



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 8, 2024

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1613** - 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 East Haddam Junction to Hunts Brook Junction Reliability Project consisting of the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 16.1 miles of its existing electric transmission line right-of-way shared by its existing 345-kilovolt (kV) 348 and 364 Lines between East Haddam Junction in East Haddam and Hunts Brook Junction in Montville, traversing the municipalities of East Haddam, Lyme, East Lyme, and Montville, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. **Council Interrogatories to Petitioner.**

Dear Deborah Denfeld:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than May 29, 2024. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto: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 May 29, 2024 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

MAB/MP

c: Kathleen M. Shanley, Eversource Energy ([Kathleen.shanley@eversource.com](mailto:Kathleen.shanley@eversource.com))

**Petition No. 1613 - Eversource**  
**East Haddam Junction to Hunts Brook Junction Reliability Project**  
**East Haddam, Lyme, East Lyme, and Montville, Connecticut**

**Interrogatories**  
**May 8, 2024**

**Notice**

1. Referencing Petition p. 27, were any comments received from the Towns of East Haddam, Lyme, East Lyme, and Montville or abutting property owners since the filing of the Petition? If so, what were their concerns, and how were these concerns addressed?
2. Is notice to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) required regarding the proposed replacement structures? If yes, has Eversource received responses from FAA regarding such structures (e.g. No Hazard Determinations)? Would lighting and/or marking be required for any of the proposed replacement structures? If so, provide any required marking/lighting plans if applicable.

**Existing Facility Site**

3. Referencing Petition p. 4, what public utility uses/rights are identified under the easements along the existing ROW?
4. 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.
5. Referencing Petition p. 4, how many existing structures are located from East Haddam Junction to Hunts Brook Junction for the 348 Line? How many existing structures are located from East Haddam Junction to Hunts Brook Junction for the 364 Line?
6. Referencing Petition p. 4, 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. 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.
12. Referencing Petition 1527, response to interrogatory 12, explain in detail the current NESC clearance requirement for conductor sway (blowout) relative to 345-kV lines.

### **Project Construction**

13. Identify all other permits required to perform the proposed work.
14. What is the total acreage of the construction limits of disturbance for the project?
15. Referencing Petition p. 4, Eversource notes that, for the 348 and 364 Lines, “The conductor is in good shape and will not be replaced as part of the Project.” What is the approximate age and remaining useful life in years for the 348 Line conductor? What is the approximate age and remaining useful life in years for the 364 Line conductor?
16. Would the proposed Project require the installation of counterpoise? If so, at approximately what depth would it be installed? Would it be arranged to be outside the phase conductors?
17. Would the proposed Project require the transfer of the existing lightning arrestors to the new structures and/or installation of new lightning arresters? Explain.

### **Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures**

18. 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?
19. Referencing Petition pp. 9-11 and Attachment D, has Eversource developed protection measures for wetlands and watercourses similar to the protection measures for vernal pools behind Attachment E? If yes, describe the protection measures. If no, when would protection measures be developed?
20. What measures would be taken, if necessary, to determine if excavated soils are suitable for reuse or redistribution in other project areas?
21. Referencing Petition p. 14, Eversource submitted a DEEP Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) review request on October 13, 2023. Provide a copy of the DEEP NDDB Determination letter. How would specific recommendations for each NDDB species be implemented prior to or during construction?
22. Is the proposed project located within 150 feet of a known northern long-eared bat (NLEB) maternity roost tree or within 0.25-mile of a known NLEB hibernaculum? If so, how would the proposed project protect the NLEB?
23. Referencing Petition p. 8, submit a copy of the October 4, 2023 correspondence from SHPO to Heritage Consultants.

24. Referencing Petition p. 8, has Eversource received any comments from the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) since the filing of the Petition?
25. How are invasive species within work areas identified prior to the commencement of construction?
26. Could Eversource use net-less or other type of erosion and sedimentation (E&S) controls to prevent wildlife entanglement?
27. On Petition p. 21, the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for E&S Control are referenced. Is the preliminary design of the Project at least 50 percent complete? If not, would construction comply with the Connecticut Guidelines for E&S Control and Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual, effective March 30, 2024?
28. Referencing Petition p. 21, temporary E&S control measures would be routinely inspected until Project work is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized. How often would E&S controls be typically inspected?
29. Referencing Petition p. 14, it states portions of the ROW are within New England Cottontail Focus and Key Habitat Areas and work area restoration would include the covering either partial or fully, of gravel work pads with soil. The Petition Map Sheets do not contain any callouts as to what gravel pads would be partially or fully covered. Provide further information regarding gravel pad restoration. How would Eversource ensure the New England Cottontail post-construction mitigation measures have been satisfactorily completed?