

## 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

August 21, 2023

Catherine Osten
State Senator, 19th District
Timothy Ackert
State Representative, 8th District
State Capitol
300 Capitol Drive
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
catherine.osten@cga.ct.gov
tim.ackert@cga.ct.gov

RE: **PETITION NO. 1566** - 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 Card Substation to Wawecus Junction Upgrade Project consisting of the replacement of electric transmission line structures along its existing 12.5-mile electric transmission right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) Nos. 1080/1490 and 1080/1070 Lines between Card Substation in Lebanon, Stockhouse Road Substation in Bozrah and Wawecus Junction in Norwich, Connecticut traversing the municipalities of Lebanon, Franklin, Bozrah and Norwich, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements.

Dear Senator Osten and Representative Ackert:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated August 17, 2023, concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

Before reaching a final decision on a petition, the Council must carefully consider all of the facts contained in the record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors to the petition, and consider all of the concerns received from members of the public who submit written statements to the Council.

This petition will be placed on a future Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision. Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this petition on our website at <a href="mailto:portal.ct.gov/csc">portal.ct.gov/csc</a> under the "Pending Matters" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman Executive Director

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MAB/MP/dll

c: Service List dated June 22, 2023

Council Members



August 17, 2023

Dear Siting Council Members,

We are writing to bring your attention to work conducted on a property located at 716 Beaumont Hwy. in Lebanon, Connecticut, which necessitates a comprehensive review before any further actions are considered.

In 2021, certain work was undertaken without notifying the landowner or being addressed within any previous petitions. This matter was formally reported in writing to Attorney Bachman, yet no resolution has been forthcoming.

It has come to our attention that Siting Council Petition 1566 outlines the anticipation of additional work. This proposed work builds upon the aforementioned unauthorized modifications. Of particular concern is the unexpected denial of a public hearing concerning this new work, based on false information provided by Attorney Bachman, despite evident and documented adherence to all stipulated timelines for consideration.

We are formally requesting that the Siting Council schedule a public hearing for Petition 1566. Additionally, the Siting Council should conduct an on-site visit to witness the severe unauthorized actions that have transpired on this property before granting permission for any further work.

To elaborate, the unauthorized work has resulted in environmental damage to the site. Invasive plants have been introduced to an area previously populated by native flora. Essential stone walls, serving as property boundaries, have been displaced and concealed beneath mounds of soil. Additionally, unwarranted 90-degree gravel roads have been constructed on-site, disregarding the existing old mill road regularly used by Eversource. These new roads have disrupted stormwater patterns, leading to ponding and the formation of new wetlands. These instances merely highlight a few of the unnecessary and damaging infractions on the site.

We possess documentation illustrating the state of the work area both before and after the unwarranted modifications, documents confirming compliance with timelines, evidence of violations against Eversource regulations, instances that run counter to state statutes, and false and/or misleading statements and representations made by council staff. Furthermore, I have

personally visited the site, closely examining both the constituents' portion of the old petition and the new one.

This lack of collaboration with landowners fosters distrust in the system, which is unacceptable. It is our strong request that you facilitate a public hearing and conduct an on-site visit immediately.

Your prompt attention to this matter is anticipated and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Catherine Osten

State Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> District

Timothy Ackert

State Representative, 8<sup>th</sup> District

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CC: Cory Spaulding, Property Owner

Cathy Osten, State Senator

Tim Acker, State Representative

Melanie Bachman, Siting Council Executive Director/Attorney

Ned Lamont, Governor

Katie Dykes, Commissioner DEEP

Marissa Gillett, Chairman PURA

Brian Golembiewski

Quat Nguyan

Lisa Fontaine

Dakota Lafountain

Lisa Mathews

Robert Mercier

Adam Marrone

Ifeanyi Nwankwo

Michael Perrone

Christina Walsh