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January 22, 2025

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

RE: PETITION NO. 1549 – 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 1714 Line Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement and reconductoring of approximately 9.4 miles of its existing Nos. 1714, 1720, and 1222 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines and one structure along its 1637 line within existing Eversource electric transmission right-of-way between Eversource’s Weston Substation, 85 Weston Street in Weston and the United Illuminating Company’s Old Town Substation, 122 Kaechele Place in Bridgeport, Connecticut traversing Weston, Fairfield, Easton and Bridgeport and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. **Reply to request for information concerning work area restoration at 285 Hoydens Hill Road, Fairfield.**

Dear Attorney Bachman:

We are in receipt of your letter, dated January 16, 2025, requesting a response from Eversource Energy (“Eversource”), relative to concerns expressed by Mr. Dan Carney, who owns property at 285 Hoydens Hill Road in Fairfield. Eversource appreciates the opportunity to respond to the concerns outlined in Mr. Carney’s correspondence to the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) and provides the responses below to these concerns. Eversource’s responses generally follow the order as presented in Mr. Carney’s correspondence to the Council.

1. Final planting plan and schedule of planting. I met with the Eversource arborist last summer and an initial planting plan was submitted to me. I reviewed the plan and deemed it was unsatisfactory to make up for the amount of vegetation that was destroyed. I sent back a revised plan and now I am still waiting for feedback.

[Eversource response:](#)

[A planting plan meeting was held with the property owner, Eversource Project Services \(now Project Engagement\), and Eversource’s landscape designer on August 1, 2024, with a proposed planting plan sent to the property owner on August 19, 2024. The property owner did not agree to the proposed planting plan and sent his desired revisions to Eversource on August 30, 2024. Eversource continued conversations with the property owner and determined that finalization of the planting plan would be put on hold until](#)

all Project work, including restoration, was completed in late fall 2024. This was communicated to the property owner. A revised planting plan was developed and emailed to the property owner on January 15, 2025, prior to Eversource's receipt of your January 16th letter, and Eversource has already received a response from Mr. Carney as to the revised planting plan.

2. Rebuild the stone wall on Hoydens Hill. According to petition 1549, Eversource states they would restore any damaged walls Quote: "Eversource would restore stone walls that were affected by the Project if requested by the property owner." The damage of this wall has led to significant trespassing on both my property and neighboring properties. I have chased away ATV's, motorcycles, bikes, pedestrians and trucks. I've had to call police to ask people to leave that would not do so after asking. I have even seen 1 instance after project completion where an Eversource employee parked his truck on the work pad and took a nap.

Eversource response:

There is no mention of stone walls nor the restoration of stone walls in Petition 1549. However, Eversource's response to the Siting Council's interrogatory #41 states that "Stone walls located outside of property owner-maintained areas will be dismantled, with the stones relocated in ROW outside of access roads and active work zones." Eversource discourages permanent structures, such as stone walls, fences, and sheds within the ROW as it prevents full access to the transmission line which is especially critical in case of an emergency.

Eversource received notice from Mr. Carney and a second adjacent property owner regarding concerns about others trespassing due to the presence of the access road needed to conduct the work. Eversource received approval from the neighboring property owner to install a metal farm gate on his property at the top of the entrance to the ROW to mitigate unauthorized access and trespassing concerns. This work was completed on January 19, 2025. Eversource believes that the gate, with appropriate signage, should mitigate any concerns regarding trespassing.

3. Reduced work pad. Eversource had told me they would reduce the work pad closest to my property. They have not and in fact enlarged it back in October of 2024.

Eversource response:

Eversource did not commit to reducing the work pad in question, which is actually located on an adjacent property. This work pad was initially built at the start of construction to only accommodate construction activities. Contractors then slightly expanded the work pad in October 2024 to facilitate vegetation work though the footprint of the work pad remained smaller than what was proposed in the Petition filing.

