



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 3, 2023

Deborah Denfeld
Team Lead – Transmission Siting
Eversource Energy
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141
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RE: **PETITION NO. 1577** - 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 Frost Bridge to Noera Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 5 miles of its existing electric transmission line right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) 1163 and 1550 Lines between Frost Bridge Substation in Watertown to Noera Substation in Waterbury, traversing the municipalities of Watertown, Thomaston, Plymouth and Waterbury, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements.

Dear Deborah Denfeld:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than July 24, 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 July 24, 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: Kathleen M. Shanley, Eversource Energy (Kathleen.shanley@eversource.com)

**Petition No. 1577 - Eversource
Frost Bridge to Noera Rebuild Project
Watertown, Thomaston, Plymouth, and Waterbury, Connecticut**

**Interrogatories
July 3, 2023**

Notice

1. Referencing Petition p. 29, were any comments received from the Towns of Watertown, Thomaston and Plymouth, the City of Waterbury or abutting property owners since the filing of the Petition? If so, what were their concerns, and how were these concerns addressed?
2. Describe outreach efforts to project abutters. Have any abutters requested further information? Were right-of-way (ROW) restoration measures described during public outreach?
3. Referencing Petition pp. 25-26, has an application been filed with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for review of the specified overhead spans? If yes, when was such application filed? Provide any response from FAA including any required marking/lighting plans if applicable.

Existing Facility Site

4. Referencing Petition p. 2, what public utility uses/rights are identified under the easements along the existing ROW?
5. Under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-2a(29), "Site" means a contiguous parcel of property with specified boundaries, including, but not limited to, the leased area, right-of-way, access and easements on which a facility and associated equipment is located, shall be located or is proposed to be located. Is the "Project area" described in the Petition synonymous with the existing facility "site?" Explain.
6. Referencing Petition p. 8, 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. How would any interruptions to existing generation facilities proximate and/or interconnected to the transmission lines be avoided/mitigated?
10. 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.

11. How does the project relate to other proposed, planned or constructed Connecticut reliability and asset condition projects?
12. Please describe how the proposed project is consistent with the recommendations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Report on Transmission Facility Outages During the Northeast Snowstorm of October 29-30, 2011 – Causes and Recommendations.

Project Construction

13. Identify all other permits required to perform the proposed work.
14. Referencing Petition p. 6, do the existing conductors of the 1163 and 1550 Lines consist of 4/0 copper for 1.5 miles and 795 kcmil aluminum conductor steel reinforced (ACSR) conductors for 3.5 miles of the Project route?
15. How would conductor and OPGW installation avoid contact with water at crossings?
16. Referencing Petition p. 4 and Map Sheet 6, Structure 691 is marked for replacement; however, this structure was rebuilt in 2014 via Council Sub-Petition No. 1000-WY-01. Why does this structure need to be replaced?
17. Referencing Petition p. 5, bullet point 1, explain in further detail why the 18 existing double-circuit lattice structures would be replaced with 36 single-circuit monopoles instead of 18 double-circuit monopoles?
18. Referencing Petition p. 6, bullet point 1, explain why and where the two new single-circuit weathering steel monopoles would be installed.
19. Referencing Petition p. 6, bullet point 5, explain why underground all-dielectric self-supporting (ADSS) fiber optic cable is required between two structures at Noera Junction. Identify the two structures.
20. Referencing Petition pp. 2 and 5, the existing lattice structure would be replaced in order to structurally support the new conductors and/or address asset condition issues. Why would the double-circuit wood H-frame structure and double-circuit steel pole structure need to be replaced for this Project?
21. Referencing Petition Map Sheet 4, why are Structures 19, 20 and 20A proposed to be moved to the southeast of their existing structure locations?
22. Referencing Petition p. 23 and Map Sheets 1 and 2, identify all proposed access road segments that would not be installed if Eversource is able to secure a DEEP Land Management Division Special Use License.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

23. 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?

24. Has Eversource developed a Protection Plan for wetlands, watercourses and vernal pools, including applicable pre-construction environmental resource field delineations and environmental inspections and duties, in its construction plans for the project? If yes, submit the plan. If no, when would such a plan be developed?
25. What measures would be taken, if necessary, to determine if excavated soils are suitable for reuse or redistribution in other Project areas?
26. Referencing Petition p. 5, one existing wood pole structure would be removed. If known, was the wooden pole chemically treated at the time of installation? Describe any best management practices associated with the disposal of the wooden pole.
27. Referencing Petition p. 9, please describe “low-impact” methods for vegetation clearing that would be used and in what areas would the low-impact methods be used?
28. Referencing Petition p. 16, provide the DEEP Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) Determination letter received on September 15, 2022. How are specific recommendations for each NDDB species implemented prior to or during construction?
29. Referencing Petition p. 11, submit a copy of the November 22, 2022 correspondence from SHPO.
30. Referencing Petition p. 11, has Eversource received any comments from the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs)?
31. How are invasive species within work areas identified prior to the commencement of construction?
32. Could Eversource use net-less or other type of E&S controls to prevent wildlife entanglement?