its East Windsor Area Work Center located at 112 Prospect Hill Road in East Windsor, Connecticut.

On July 16, 2010, the Council issued a declaratory ruling in Petition No. 952 to The Connecticut Light and Power Company for the installation of a 25.5 foot wall-mounted steel pipe-mast attached to the wall of the work center building. The bottom of the existing pipe-mast is approximately 10 feet above ground level (agl) with the top of the existing pipe-mast extending to a height of 35.5 feet agl.

Eversource is currently in the process of reconfiguring its communications system throughout the state that will allow an upgrade from the current analog voice radio communications system, which is obsolete, to a digital voice communications system. The new system would allow voice communications under all operating conditions including emergency and storm restoration activities as well as the remote control of distribution safety equipment.

The Eversource work center is an approximately 19-foot building located on an approximately 13.5 acre parcel owned by Eversource. Eversource proposes to replace the existing wall-mounted pipe mast with a new pipe mast to support an additional 24-foot 3-inch omnidirectional antenna. The two existing antennas would be relocated to the replacement pipe-mast. The top of the replacement pipe-mast would extend to a height of 34 feet agl. The proposed antenna would extend to a height of 52 feet agl.

All cabling would follow the same route as the existing cabling. All equipment would be located within the work center building.

The proposed structure would be located entirely on the façade of the existing building with no ground disturbance anticipated. No wetlands or watercourses are located near the proposed work. The nearest wetland is approximately 385 feet southeast of the proposed construction activities.

The proposed project is not expected to have an adverse effect on wildlife or vegetation. The nearest Important Bird Area is Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, which is 3.5 miles west of the site. The nearest Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database buffer area is approximately 0.4 mile to the north. The northern long-eared bat (NLEB) is a State of Connecticut-listed endangered and federally-listed threatened species. The NLEB's range encompasses the entire state. There are no known occupied maternity roost trees within 150 feet of the site and there is no known NLEB hibernaculum within 0.25 mile of the site. Additionally, installation of the proposed facility would not require the removal of any trees.

The proposed facility is not expected to have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area. The work center building is screened from Prospect Hill Road by mixed deciduous trees. Views from the commercial areas near Prospect Hill Road and Route 140 are not expected to change significantly due to the slim profile of the omnidirectional antenna proposed. See Figures 2 and 3, attached.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the proposed replacement structure would be structurally adequate to support the proposed loading. The maximum cumulative worst-case power density would be 14.3 percent of the applicable limit.

No new access would be necessary because the site is paved and has existing access already. Radio equipment and electric power supply connections would be inside the existing work center building.

No commercial child day care facilities are located within one mile of the proposed facility. The nearest school is Lincoln Technical Institute, which is located approximately 0.39 mile southeast of the site. No historic properties listed or deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were identified within a half mile radius. The nearest property listed on the National Register of Historic Places is St. John's Episcopal Church located 0.65 mile west of the facility.

The design of the pipe-mast would comply with the United States Fish and Wildlife Guidelines for Minimizing Impacts to Migratory Birds. The proposed facility requires registration with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA determined the facility would present no hazard to air navigation as long as FAA Form 7460-2 is submitted to the FAA within five days after construction reaches its greatest height.