Petition 1549 also states that gravel work pads and access roads would remain in place post-construction. Specifically, Eversource's response to Siting Council interrogatory #28 states, "Upon construction completion, a 50 foot x 50 foot gravel work pad would remain at all nine locations within the New England Cottontail areas for future maintenance, with the remainder of the proposed gravel work pad to be restored with processed stone and native grass seed." In 2024, the Project exceeded the aforementioned restoration activity by hydroseeding the entire work pad and access road and did not leave a 50 foot by 50 foot exposed gravel work pad.

4. Restore vegetation to cover the rocks on the slope of the work pad or replacement with natural stone.

I met with Eversource regarding this area and was told they could hydroseed the rock pile and that would totally cover it up. I had my doubts since I've never known grass to be able to grow on rock. They hydroseeded last fall and no visible growth has occurred. It looks as bad as day 1. I would like the manufactured stone replaced with natural stone or completely removed and properly restored with vegetation.

Eversource response:

Hydroseeding (in lieu of spreading native grass seed) was applied in 2024 as part of environmental restoration requirements for New England Cottontail areas as detailed in Eversource response to Siting Council interrogatory #3. Hydroseeding was applied to the entire impacted ROW, including the gravel work pad and access road that is located on the parcel neighboring Mr. Carney's property. The hydroseed does not grow on rock but grows on the existing soil around the rocks and creates coverage as the grass grows. The Project opted to hydroseed to revegetate the areas quickly, provide a visual barrier to the underlying permanent gravel, and promote a low growth environment while allowing for future maintenance access. Inspections are ongoing along the entire Project corridor and will ensure stabilization and regrowth. If additional seeding is deemed required, it will be completed in Spring 2025.

Eversource contractors sourced local, natural, 3-inch minus gravel due to its ability to sustain its position through weather events and safely support Project and future maintenance equipment. Alternate smooth stone options are not feasible for construction nor future maintenance access needs.

5. Debris removal. Tree branches from pruning trees on my property were left behind by crews. Large stones dug up from the building site were also placed onto my property. I would like these branches and stones removed.

Eversource response:

Mr. Carney initially raised concerns about debris at the start of construction, stating that previous vegetation activities in the ROW had previously left vegetative debris. In response, Eversource directed its contractor to ensure that all previous and future debris from tree trimming was removed. On 10/10/2024, contractors notified Eversource that vegetation debris unrelated to the Project was left in the ROW between workdays, preventing access to the rest of the work zone. The contractors have adamantly affirmed that this additional vegetation debris was not the result of Project work and have also confirmed all Project-related debris was removed on October 10 and 11, 2024. This was relayed to Mr. Carney at the time Eversource removed the Project-related debris.

Mr. Carney also requested the removal of large stones from the work pad located on the neighboring property and which had surfaced from drilling activities. These stones were moved from the work pad by the contractors in October at the same time as the Project-related vegetation debris was removed.

In addition to the above, Eversource would like to address other concerns raised by Mr. Carney in his correspondence to the Council.

With respect to the presence of an environmental monitor, there have been documented weekly environmental inspections. Inspections have also occurred before and after significant rain events, consistent with the requirements of Project permit conditions.

With respect to the matter of vegetation removal, Eversource completed the vegetation removal necessary within the limits of work (access road and work pad on the neighboring property) as well as the removal of incompatible species and side trimming necessary to maintain clearance.

With respect to the contact history with this customer, the last contact with Mr. Carney was October 16, 2024. Eversource has no record of contact or messages from Mr. Carney, including emails, voice mail messages or messages to the Transmission Hot Line, from Mr. Carney since that time. Eversource is committed to working with this customer on the finalizing the landscaping plan to mitigate visual impacts or to address any additional concerns.

Should you or other Council members have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

Deborah Denfeld

Team Lead – Transmission Siting
deborah.denfeld@eversource.com

cc: Kathleen Shanley, Manager, Transmission Siting

Dan Carney (carn21@gmail.com)