

**Petition 1566**  
**Interrogatories for Eversource Energy**  
**Submitted by Cory Spaulding and Leslie Yeisley**  
**July 6, 2023**



**Questions asked in these interrogatories about past work relate to petition 1566. Petition 1566 proposes to utilize the previously performed infrastructure work and we maintain that much of this work was illegally performed and required Siting Council review and approval, which was never obtained. By submitting and detailing this illegal work product as existing work and combining it with new work, is requesting the Council to approve work that has not had any review. Fruits of an illegal act should not be allowed to be included in subsequent Petitions in order to gain Council approval of that illegal work product. This general statement of relevance is made in lieu of being detailed in each individual question.**

Cory Spaulding  
Leslie Yeisley  
716 Beaumont Highway  
Lebanon Connecticut 06249

**July 6, 2023**

**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.

Deborah Denfeld  
Team Lead – Transmission Siting  
Eversource Energy  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141  
[deborah.denfeld@eversource.com](mailto:deborah.denfeld@eversource.com)

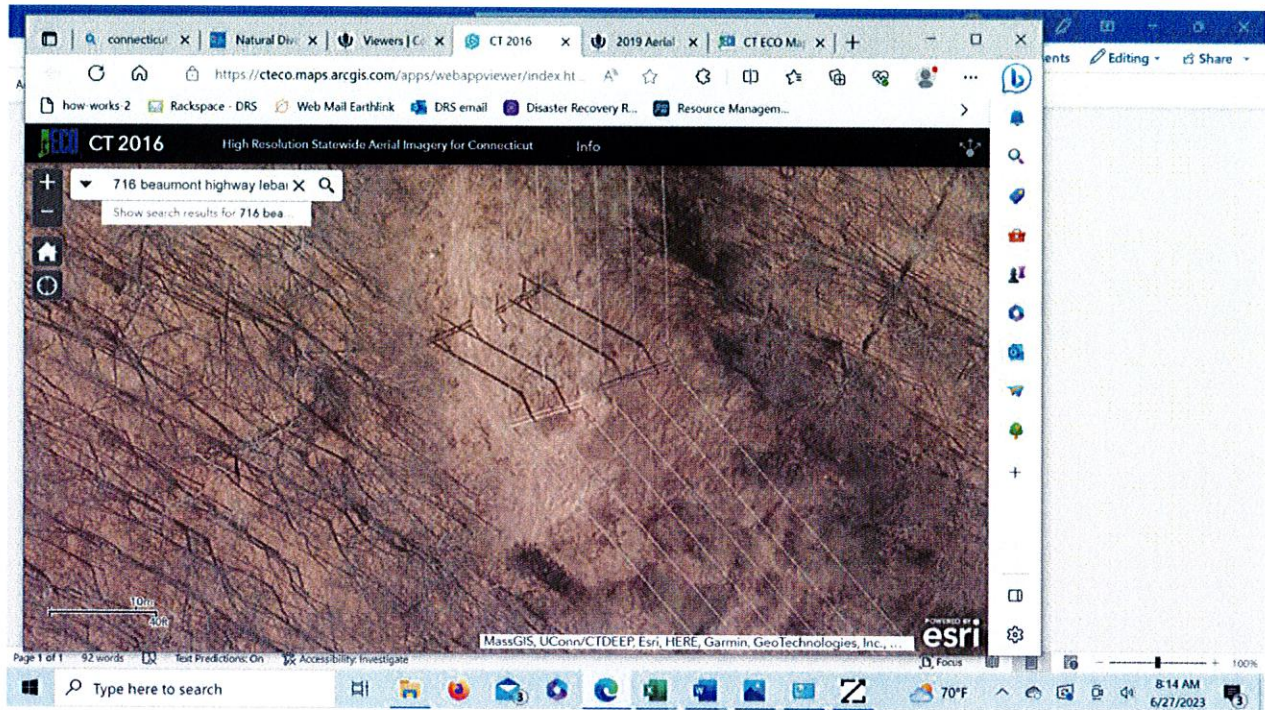
Dear Deborah Denfeld:

Cory Spaulding and Leslie Yeisley request your responses to the enclosed questions.

