



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

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

December 30, 2022

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1486** – The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed 400/500 Lines Rebuild Project consisting of the upgrade of the existing No. 400 69-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line to 115-kV and the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along 8.6 miles of the existing No. 400 electric transmission line within existing Eversource electric transmission line right-of-way between Ledyard Junction in Ledyard and Tunnel Substation in Preston; and the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 4.9 miles of the existing No. 500 69-kV electric transmission line within existing Eversource electric transmission line right-of-way between Hallville Junction in Ledyard and Tunnel Substation in Preston Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements.

Dear Kathleen Shanley:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated December 29, 2022 regarding project changes for the above-referenced declaratory ruling issued by the Council on May 13, 2022, as follows:

- a. Install a temporary structure between existing Structures 7064 and 7064A (to be removed) in Ledyard to maintain the construction schedule and to complete work within an outage window, in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Permitting with these agencies is under review for Project-related disturbance to a previously unidentified Atlantic White Cedar Swamp (AWCS) partially in the right-of-way, adjacent to proposed replacement Structure 7064.
- b. Reconfigure the temporary access road within the right-of-way between Structures 7064 and 7065 to avoid the AWCS. This relocation would add approximately 3,200 square feet of construction matting for the temporary access road within a wetland area. The new section of road would be located approximately 75 feet east of the previously approved route.
- c. Modify the temporary construction mat at the Structures 7064 and 7064A work area to avoid removal of several Atlantic White Cedar trees.
- d. The temporary structure would be replaced with the permanent Structure 7064 upon completion of permitting requirements and during a scheduled outage in mid-2023.

Pursuant to Condition No. 1 of the Council's May 13, 2022 Declaratory Ruling, the specified requests for project changes are hereby approved. This approval applies only to the project changes in the correspondence dated December 30, 2022.

Please be advised that deviations from the standards established by the Council in the Declaratory Ruling are enforceable under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50u.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melanie A. Bachman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

c: The Honorable Fred Allyn III, Mayor, Town of Ledyard (mayor@ledyardct.org)
Andrew Lord, Project Siting Specialist, Eversource Energy (andrew.lord@eversource.com)
Deborah Denfeld, Eversource Energy deborah.denfeld@eversource.com



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

Deborah Denfeld
Team Lead - Transmission Siting
Tel: (860) 728-4654

December 29, 2022

Melanie Bachman,
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin
Square
New Britain,
CT 06051

Re: Petition No.1486: 400/500 Line Rebuild Project
Request for Temporary Project Changes

Dear Ms. Bachman:

Eversource Energy ("Eversource") is requesting approval from Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") staff for the following modifications (Refer to Attachment) to Petition No. 1486:

1. Add an approximately 200 feet long section of temporary construction matting for an access road within the right-of-way between Structures 7064 and 7065. The new section would be located approximately 75 feet east of the proposed route (refer to the attached drawings). The proposed relocation of the access road will result in an additional 3,200 square feet (approximately) of temporary impacts to the scrub/shrub wetland (W-15).
2. Install a temporary 85 feet tall steel pole that will be supported above grade with concrete support blocks and guy wires. The temporary structure would be approximately the same height as the proposed permanent structure.

Condition 3 of the Council's approval of Petition No. 1486, dated May 13, 2022, requires Eversource to submit a copy of the Water Quality Certificate ("WQC") from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") prior to commencement of construction within a "special wetland" area containing Atlantic White Cedar trees, a protected species. This area of Atlantic White Cedar trees near Structures 7064 and 7064A, was not mapped on the DEEP's Natural Diversity Database Maps and was not depicted on the petition mapping but was discovered during site reconnaissance (see response to the Council's interrogatory CSC-004). The WQC is required to comply with the terms of the Army Corps of Engineers ("ACOE") Self-Verification/Pre-construction Notification permitting process and the ACOE cannot

authorize the proposed activities until it receives the WQC from DEEP. DEEP has not yet issued the WQC and does not expect to do so until January 22, 2023, at the earliest.

Eversource is working within an outage window that ends on February 7, 2023. If the WQC is issued on January 22, 2023, Eversource will not have sufficient time to complete the proposed work within the outage window. The required work includes:

- removing select trees;
- preparing the work pad;
- drilling the foundation;
- erecting the new structure; and,
- pulling a one-mile segment of replacement conductors and fiber optic ground wires.

