



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 11, 2023

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1549** – 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 1714 Line Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement and reconducting 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.

Dear Kathleen Shanley:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than February 1, 2023. 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 February 1, 2023 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

c: Deborah Denfeld, Eversource Energy (deborah.denfeld@eversource.com)
Service List dated December 22, 2022

**Petition No. 1549 - Eversource
1714 Line Rebuild Project
Bridgeport, Easton, Weston and Fairfield, Connecticut**

Interrogatories

Notice

1. Referencing page 39 of the Petition, were there any comments from the City of Bridgeport, the Towns of Easton, Weston and Fairfield or abutting property owners? If so, what were their concerns, and how were these concerns addressed?
2. Describe outreach efforts to project abutters. Over what time frame were abutters contacted? Which abutters requested further information? Were right-of-way (ROW) restoration measures described during public outreach?
3. How many abutting parcels along the ROW that don't currently host an existing structure will host a new structure? Have any of these abutters provided comments?
4. Is notice to the Federal Aviation Administration required for any of the proposed structures. If yes, would marking and/or lighting be required for any of the proposed new or replacement structures?

Existing Facility Site

5. When was the ROW established for the Nos. 1714/1720 Lines, and the Nos. 1714/1222 Lines? What public utility uses/rights are identified under the easements along the existing ROW?
6. When was the most recent vegetation management conducted in the ROW? What work was performed?

Project Development

7. 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? If yes, identify.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. How does the project relate to other proposed, planned or constructed Connecticut reliability and asset condition projects?
11. Is the design of the project dependent upon the design of any United Illuminating Company (UI) project? Could any modifications to the proposed project impact the design of the Eversource and/or UI transmission lines beyond Hawthorne Substation?

12. What modifications, if any, are necessary at Hawthorne Substation to connect the Eversource circuits to UI-owned and operated facilities?
13. Referring to Petition Attachment 1 – Map Sheet 14 and Petition No. 1370, to which existing Eversource structure is the UI overhead fiber line connected? Would the fiber line be connected to a replacement Eversource structure? If yes, which structure and at what height?
14. Identify all other permits required to perform the proposed work.
15. Provide sample photos of the asset conditions associated with the structures to be replaced.
16. Referring to Petition p. 22, – Explain in detail the NESC clearance requirements for conductor sway due to wind (blow out).
17. Could the number of additional structures proposed within the existing ROW be reduced by utilization of anti-galloping devices or other design options? Explain.
18. Referring to Petition p. 9 and Attachment C, the increase in structure heights listed in the “Vegetation Only” column vary from 12 to 34 feet. What methodology was applied to determine the necessary height increase related to vegetation?
19. Referring to Petition p. 9, when construction is complete and the transmission lines are in operation, what is the predicted flashover rate of the transmission lines?
20. Why are larger capacity conductors proposed for each line?
21. Provide the total number of proposed structures over the 9.4-mile long project area.

Environmental

22. Referring to Petition p. 21, has the State Historic Preservation Office commented on the Phase 1B survey?
23. 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?
24. 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?
25. Has a Wetland/Watercourse Protection Plan been developed for this Project? If yes, provide. If no, when would the plans be developed?
26. Describe site construction inspections that are required for this project under the DEEP General Permit.
27. What measures would be undertaken to protect public drinking water resources?
28. In what areas could temporary construction matting, or other method, such as soil/seeding, be used instead of gravel pads (where topographic conditions allow)? Explain.

29. Referring to Petition Attachment 1 – Map Sheet 14, why is a gravel pad proposed for work adjacent to the Hawthorne Substation for Structures No. 19719, 19718, 19717, 19717A?
30. Describe the clearing that will be required within the ROW to facilitate the project. To what height will vegetation be cut?
31. Describe vegetive removal to facilitate the installation/operation of Structures Nos. 19720A, 19720, 19719, 19718, 19717, 19717A?
32. Has Eversource evaluated the project area for existing invasive species consistent with Section 3.10.4.1 of the Eversource April 2022 BMPs? If invasive species exist, how would Eversource control the spread of invasive species?
33. Referring to Petition Attachment A- Map Sheet 5, can structure No. 19763 be relocated out of the vernal pool envelope of Vernal Pool 1?
34. Could restoration of disturbed areas incorporate habitat for the benefit of pollinator species, such as bees, moths and butterflies?
35. What measures would be taken, if necessary, to determine if excavated soils are suitable for reuse or redistribution in other Project areas?
36. Referring to Petition p. 20, what is the status of the Town's request that Eversource avoid restoring old roads, now used as hiking trails, for off-ROW access within Brett Woods Conservation Area?
37. Referring to Petition Attachment A – Map Sheet 5, can Structure No. 19763 be accessed using the ROW access from Structure No. 19762, eliminating the need for a second access from North Street?
38. Referring to Petition Attachment A – Map Sheet 6, if access rights are obtained across Parcel 201-248 (3220 North Street), would the temporary access road through Wetland 17 be necessary? Explain.
39. Describe measures that will be taken to ensure the safe use of public recreational trails that cross the ROW.
40. Describe post-construction construction cleanup procedures in the ROW, including the disposition of woody debris. In what areas will woody debris and other natural materials be disposed of? Have abutters been notified of the disposal areas?
41. Describe construction procedures for removal, disposal or restoration of stone walls within the construction areas.
42. Referring to Petition p. 37, magnetic fields are described from the proposed double circuit structures. Would magnetic field levels change for conductors installed on the proposed single circuit structures?