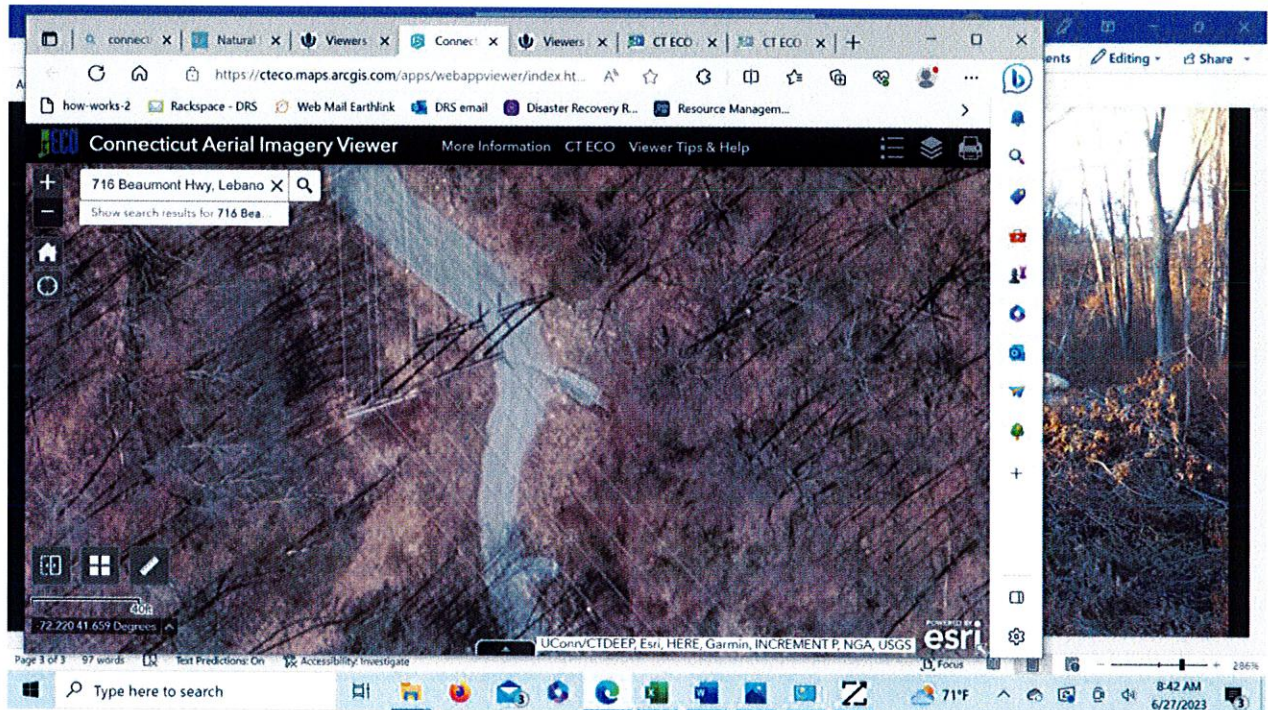
Sincerely,

Cory Spaulding

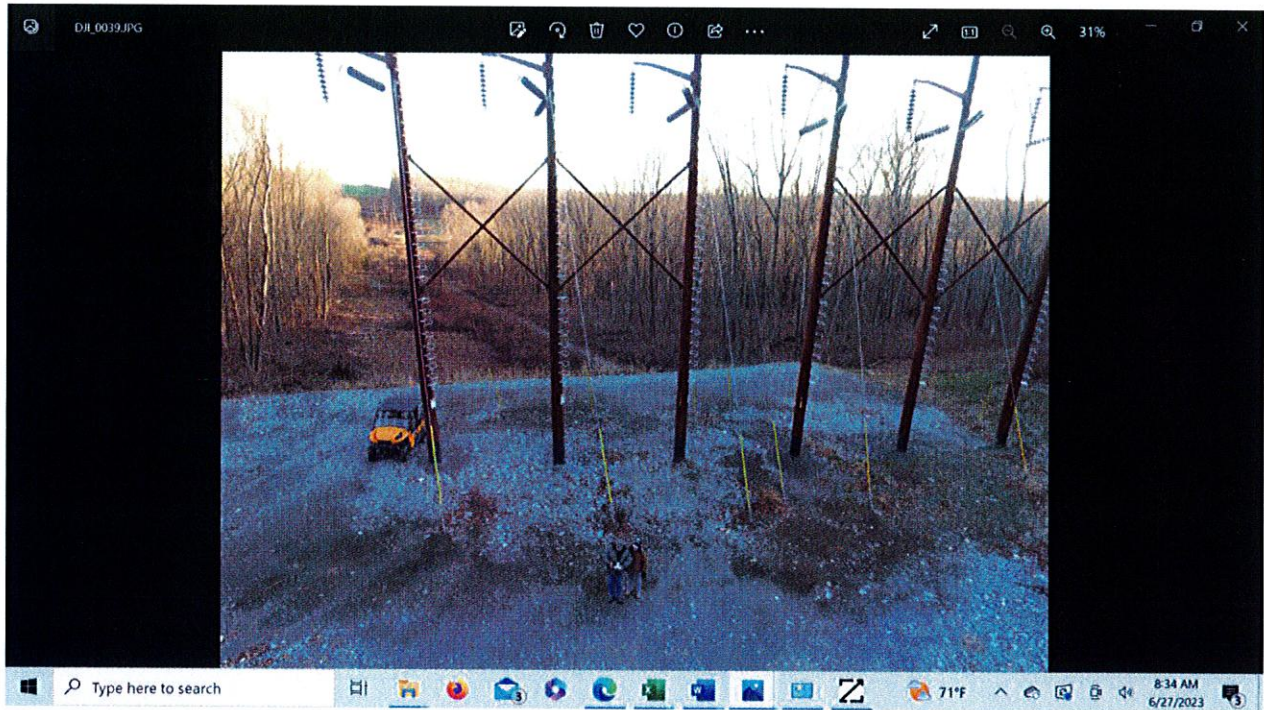
## PHOTO # 1 - YEAR 2016 - Site 7785



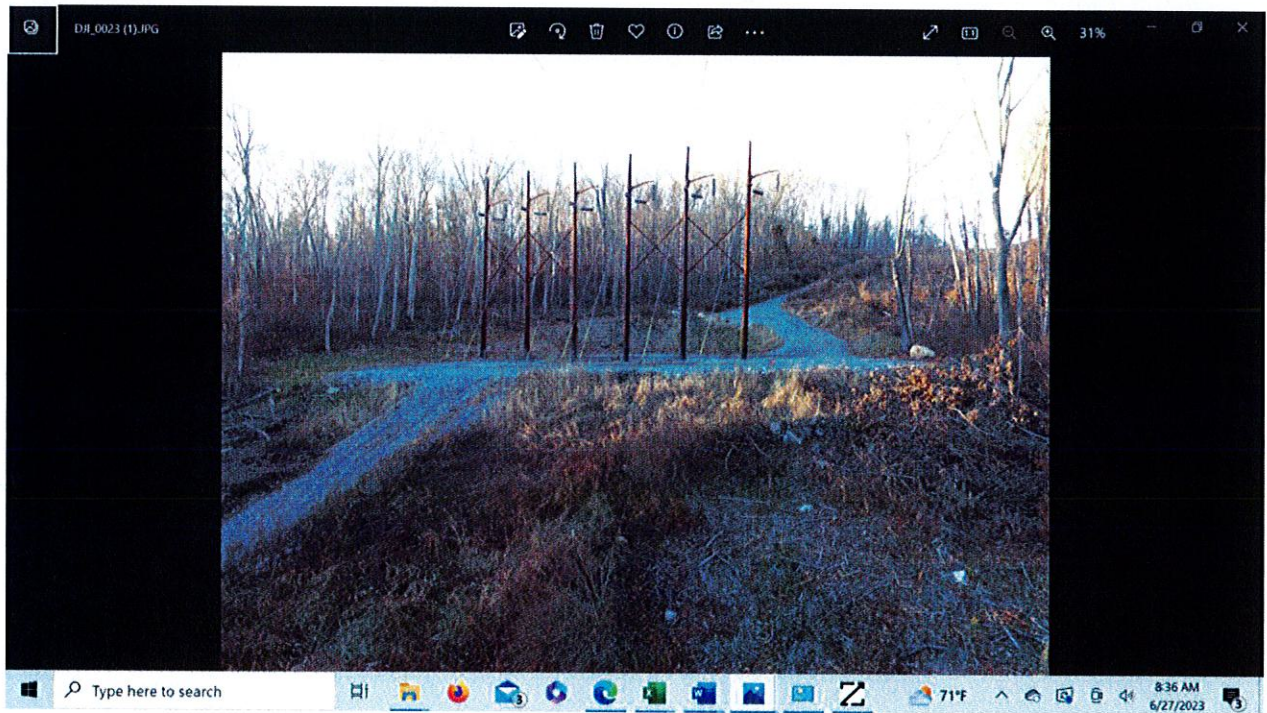
## PHOTO #2 - Year 2019 - Site 7785



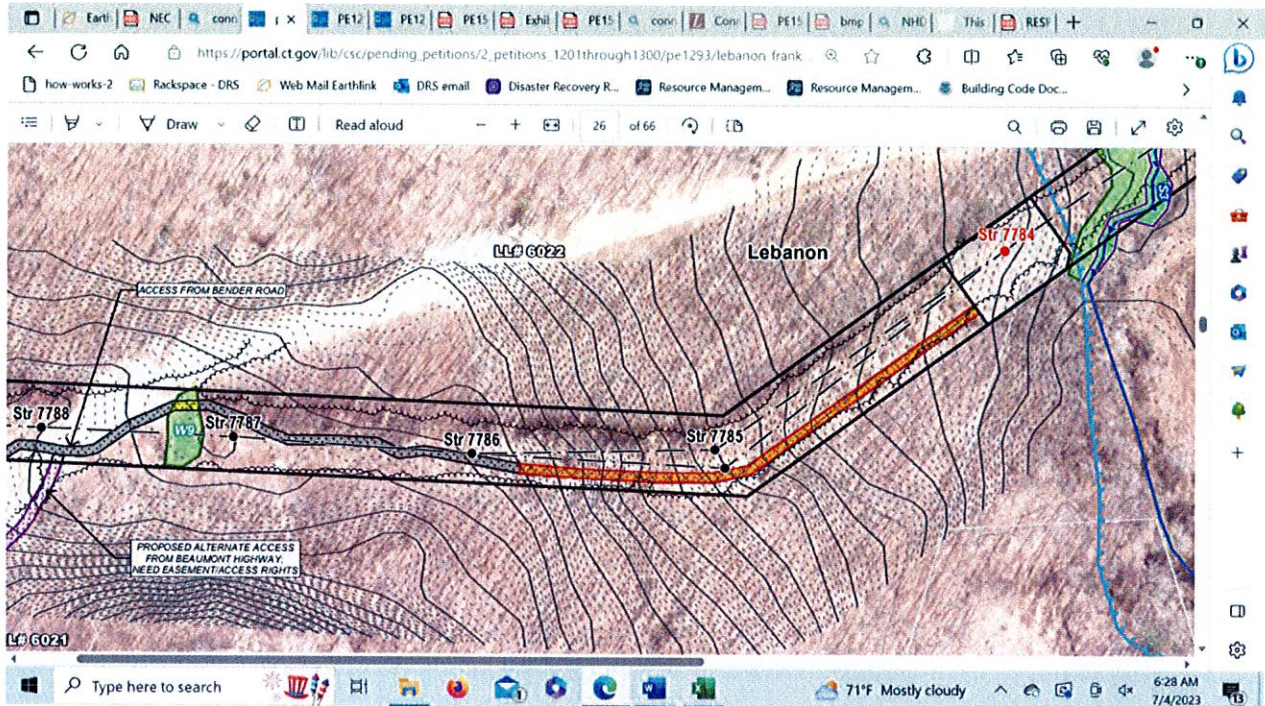
**PHOTO # 3 - YEAR -December 20, 2021 – SITE 7785**



