



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

December 9, 2022

Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager – Transmission Siting
Eversource Energy
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270
Kathleen.shanley@eversource.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1545** – 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 Wawecus Junction to Montville Junction Upgrade Project consisting of the replacement of electric transmission line structures along its existing 8-mile electric transmission line right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) Nos. 1000, 1070, 1080 and 1090 Lines between Wawecus Junction in Norwich and Montville Junction in Montville, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements.

Dear Kathleen Shanley:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than December 30, 2022. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to siting.council@ct.gov. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Council requests all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Please be advised that the original and 15 copies are required to be submitted to the Council's office on or before the December 30, 2022 deadline.

Copies of your responses are required to be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council's website under the "Pending Matters" link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director
MB/MP

c: Deborah Denfeld, Eversource Energy (deborah.denfeld@eversource.com)

**Petition No. 1545 - Eversource
Wawecus Junction to Montville Junction Upgrade Project
Norwich and Montville, Connecticut**

Interrogatories

Notice

1. Referencing page 25 of the Petition, were there any comments from the City of Norwich and the Town of Montville or abutting property owners? If so, what were their concerns, and how were these concerns addressed?
2. Would notice to the Federal Aviation Administration be required for any of the proposed new or replacement structures? If yes, would marking and/or lighting be required for any of the proposed new or replacement structures?

Existing Facility Site

3. When was the right-of-way (ROW) established for the #1080 and #1000/#1070 Lines, and the #1080 and #1000/#1090 Lines? What public utility uses/rights are identified under the easements along the existing ROW?
4. What is the total number of existing structures over the 8-mile long project area (not including the separate #1080 Line)?
5. What is the age of the structures and conductors on each line?
6. How does the project relate to other proposed, planned or constructed Connecticut reliability and asset condition projects?
7. What are the size and type of the existing conductors? What is the remaining useful life of the conductors? Explain why the conductors are not being replaced or upgraded?
8. If the existing conductors were to be replaced or upgraded, what would be the approximate additional cost to the project?

Project Development

9. Is the proposed project identified in any ISO-New England, Inc. (ISO-NE) needs and solutions analyses? Is the proposed project on the ISO-NE Regional System Plan (RSP), Project List and/or Asset Condition List?
10. Are any generation facilities listed on the ISO-NE interconnection queue associated with the proposed project? If so, please identify the generation facilities and the queue position.
11. What is the total estimated cost of the project? Of this total, what costs would be regionalized, and what costs would be localized? Estimate the percentages of the total cost that would be borne by Eversource ratepayers, Connecticut ratepayers, and the remainder of New England (excluding Connecticut) ratepayers, as applicable.
12. Identify all other permits required to perform the proposed work.

13. Referencing page 4 of the Petition, second bullet point, explain how the optical ground wire (OPGW) installation would cause structural loading that exceeds structure loading capacity.
14. Referencing page 5 of the Petition, Structure No. 7641 would be reinforced. What would the remaining useful life of the structure be after the reinforcements?
15. Would any modifications be required, or have any modifications been completed, at Wawecus Junction, Fort Hills Farms Substation, or Montville Junction to facilitate this project?
16. Provide sample photos of the asset conditions associated with the structures to be replaced.
17. Referencing page 7 of the Petition, the average height increase of the replacement structures is approximately 6 feet. Why are structure height increases proposed, e.g. National Electric Safety Code (NESC) clearance requirements? Are the proposed structure height increases at the absolute minimum to meet these requirements?

Environmental

18. Describe the clearing that will be required within the ROW to facilitate the project. To what height will vegetation be cut?
19. Are CT DEEP and/or the US Army Corps of Engineers permits required for working within wetlands and vernal pools? If yes, what is the status of such permits?
20. In addition to Eversource's Best Management Practices, what other specific environmental mitigation measures and/or monitoring would be conducted for construction within environmentally sensitive areas?
21. Has Eversource developed a Protection Plan for Wetlands ~~and Vernal Pools~~ in its construction plans for the project? If so, please submit the plans. If not, when would the plans be developed?
22. Describe site construction inspections that are required for this project under the DEEP General Permit.
23. Has Eversource evaluated the project area for existing invasive species consistent with Section 3.10.4.1 of the Eversource April 2022 BMPs that are posted on its website? If invasive species exist, how would Eversource control the spread of invasive species for this project?
24. Could restoration of disturbed areas incorporate habitat for the benefit of pollinator species, such as bees, moths and butterflies?
25. How will ATVs be discouraged from accessing the ROW from public roads/access points?