This project is one component of the collective Eversource Eastern Connecticut Reliability Solution (“ECT Solution”) and the construction must be performed during outages that are scheduled in coordination with CONVEX, Groton Utilities, and other components of the ECT Solution. Consequently, Eversource’s ability to complete the proposed work during the current outage is essential to completing the ECT Solution by July 2023, as required by ISO-New England.

Eversource environmental personnel have discussed this proposed temporary solution with DEEP and ACOE and both agencies have agreed to allow the temporary relocation of the access road and the erection of the temporary structure within the area subject to the WQC, provided that no Atlantic White Cedar trees are removed until the WQC is issued. If the Council approves the proposed modifications, the temporary structure and access road would be constructed. Once the temporary structure is erected, the temporary access road would be removed. Following the issuance of the WQC and the ACOE authorization, the originally proposed access road would be constructed, the permanent replacement structure would be installed, and the temporary structure would be removed. This work would need to be completed during a future outage, which has yet to be scheduled, but it would likely be in the second half of 2023.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Denfeld".

Deborah Denfeld

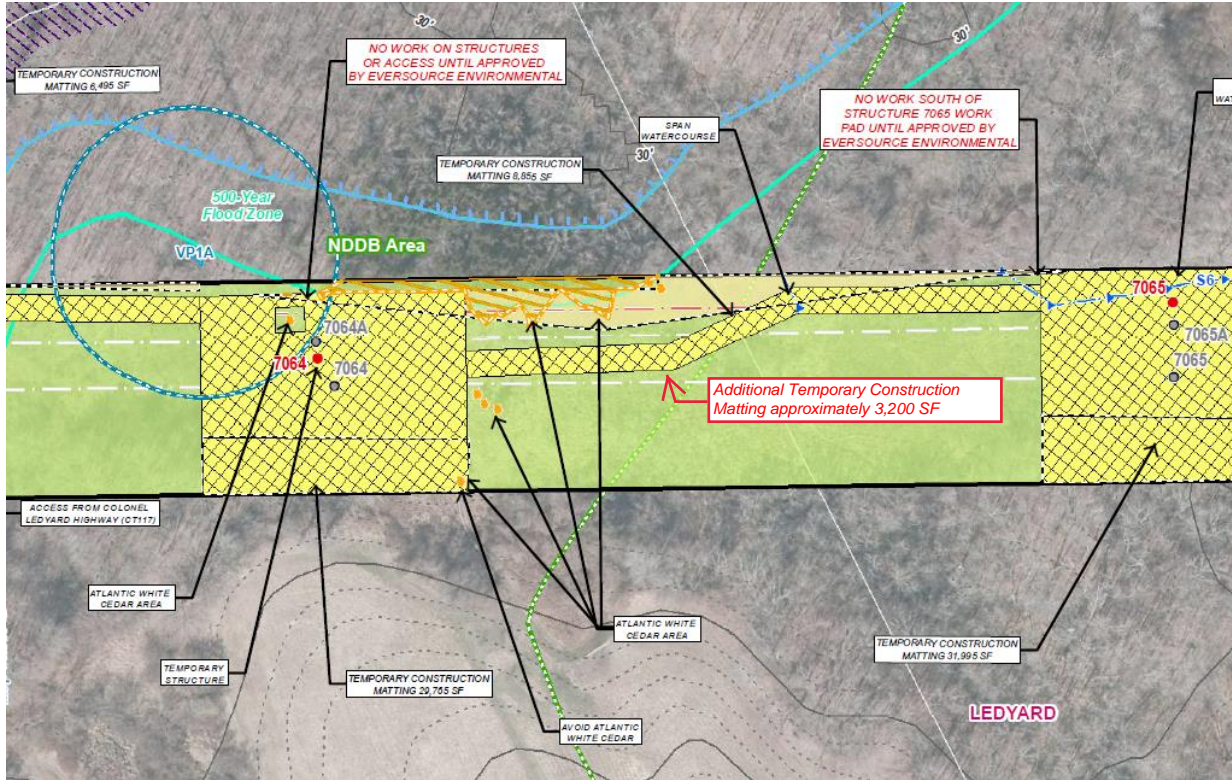
Team Lead – Transmission Siting

Attachment - Mapping

PE 1486: 400-500 Line – Ledyard Junction to Tunnel Substation (Preston)
 Modification for Temporary Structure Placement

7064 – Temporary Structure

Scale: Approx. 1 in.=200 ft.



7064 – Permanent Structure

Scale: Approx: 1 in. = 100 ft.