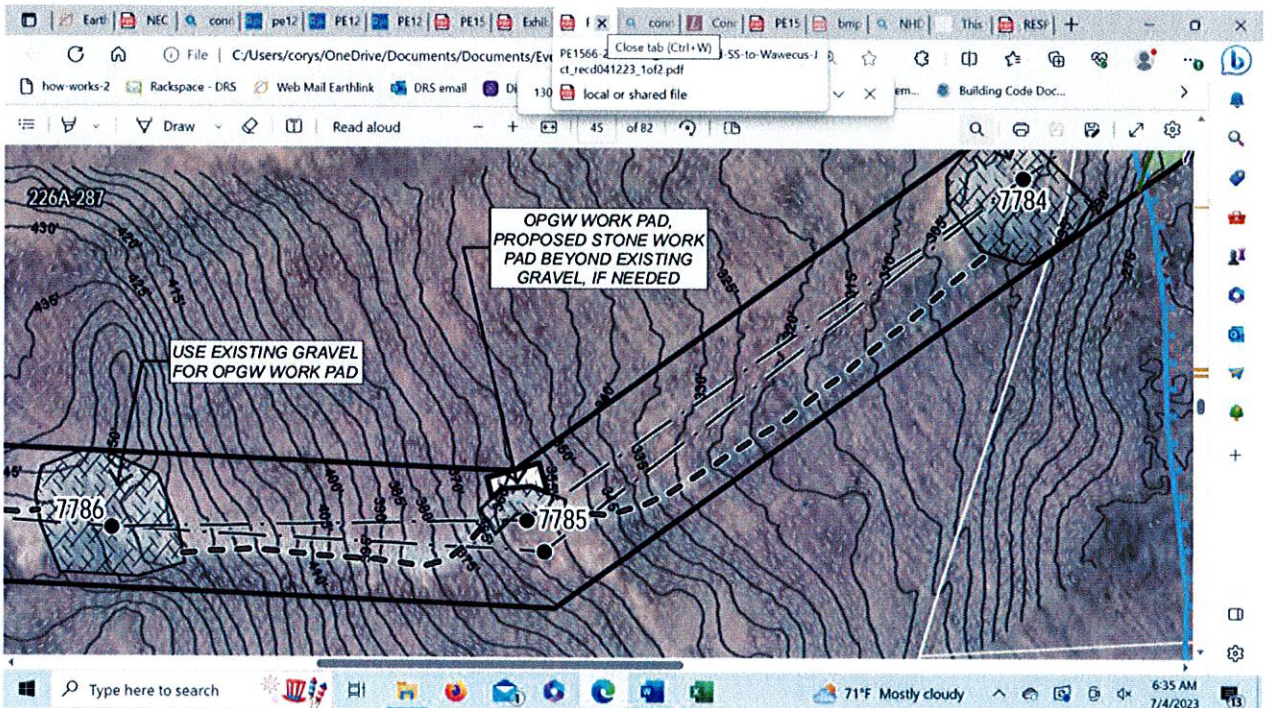
**PHOTO #4 - YEAR - December 20, 2021 – SITE 7785**



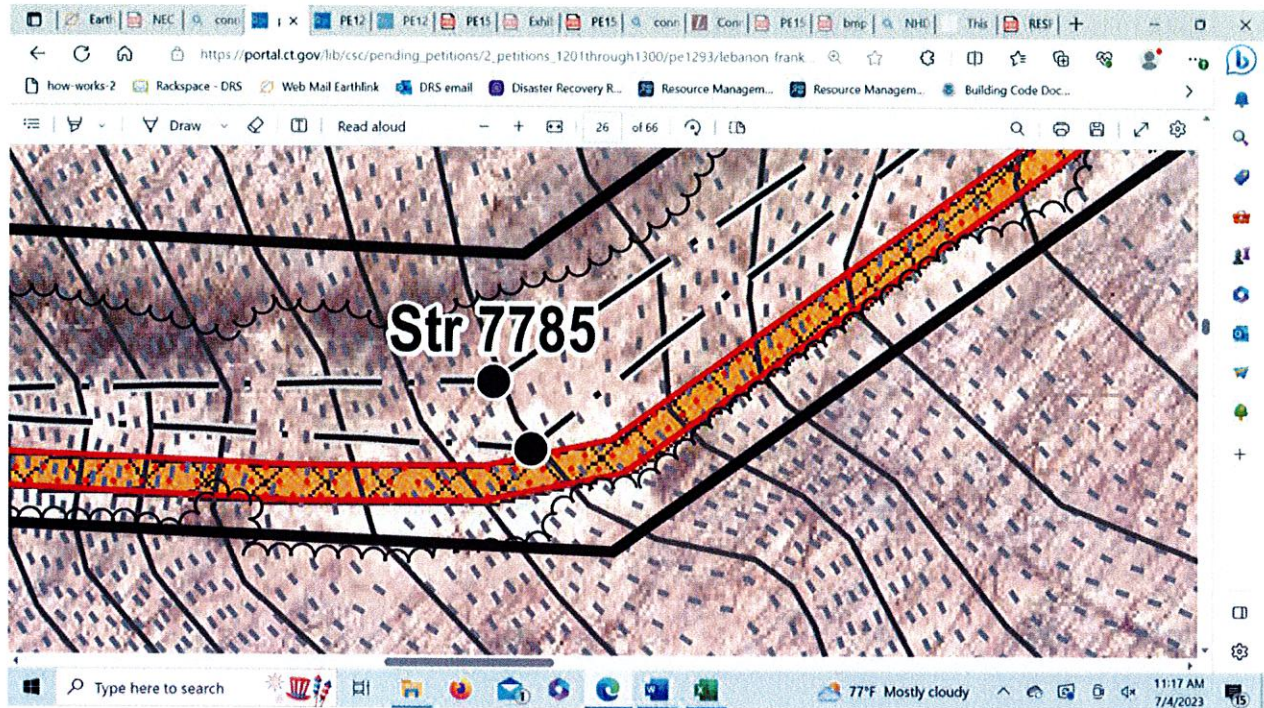
# PHOTO # 5 -Map 5 of 23 – Sub Petition 1293 LFBNM-01 – July 17, 2017



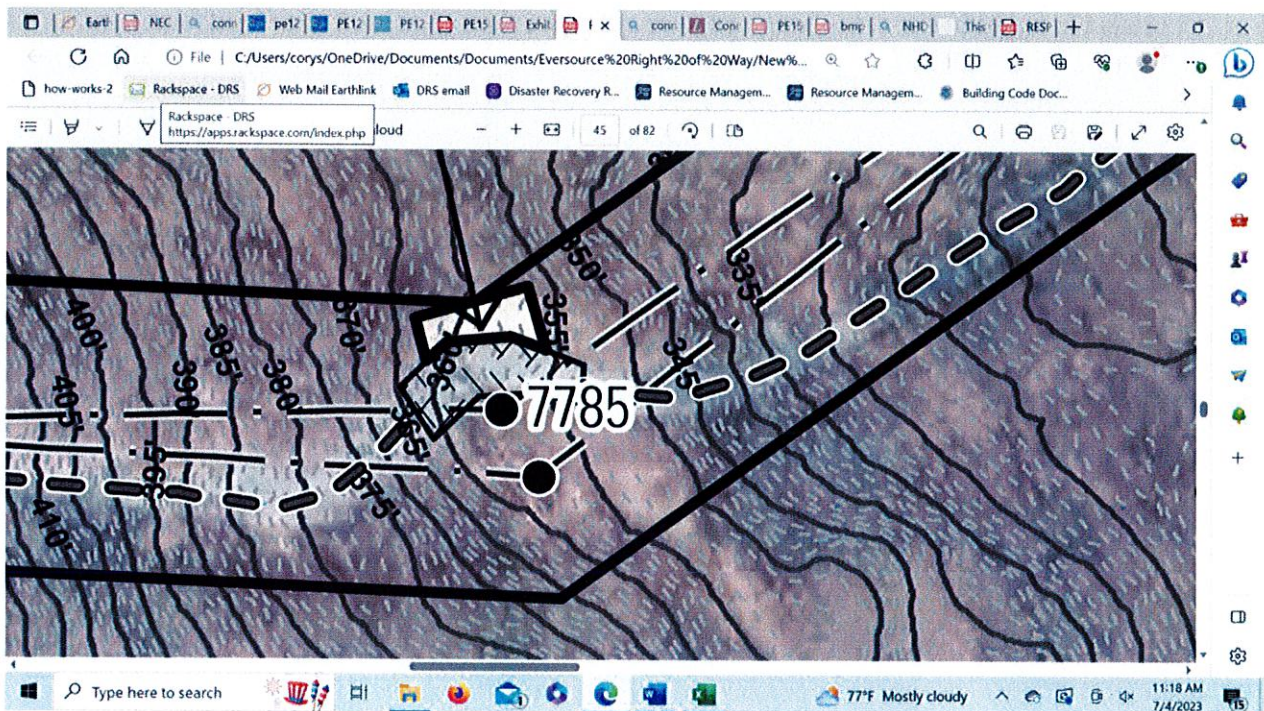
# PHOTO # 6 - Petition 1566 Map 6 of 24 – Dated April 11, 2023