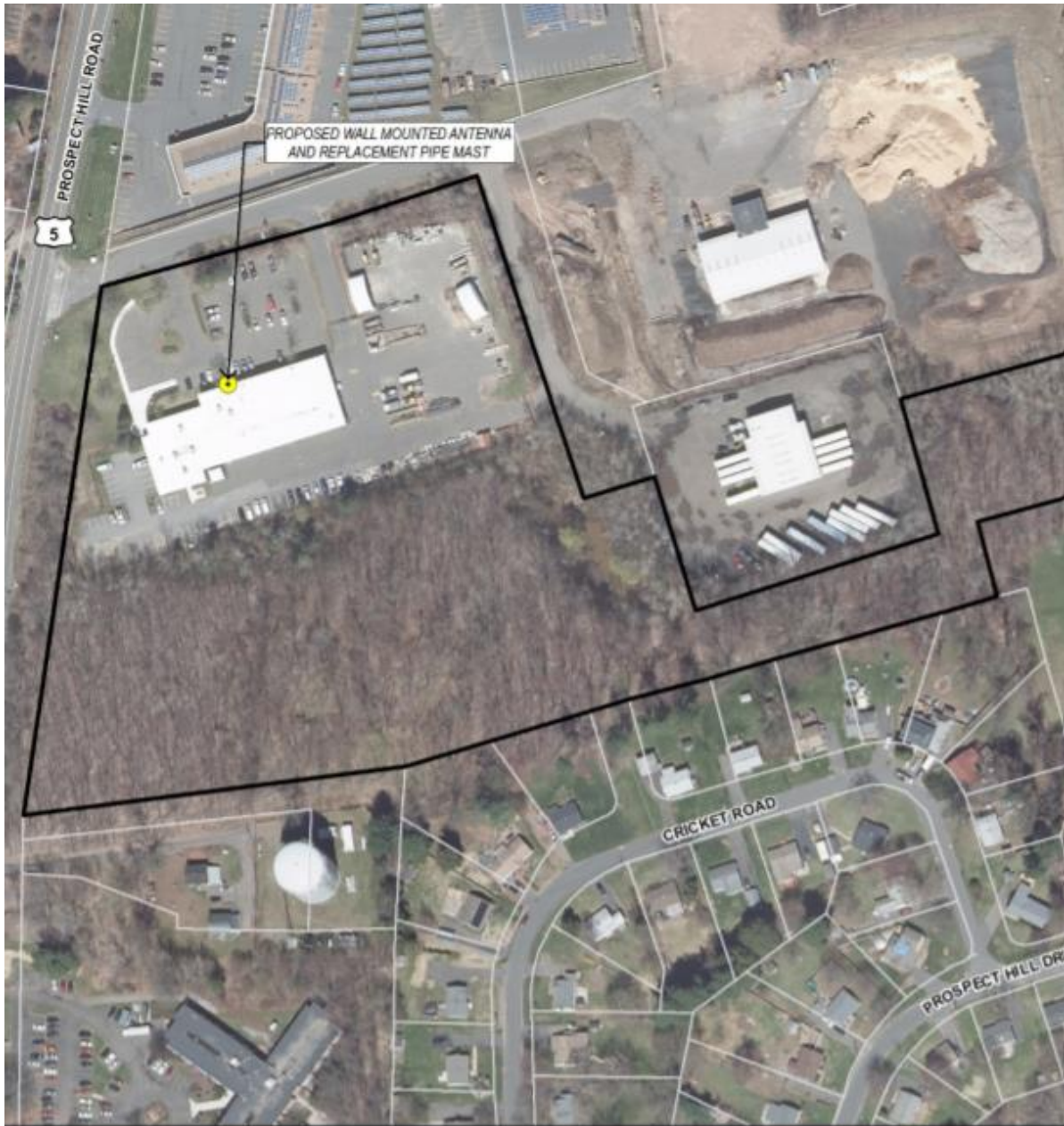
No noise would be emitted beyond the site boundaries. All equipment would be located within the building; therefore, noise emissions would be consistent with current levels.




Notice was provided to the Town of East Windsor, government officials and abutting property owners on or about June 12, 2020. No comments have been received.

If approved, construction would begin as soon as possible and would take approximately two weeks. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

If approved, staff recommends the following condition:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff.



- Legend**
-  Proposed Wall Mounted Antenna and Replacement Pipe Mast
 -  Subject Property
 -  Approximate Parcel Boundary



**Figure 2
Site Schematic**
Proposed Communications Facility
East Windsor AWC
112 Prospect Hill Road
East Windsor, CT

Figure 1. Site location.



Figure 2. Existing facility



Figure 3. Proposed facility