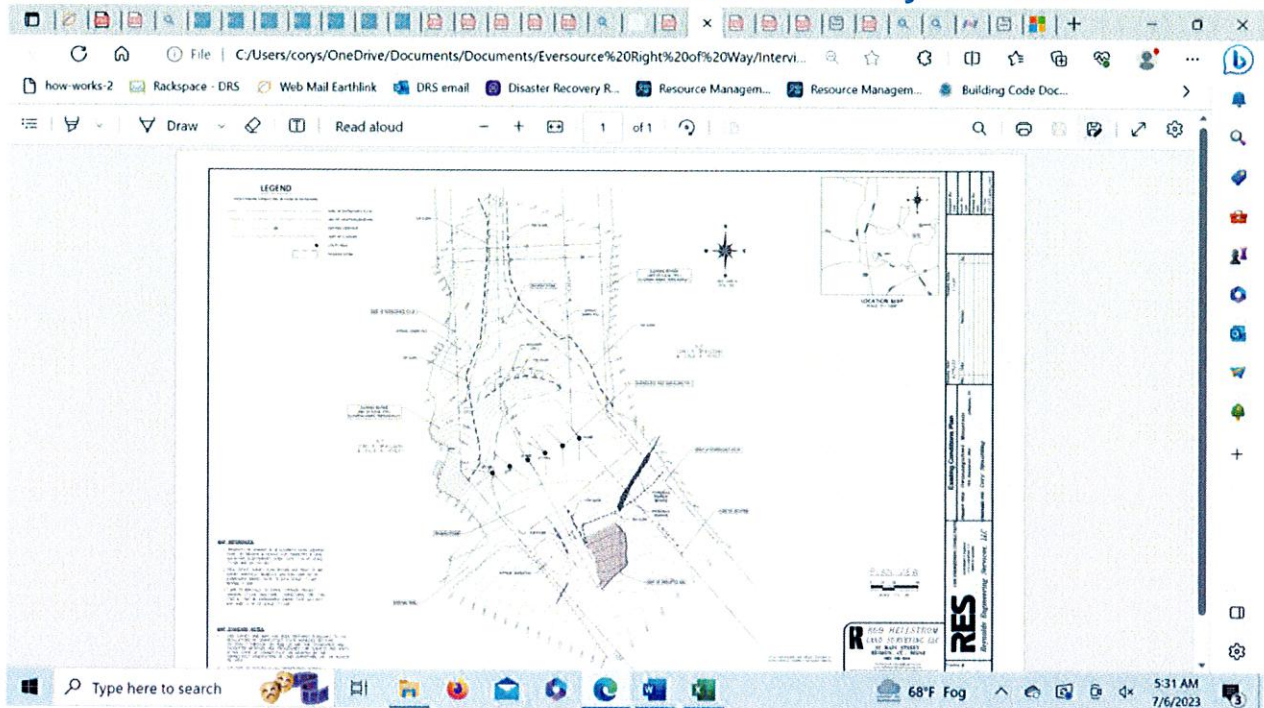
# PHOTO # 7 -Map 5 of 23 – Sub Petition 1293 LFBNM-01 – July 17, 2017



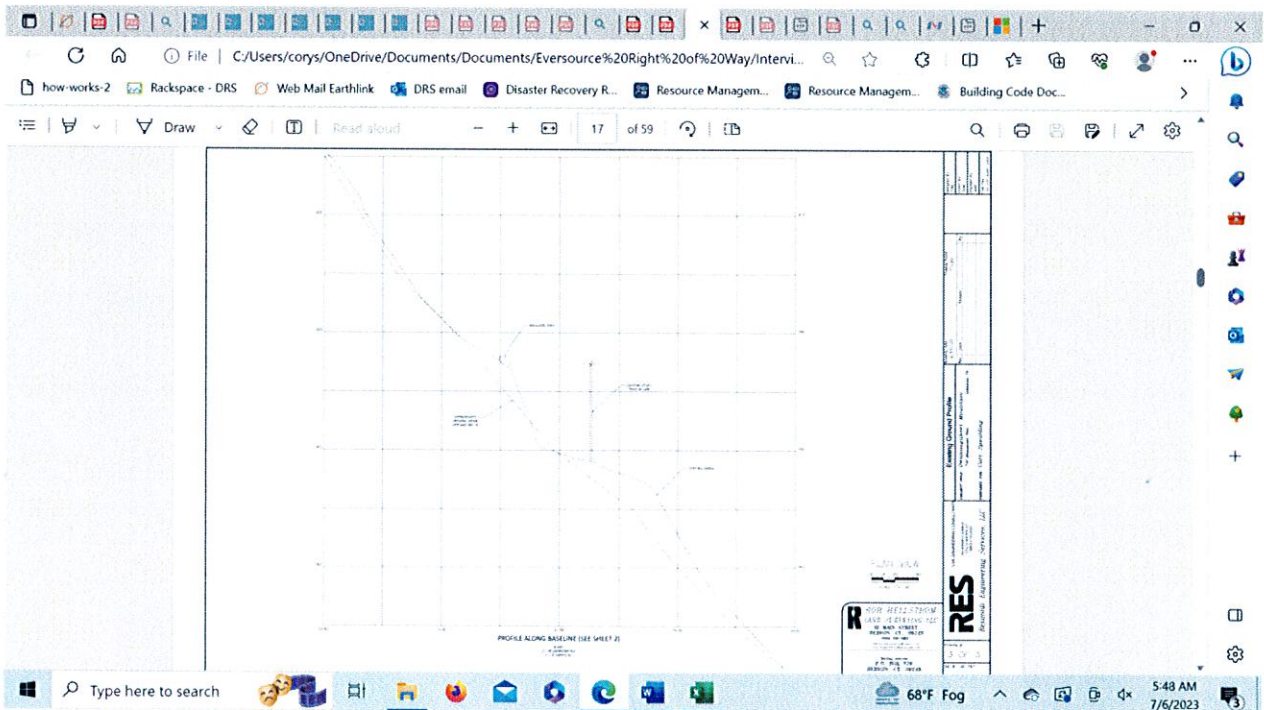
# PHOTO # 8 - Petition 1566 Map 6 of 24 – Dated April 11, 2023



# Exhibit 10 – Site 7785 - Rob Hellstrom Land Surveyor – 4/15/22



# Exhibit 1a-5 topo changes- 2017 to 2022 – Site 7785 - Rob Hellstrom Land Surveyor – 4/15/22



- 1) How many transmission line support poles existed at site 7785 in 2016 thru 2019? I have attached photos 1 and 2 taken in 2016 and 2019 to assist you in answering.
- 2) Are the number of support poles that existed in 2016 thru 2019 at site 7785 correctly depicted in photos 1 and 2 attached and do you agree that 4 support poles existed at this site in 2016 thru 2019?
- 3) You have stated in your response to motions to dismiss on pdf page 8 that you “replaced wood angle structures #7785 and 7785A on Lines 1490 and 1080, respectively, which were non-jurisdictional”. You also stated on this page that this work was performed between May of 2021 and September 15, 2021. When you replaced the wood angle support structures between May and September of 2021, how many new support structures did you install at site 7785? I have attached photos 3 and 4 taken in December of 2021 to assist you in answering.
- 4) Are the number of support poles that you replaced accurately depicted in photos 3 and 4 attached and do you agree that 6 support poles were installed by you in 2021 at this location?
- 5) You have stated in your response to motions to dismiss on pdf page 8 that the work to replace these structures was “non-jurisdictional “. On pdf page 33 you state in reference to the pole replacements at site 7785, “However, the two structures were not subject to Siting Council Sub-Petition Review as these were considered **like for like** replacements (i.e., there was no change in the structure height between the proposed and existing structures and there was **no design change**)” Please define and explain what you mean by like for like, and no design change in reference to replacing 4 existing wooden support structures with 6 new metal support structures?
- 6) Is the term “like for like” the same as one for one? If not, where is the term like for like utilized in reference to non-jurisdictional pole replacement.
- 7) How did you determine that the support pole replacement was non-jurisdictional to the Council and what regulations or information did you rely upon to make this non-jurisdictional determination?



- 8) Did you notify the Siting Council and the property owner that you were performing this non-jurisdictional work at site 7785? If YES, please provide copies of that notification.
- 9) In Sub Petition 1293 LFBNM-01 the Siting Council authorized you to install a mat road from site 7786 to site 7784. That mat road generally followed the westerly side of the ROW and is depicted in photos 5 and 7. Instead of a mat road you installed a stone/ gravel road. This is depicted in photos 6 and 8. Did this gravel / stone road that was installed follow the same route as authorized by the Council in Sub Petition 1293 LFBNM-01? If NO, when did you notify the Council of the route change and when did the Council authorize the change in the route?
- 10) Does photo number 2 accurately depict the path of this gravel / stone road as it existed in 2019 as it traverses thru site 7785?
- 11) In 2021 you performed work at site 7785. When you performed that work did you change the route of this road from its configuration in 2019? You can use photo 2 from 2019, photo 3 and 4 from December of 2021 to assist you in answering this question. If YES, did you notify the Council and the property owner of the route change and when did the Council approve this route change? If NO, please explain how the route did not change?
- 12) Photo 6 is map 6 of 24 that you submitted in petition 1566. That map has a date of April 2023. This map uses an aerial view overlay. What year does this aerial overlay depict and what is the source of this base map? Do you agree that the overlay is a 2019 aerial view?
- 13) Do you agree that the submitted map 6 of 24 in petition 1566 represents the road configuration that existed in 2019 and not what road configuration that presently exists? You may use photos 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 to assist you in answering the question.
- 14) Please explain why the large pad and road configuration depicted in photos 3 and 4 of site 7785 are not shown or depicted in map 6 of 24 in petition 1566 which is photos 6 and 8?
- 15) Utilizing Exhibit 10, a site survey map of site 7785 dated 4/15/22 drawn by Rob Hellstrom Land Surveyor, and photos 6 and 8, please explain why the site characteristics and topo lines depicted in the survey map are not the same as the site characteristics and topo lines that you submitted in map 6 of 24 in petition 1566?

- 16) Do you have any explanation as to why the Exhibit 10 survey map details the near level area near the 6 transmission line support structures as extending to the bounds of ROW and beyond on both sides of the ROW, where map 6 of 24 in petition 1566 as depicted in photos 6 and 8 does not depict this same site feature?
- 17) Can you please explain why the topo map lines that you submitted in map 6 of 24 dated in petition 1566 for site 7785 (photo 7) which is supposed to depict present 2023 conditions is nearly identical to the existing topo lines from 2017 as depicted in Sub Petition 1293 LFBNM-01 map 5 of 23 (photo 8). You can use photos 7 and 8 to assist you in your answer.
- 18) Can you please explain why the survey maps that are Exhibits 10 and Exhibits 1a-5 and photo 1 when compared to photos 2,3 and 4, show drastic changes in the land topography at site 7785 from what existed in 2017 but map 6 of 24 in petition 1566 dated April 2023, does not appear to reflect these topography changes?
- 19) Site 7785 is an angled turn in the line. In petition 1566 on page 24 you state at angled structures you will need a minimum of a 130 x 80 pull pad. Is the 130 foot minimum dimension that is needed running parallel or perpendicular to the transmission lines?
- 20) In response to Council interrogatory question 14 you stated that no changes in the work pad at site 7785 are anticipated. Petition 1566 map 6 of 24 does not show an existing pad of a 130 x 80 dimension at this site. How do you plan on doing the detailed work of installing the OPGW cable utilizing the minimum criteria that you established at this site if you are not going to make any changes to the site?
- 21) In petition 1566 on page 24 you state that work pads of 150 x 150 may be needed for the OPGW work. In what locations will these work pads be needed, and will any be needed in areas where the ROW is 125 feet wide?
- 22) On page 7 of petition 1566 you state that work will be contained to within the ROW. How do you plan on installing these 150 by 150 pads within a 125 foot ROW?
- 23) In petition 1293 on page 3 under section 2 – Access and Work Pads you stated, “Work pads in upland areas will remain unless the property owner requests that they be removed”. Do you make this same pad removal commitment for work performed under petition 1566?

- 24) On pages 7 and 8 of the Eversource response to motions to dismiss you stated that you performed the work at site 7785 under Sub-Petition No.1293-LFB-01 in 2021. That work in part consisted of building a pad at this site that is approximately 140 x 80 as depicted in photos 3 and 4. Was this work pad constructed under Council authority granted to you in this sub petition? If NO, under what authority was this pad constructed?
- 25) Since 2021, we have consistently requested that Eversource restore this area to its pre-construction condition which includes removal of this pad. Since you have claimed it was built under petition 1293, when do you plan on removing this pad? If you do not plan on removing this pad, when do you plan to notify the Council of the deviation from the petition conditions in Sub-Petition No.1293-LFB-01?
- 26) On pdf page 44, under Tab 5 of the Eversource response to motions to dismiss you state in support of work at site 7785 that you received State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review and approval for that work to ensure there were no adverse impacts to any historic or culturally sensitive resources. You attached a January 14, 2021, letter from SHPO as proof. We contacted SHPO on 6/15/23 to verify the authenticity of this Eversource claim. We received an e mail response back from SHPO on 6/16/23 stating that the January 14, 2021, letter has no relationship or association to site 7785. We have attached this e mail as exhibit 23 at the end of the interrogatories. Could you please explain this discrepancy? If you did NOT obtain the required SHPO approval, when are you going to notify the Council of this deviation from required petition conditions?
- 27) We have reviewed petition 1566, sub petition 1293-LFBNM-01, and sub petition 1293- LBF-01 for work sites listed in these petitions that the Council approved for pole replacement in this transmission corridor. We have identified 41 sites that are NOT listed as having been approved by the Council for pole replacement. In answer to Council interrogatories question 6 in petition 1566, you stated that 9 wood structures will remain on this line after completion of work under petition 1566. If this Eversource number is correct, this means that approximately 32 (41 minus 9) sites in this transmission corridor were replaced without being listed in the petitions Council approval. We have listed below all 41 sites that do not show up in the three petitions. Eversource did not detail in their answer which 9 sites are left to be replaced so we do not know which 9 sites to subtract from the list. The sites identified are 7814, 7813, 7810, 7898, 7805, 7802, 7801, 7798, 7791, 7786, 7785, 7775, 7773, 7772, 7771, 7770, 7760, 7759, 7757, 7736, 7724, 7723, 7721, 7720 and 7720A, 7717, 7716, 7715, 7714, 7712A and 7711B, 7709, 7707, 7704, 7703, 7701, 7700, 7699, 7698, 7697, 7696, 7694, 7693. Do you agree that these sites are not listed in petitions as sites to have pole replacements?

- 28) In the Eversource response to requests to dismiss on pages 7 and 8 you have stated that sites 7786 and 7785 which are contained in this list above were replaced as non-jurisdictional. Are you claiming that all sites where pole replacement occurred in the list above were also non-jurisdictional? If YES, please explain how you determined these sites to be non-jurisdictional?
- 29) Did you file notifications to the Council and the property owners that these structures were going to be replaced? If NO, please explain why notification is not required?
- 30) We filed an FOIA request on the Council recently for any work notifications or notifications of exempt work provided by Eversource for sites 7785 and 7786. We have attached this document at the end of the interrogators. The Council replied that they had no notifications on file for these sites. Did you file notifications to the Council and property owners for the structure replacements at site 7785 and 7786? If YES, could you please provide copies of this notification.
- 31) Are you claiming that the notice requirements for the Council and property owner contained in RSCA 16-50j-58 – Notice of intent to install exempt energy components and associated equipment, does not apply to the replacement of structures 7786 and 7785? If YES please explain how this notification process described in this regulation does not apply to these structures?
- 32) For the 32 structures replaced as listed above in question 27, was each site a one for one replacement. Since there appears to be some misunderstanding as to what one for one means, in answering this question we mean one existing transmission line support structure replaced with one new transmission line support structure, one old one for one new one.
- 33) In the Eversource response to requests to dismiss on pages 12 and 13 you state "The "sub-petition process" described in Petition No. 1293 does not apply to any line upgrades or reconductoring work. (Decision in Petition No. 1293, Staff Report.) **It was designed to address projects where structure replacements were needed for transmission structures that had to be replaced because they were "exhibiting cracking, splitting, rot, woodpecker holes, etc."** (Id.) You have stated in the response to motions to dismiss on page 5 that sites 7786 and 7785 were replaced due to "asset condition". If the petition 1293 sub petition reporting process was for transmission structures that were **"exhibiting cracking, splitting, rot, woodpecker holes, etc."** and sites 7785 and sites 7786 were replaced due to **asset condition** why were these sites **NOT** included in any sub petitions for Council review as sites proposed by Eversource to be replaced?

34) We ask the same question for the 30 other structures that were also replaced on this transmission line where no record of Council approval for these structure replacements appears to exist. Why were these 30 structures also not included in the sub petitions filed with the Council for asset condition replacement?

35) In petition 1293 on page 1 in all capital letters you petition the Council for a declaratory ruling for two specific items.

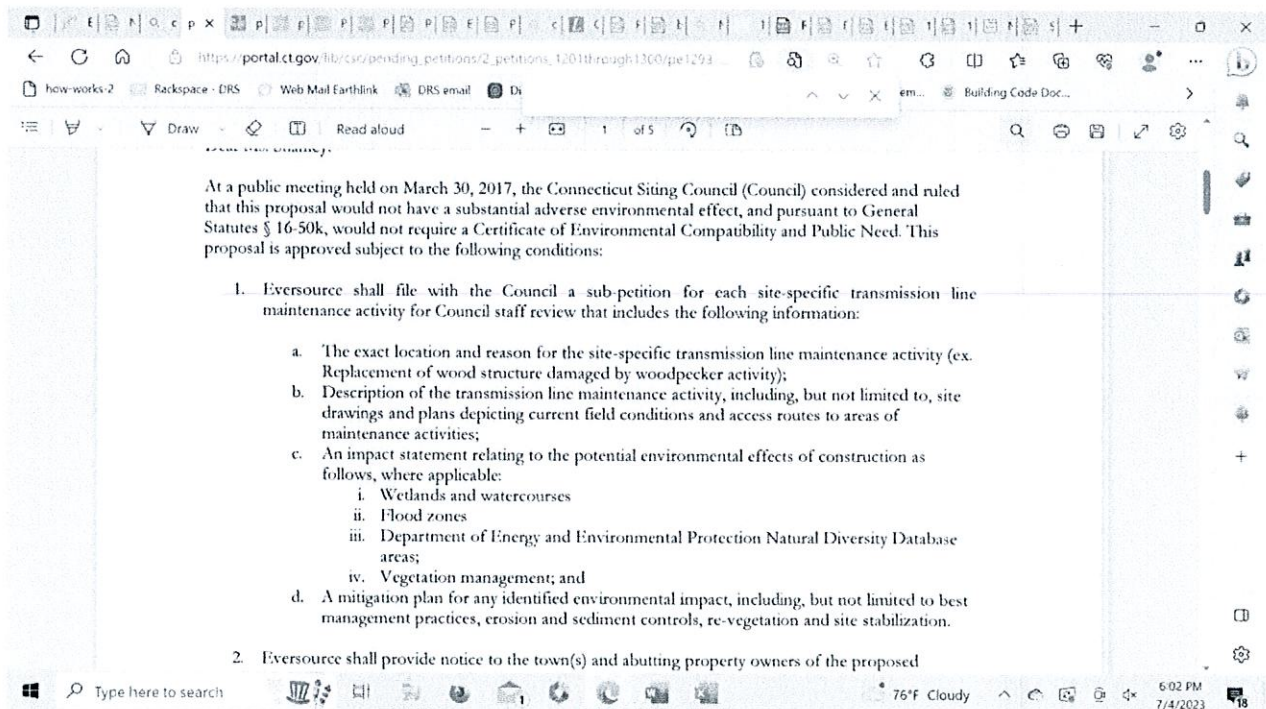
1) Improvements pursuant to transmission facility asset conditions

**AND**

2) adherence to the national electric safety code.

In the description section of this petition, you describe the same two reasons.

The Council approval letter for petition 1293 specifically states; **“Eversource shall file with the Council, a sub petition for each specific site transmission line maintenance activity”**.



Are you claiming that the sub petition Council review process for petition 1293 was limited to and only applied to structures that were having an increase in height? If YES, please identify the section in your petition that describes this and please identify the section in the Council approval letter where the filing of required sub petitions only applies to structures that are having an increase in height.

36) Eversource has stated in Petition 1566 their intention to follow the Eversource best management practices book, 2022 edition. Under section 3.5 – Historic /

Cultural Resources - Eversource identifies stone walls as a historic cultural resource. In the manual Eversource states its intention to preserve stone walls **beyond those identified as historic and cultural**. BMP Section 3.5.1 details an extensive list of stone wall protection measures that Eversource is committed to doing that takes up over a full page of the manual, including "Avoiding the stone wall altogether - This may involve re-routing an access road or selecting a new access point". A review of the maps provided by Eversource in petition 1566 shows that NO stone walls are depicted on the maps and the map legend does not even contain an identifier for stone walls. Please explain how you plan on following the April 2022 BMP protections for stone walls when you do not depict the stone walls on your maps?

- 37) We have accused Eversource of burying stone walls on our property during previous work and we believe that petition 1566 proposed work will further bury or damage stone walls on our property. In response to this allegation in the Eversource response to dismiss, you stated on pdf page 44 in tab 5 "There is no indication of a stone wall in the area from the Eversource aerial or Project maps". When responding to allegations of burying stone walls you reference your maps that do not depict stone walls. Please explain what protection measures for stone walls you will institute to prevent contractors performing work under petition 1566 from damaging stone walls?
- 38) You stated on pdf page 44 in tab 5 "To ensure that there are no adverse impacts to any historic or culturally sensitive resource (e.g. stone walls), the project completed the necessary field visits and exploratory surveys, and received an approval from the CT State Historic Preservation Officer. Said approval is attached. There is no indication of a stone wall in the area from the Eversource aerial or Project maps and the Claimants have never mentioned burial of a stone wall to Eversource Project representatives". Is this reference to a letter, the same January 14, 2021, letter that SHPO has denied applies to site 7785? See SHPO response e mail at the end of the interrogatories.
- 39) In petition 1566 map 6 of 24 at site 7784 you detail a work pad that extends beyond our property line. The southern side of our property is marked by the southern stone wall that traverses along the old mill road that according to your submitted map is buried in the existing work pad. The stone wall on the northern side of the old mill road marks the boundary rights of the old mill road. Your map depicts that this wall is also buried under your existing work pad. Your map does not identify that these existing stone walls even exist. What remediation measure do you plan on taking at this location for the stone walls buried by the stone pads previously installed?

- 40) Your map note for this site 7784 states "use existing gravel for OPGW work pad". What modifications to the existing work pad do you plan on making with petition 1566 work at this site?
- 41) We ask the same question for sites 7785 and 7786. What modifications to the existing work pad do you plan on making in petition 1566 for these sites.
- 42) Will the modifications to these existing pads for the OPGW work proposed in petition 1566 extend beyond the land area presently covered by the existing stone work pads?
- 43) Please explain why petition 1566 map 6 of 24 for site 7785 depicts a proposed area that may need a stone pad installed when Hallstrom Land Surveyors in Exhibit 10 has already identified that you presently have an existing pad in this exact location? Why does your petition 1566 submitted map not identify the existing pad at site 7785?
- 44) In petition 1566 map 6 of 24 you have no notations about work proposed at sites 7783 and sites 7782 but you have proposed to install wetland mats between the two structures. How do you plan on installing the OPGW cable over this approximate 1300 foot distance? What is the purpose of the wetland mats?
- 45) Please explain why gravel work pads of 125x125 are needed on our property such as exists at sites 7786 and 7784 but the work pads needed on our neighbors property for sites 7783 thru 7776 are much smaller?
- 46) The transmission lines on both properties ours and our neighbors property traverse steep hillsides, please explain how you are able to use mats for work pads and matted roads on my neighbor's property that will be removed at the end of the job generally restoring the property to pre-construction condition but for our property you have installed large gravel pads and gravel access roads that to date you have refused to remove?
- 47) On pdf page 66 under tab 10 you state "The team explains to Mr. Spaulding that the land cannot go back to its original condition because the access road needs to be permanent to access the structures in the future". Please explain how you require permanent access roads on our property but on our neighbor's property and other properties along the ROW you utilized mats for access which you will remove upon work completion and hence denying you the the permanent access to those structures that you state you need for structures on our property?

- 48) For the installation of the OPGW cable on our property please provide us with the minimum distance of level ground area needed perpendicular to the existing lines from some reference point that presently exist on the transmission line system? Example, from the outermost transmission cable we will need 20 feet of level space in the direction of the ROW boundary or from the ground wire being replaced we will need..... If the distance varies due to some variable such as transmission line direction changes please specify the distance for each variable. If the level ground area distance is different than the above ground area distance needed please specify the distance for each.
- 49) How do you plan on implementing the Eversource remediation plan that you presented to us on April 13, 2023 which changes the road between site 7786 and 7785 if you do not plan on doing any work on this section of the road? Please see your answer to Council interrogatory question 15.
- 50) Are you going to amend Petition 1566 to incorporate the work described in the Eversource Remediation Plan?
- 51) If you are not going to amend the petition to include the Remediation Plan how do you plan on performing the required remediation that you determined was necessary?
- 52) The work that you have proposed to do in petition 1566 at site 7784 is in the middle of the area that you proposed remediation to reestablish the drainage. How do you plan to allow continued drainage in this area if you are covering the entire area with mats?
- 53) What is the physical size of the OPGW cable proposed to be installed in petition 1566, meaning diameter?
- 54) What is the public need for this OPGW cable?
- 55) What is the purpose for installing the OPGW cable?
- 56) How many fiber optic cables are contained in the OPGW wire that you are installing?
- 57) Will the OPGW cable be used exclusively for system reliability and communication between sub stations?
- 58) Is there any other purpose for installing this OPGW cable other than the system reliability and communication between sub stations?



- 59) Will the OPGW cable be used exclusively by Eversource for electric related purposes?
- 60) What is the data capacity of the cable and what is the present data capacity needed by Eversource for the stated purpose of the cable.
- 61) Will the cable have any excess capacity once installed and operational? If YES, how will this extra capacity be utilized?
- 62) Will any of the cable capacity be leased, bartered, sold, or used by or to a third party?
- 63) Will this cable be utilized for any third party communications?
- 64) How many feet of counterpoise will be installed on our property?
- 65) At which sites will the counterpoise be installed and where on each site will it be installed?
- 66) At what depth will the counterpoise be installed?
- 67) Will the OPGW cable require additional / more / increased grounding capacity or counterpoise grounding than the existing grounding cable / system presently on the transmission line? If so what are the differences in the requirement parameters between the old and new?
- 68) Is the OPGW cable required by NESC or any other regulatory authority for this transmission line.
- 69) Have you considered other options for attaining the substation communications and electric reliability goal you are attempting to reach such as an ADDS system?
- 70) According to Wikipedia an OPGW cable does not increase loading on towers and considering the weight of a fiber optic cable that is the size of a hair, could you please explain why the cable you are installing requires the replacement of towers due to increased loading?
- 71) Is the reason for the increased tower loading due to the fact that you are installing a much larger OPGW cable than is presently needed for your communication requirements?

- 72) Can you install a smaller OPGW cable to meet your data needs that would not increase tower loading to the point of requiring tower replacement on this transmission line?
- 73) Some data cable manufactures recommend installing ADDS cable instead of an OPGW cable on existing transmission lines due to the difficulty and cost to install and OPGW system on an existing transmission line. Have you evaluated the cost and environmental impact of each system and if so could you provide that information.
- 74) Is the cost of installing an ADDS cable less than OPGW cable for the same data capacity?
- 75) Does the ADDS cable system require the counterpoise grounding that a OPGW cable requires?
- 76) Agriculture is not defined in your best management practices manual do you accept and acknowledge the Connecticut General Statues Section 1-1q definition of agriculture? If not what definition do you utilize for agriculture when applying the provisions of your best management practices?
- 77) Petition 1566 states on page 8 "In general, vegetation will be cut to an above ground height of 6-8 inches" and "In most locations, the vegetation removal work would be accomplished using mechanical methods." According to the Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Focus Area Map, approximately 81 percent of the petition 1566 work area is within this focus area. Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices number 2 states that "vegetation removal shall be limited to non-compatible species" and "all non-compatible vegetation shall be cut manually". Could you please explain how generally cutting all vegetation to a 6 to 8 inch height in the approximately 153 acres of this ROW that is in the NEC Focus Area using mostly mechanical methods is compatible with BMP practice number 2? We have attached the Eversource BMP document at the end of the interrogatories.
- 78) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Manual items number 8 states that "all wood chips shall be removed from the ROW" in the NEC Focus Area. Could you please explain how mechanical mowing in most of the area which will produce wood chips is compatible with NEC BMP item number 8?
- 79) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices item number 1 requires that vegetation to be removed and vegetation that will remain be

identified prior to construction commencing. Have you performed this identification? If so, can you provide that information.

- 80) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices item number 2 requires that NEC compatible vegetation NOT be removed. Have you identified the NEC compatible vegetation in the NEC focus area and if so can you provide that information?
- 81) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Manual item number 6 which states that "clearing extend shall be generally evaluated from structure to structure and not on an entire project basis". This site to site requirement is to determine if the amount of clearing is greater than 50% of the NEC vegetation cover. Have you performed this site by site evaluation and if so can you please provide that information.
- 82) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Manual item number 4 requires an evaluation of available NEC available cover in relation to certain invasive species. Have you performed this evaluation and if so could you provide that information.
- 83) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Manual item number 5 requires the identification of all green briar in the NEC focus area. Have you performed this identification and if so can you provide that information?
- 84) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Manual items number 6 and 7 discuss mitigation options in the NEC focus area such as leaving woody debris and brush piles. Have you identified if these mitigation options will be performed with this project and if so, specifically what sites are you proposing to perform this mitigation?
- 85) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Manual items number 9 requires that vegetation removal be minimized in NEC Focus areas between December 1 and March 1. How do you plan to comply with this BMP if work starts in the third quarter o of 2023.
- 86) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Manual items number 10 discusses that in the NEC Focus Area that stone work pads would typically 50x50 surrounded by construction matting if a larger pad is needed. The submitted plans do not appear to reflect this BMP policy please explain.
- 87) Please explain how mechanical mowing of vegetation in most locations is compatible with Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices

number 2 which states that “ broad, non selective mowing, and the use of a feller-buncher **or other mechanical land clearing, shall not be employed**”.

- 88) Eversource Northeast Cottontail Best Management Practices Manual items number 11 discusses how roads should not exceed 13 feet where possible in NEC focus areas. This BMP policy does not appear to be reflected in work proposed in petition 1566 please explain. When is work completed with this project will all roads in the NEC Focus Area be pulled back to 13 feet wide?
- 89) In response to Council interrogatory question number 22 you stated that all proposed gravel work pads in the NEC focus area would be restored with stockpiled soil or processed stone and seeded. Does "proposed" mean just the new pads being installed in petition 1566 or all work pads that are identified as being utilized in petition 1566 work in the NEC focus area.
- 90) In response to Council interrogatory question number 22 you stated, “As part of the restoration of the ROW, all proposed gravel work pads located within New England Cottontail Focus Areas would be restored with stockpiled soil and/or processed stone, native grass seed and chopped straw mulch in **accordance with Eversource’s current New England Cottontail BMP’s**”. This Eversource BMP policy of work pad restoration appears to only apply this BMP policy for “key habitat areas” which according to the Eversource NEC BMP map does appear to contain any “key habitat areas”. On page 16 of the petition, you state that portions of this ROW are “known habitat”. Could you clarify what “known habitat” areas are and where they are located on this transmission line? Could you clarify if Eversource proposes to perform this mitigation measure to all work pads in the NEC Focus area or only “key habitat areas” of which none appear to exist in this ROW?
- 91) In the petition on pages 16 and 17 under Wildlife Habitat you detail the importance of dense woody shrubs and herbaceous plants that provide “critical habitat” for wildlife in the ROW. You state that this critical habitat develops due to your policy of precluding tree growth in the ROW. On page 7 you identify that most of the ROW is in undeveloped forest and agricultural both of which due to shading and mowing generally do have the dense woody underbrush as you state is contained in the ROW due to precluding tree growth. The petition calls for the mowing of the ROW to a height of 6 to 8 inches. Considering that the entire ROW is 189 acres could you explain the criteria utilized and how you determined as stated on page 17 “The Project activities are not anticipated to have a substantial adverse environmental effect on wildlife habitat”? When you

remove the 12.5 miles of "critical habitat" by close cut mowing where do you anticipate this wildlife to move to so that no substantial adverse effect occurs?

92) Eversource Best Management Practices for control of the spread of invasive species stresses decontamination of equipment "in the infested area". What specific areas have you identified in the project area as containing invasive species and what specific decontamination areas have you established for those invasive species locations"?

93) What specific invasive species have you identified on our property, and where are they located?

94) Will you be installing work and equipment staging areas on our property and if so, specifically where do you anticipate these staging areas to be located?

## RE: Question

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**From:** Kinney, Jonathan <Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov>  
**To:** Cory Spaulding <coryspaulding@earthlink.net>  
**Subject:** RE: Question  
**Date:** Jun 16, 2023 8:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#) [image002.png](#) [image003.png](#) [image004.png](#) [image005.png](#)

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Good morning Mr. Spaulding,

Thank you for your email. I have spoken with staff about your email below. Our January 14, 2021 letter to Heritage Consultants was in response to the submission of an October 2020 report, prepared on behalf of Eversource, for Energy Line 1490/1080. The three structures/sites covered in this report were Structure 7774, Alternative Access Road ALT-AR-7768, and Improved Access Road IMP-AR-7773. No other sites/structures were reviewed under this report. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

**Jonathan Kinney**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer &**  
**Director of Operations**

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office  
Department of Economic & Community Development  
State of Connecticut  
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5  
Hartford, CT 06103  
O: 860.500.2380  
[Jonathan.kinney@ct.gov](mailto:Jonathan.kinney@ct.gov)

**Connecticut**

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**From:** Cory Spaulding <coryspaulding@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 9:11 AM  
**To:** Kinney, Jonathan <Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov>  
**Subject:** Question

You don't often get email from [coryspaulding@earthlink.net](mailto:coryspaulding@earthlink.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Kinney,

I am researching some information provide by Eversorce to the Connecticut Siting Council and a letter from you that is attached was included in the documents submitted by Eversource. Your letter does not appear to align with the information provided by Eversource. Your letter discusses a survey done by Heritage consultants and 3 structure replacements. The letter does not state which structures this letter is in reference to. Your letter also states that the proposed activities are under the purview of the Siting Council and Eversource has claimed that site 7785 was exempt

from Siting Council purview and they did not get permission from the Siting Council for work at this location. I have maintained it did require Council approval due to the extensive work performed. Based upon the above information I am questioning if this January 14, 2021 letter is associated with the sites Eversource claims it is associated with. Would you have a copy of the Heritage Consultants report associated with this letter and could you tell me which three sites your letter references. If you have any questions please feel free to call or e mail me. Sincerely Cory Spaulding 352 263 9226.

Eversource stated in a letter to the Council,  
Additionally, for replacement of structures #7785 and 7785A located within the ROW on the Claimants' property in 2021, the Project utilized an existing gravel access road to access the structures. A new work pad within the upland area was constructed to support the structure replacement activities.

To ensure that there are no adverse impacts to any historic or culturally sensitive resource (e.g. stone walls), the project completed the necessary field visits and exploratory surveys, and received an approval from the CT State Historic Preservation Officer. Said approval is attached. There is no indication of a stone wall in the area from the Eversource aerial or Project maps and the Claimants have never mentioned burial of a stone wall to Eversource Project representatives.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**BMPs for NEC Focus Areas**

- Contractors shall be educated on NECs, their habitat preferences, and vegetation to be removed vs. remain, annually or prior to beginning work in NEC area.
- Vegetation removal shall be limited to non-compatible species. Unless deemed necessary by the designated representative, all non-compatible vegetation shall be cut manually. Broad, non-selective mowing and the use of a feller-buncher or other mechanized land clearing equipment shall not be employed unless prior authorization is received from the designated representative.
- Use of targeted, foliar herbicide and manual cutting are favored over mowing.
- Unless suitable habitat is available elsewhere within the ROW, as verified by the designated representative, invasive shrubs that are designated as compatible species on transmission and distribution line corridors, e.g. multiflora rose, autumn olive, etc., may remain.
- Green briar shall remain within the ROW as it provides valuable, native cover, unless it hinders access to facilities or travel down the ROW. In these instances, minimal removal, as deemed necessary by the designated representative, shall be completed to gain access or allow travel.
- In areas where clearing of shrubs in the managed ROW exceeds 50% of total vegetation cover, as determined by the designated representative, mitigation options such as brush piles, corridors and removal strategies shall be reviewed with Eversource Licensing & Permitting to minimize impact to NECs. Clearing extent shall be generally evaluated from Structure to Structure and not on an entire project basis.
- Where not in conflict with any other permits, policies, or commitments, a portion of cut woody debris shall be left within the ROW to provide cover/structure for NECs. The portion of material to remain shall be determined by the designated representative on a project by project basis.
- All wood chips shall be removed from the ROW unless otherwise approved by the designated representative.
- Where not in conflict with other permits, agreements or listed species BMPs, vegetation removal activities shall be minimized from December 1 to March 1 in order to maintain protective cover during the non-growing season.
- Stone work pad sizes shall be minimized to the extent practicable. Where topography, construction and safety permit, typical work pads shall consist of a 50' x 50'+ stone pad surrounded by temporary construction matting as necessary if a larger work pad is required.
- Road width along straightaways should be minimized and not exceed 13 feet where possible. Road width can be widened at turns to accommodate equipment.
- Further assistance can be provided by Eversource Licensing & Permitting contact Michelle Ford (p. 860-665-3183; e. michelle.ford@eversource.com).

**Additional BMPs for Key Habitat Areas**

- When not in conflict with any other permits, policies, or commitments, new gravel roads and work pads that are to remain shall be seeded, post-construction, with an appropriate seed mix to re-establish herbaceous cover.
- Eversource's NEC contact, Michelle Ford, Eversource Licensing & Permitting, shall be contacted in advance of activities requiring extensive (>50%) vegetation removal, as determined by the designated representative.

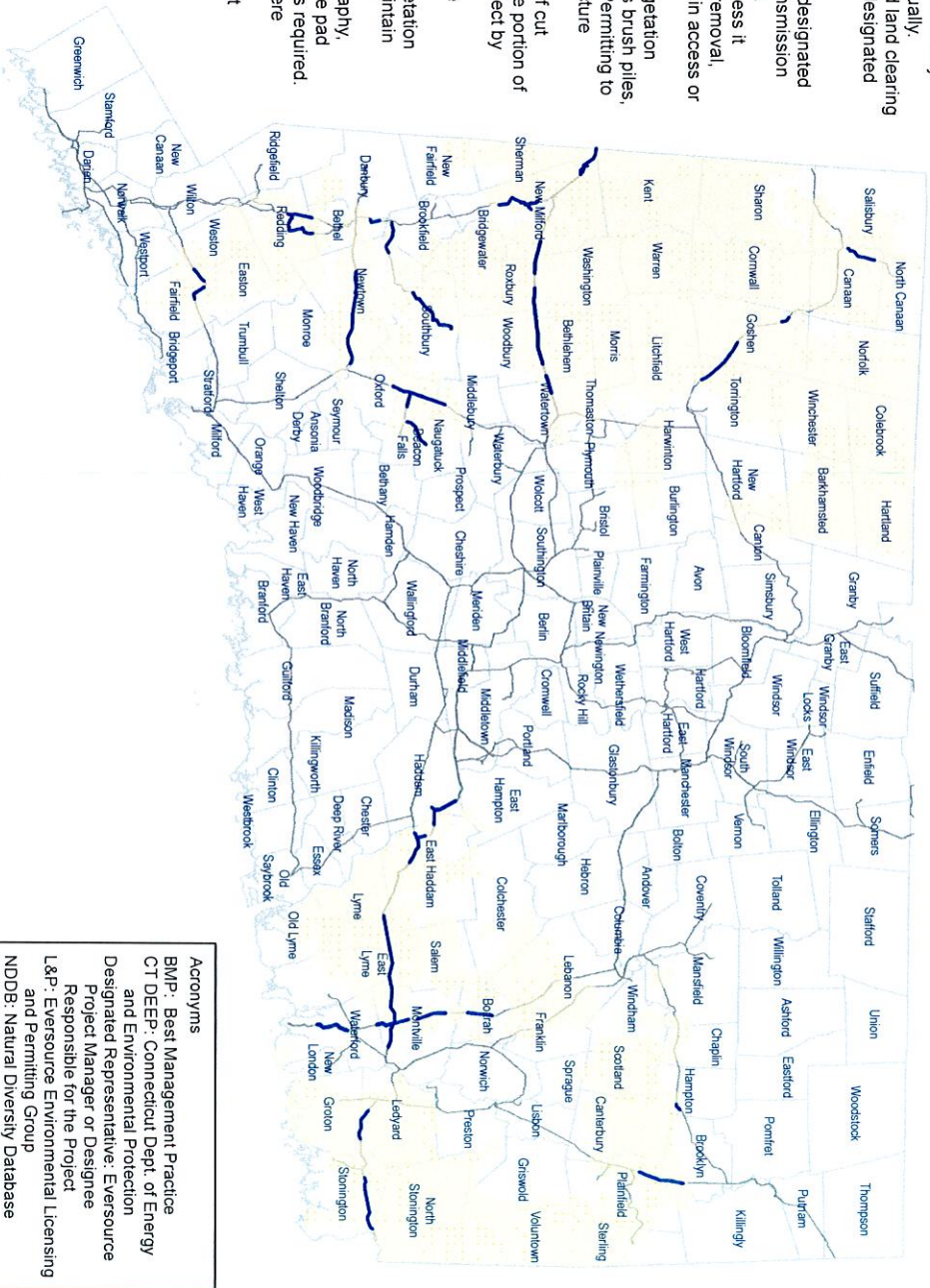
**Eversource New England Cottontail Best Management Practices**

**Legend**

— 2021 NEC Key Habitat Area - Transmission

— Transmission Line

□ Town



**Notes:**

1. Key habitat based on documented, 2020-2021 NEC locations and a 2km dispersal distance.

**Acronyms**

BMP: Best Management Practice

CT DEEP: Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection

Designated Representative: Eversource Project Manager or Designee Responsible for the Project

L&P: Eversource Environmental Licensing and Permitting Group

NDDB: Natural Diversity Database

NEC: New England Cottontail

ROW: Right-of-Way

VM: Eversource Vegetation Management







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](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Web Site: [portal.ct.gov/esc](http://portal.ct.gov/esc)

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

June 1, 2023

Cory Spaulding and Leslie Yeisley  
716 Beaumont Highway  
Lebanon, CT 06249  
[coryspaulding@earthlink.net](mailto:coryspaulding@earthlink.net)

**RE: Freedom of Information Act Request, dated June 1, 2023**

Dear Cory Spaulding and Leslie Yeisley:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated June 1, 2023, requesting "any notification or exempt notifications sent to the Council by Eversource in reference to work performed," for Eversource electric transmission line Structure Nos. 7785 and 7786 located in Lebanon, Connecticut.

The Council is currently reviewing its records to determine what records in the Council's possession fall within your request.

We thank you for your patience as we gather the existing documents within the Council's possession that satisfy your Freedom of Information Act Request.

Your thoughtful consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/laf

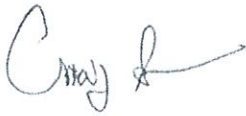
c: Council Members

Certification

I hereby certify that a paper copy of the forgoing document was hand delivered to  
The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy at  
56 Prospect Street Hartford CT.

Attention Deborah Denfeld Team Lead – Transmission Siting Eversource Energy  
P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06141 Phone: (860) 728-4654  
deborah.denfeld@eversource.com

Cory Spaulding



July 6, 2023

Leslie Yeisley

