56 Prospect Street
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06103

Deborah Denfeld
Team Lead – Transmission Siting
Tel: (860) 728-4654

May 24, 2024

Melanie Bachman, Esq.
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: **PETITION NO. 1624** – The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource") petition for a declaratory ruling for the proposed modifications to its existing Sandy Hook Substation located at 13 Farmery Lane, Newtown, Connecticut

Responses to CSC-001 Interrogatories, dated May 3, 2024

Dear Attorney Bachman:

This letter provides an original and 15 copies of the responses to the requests for information listed below:

Responses to CSC-001 Interrogatories, dated May 3, 2024
CSC-001-1 through CSC-001-42

Sincerely,

Deborah Denfeld

Deborah Denfeld
Team Lead | CT Siting Transmission

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 1
Referencing Petition pp. 8-9, did the Town and/or its Planning and Land Use Director provide any comments related to the proposed landscaping? If so, what were the comments?

Response:

A field meeting was held in January 2024 with Mr. Robert Sibley, Director of Planning and Land Use, a representative from Eversource Project Services (outreach) and an Eversource Arborist. During the meeting, options were discussed regarding the replanting of a vegetative visual buffer along the northern side of the fence line. In response, Mr. Sibley requested a coniferous plant species that would replace the year-round screening that the white pines provided prior to their removal earlier in the Sandy Hook Substation Project. At an April meeting between Eversource Community Relations and the First Selectman, Eversource explained that a juniper species was proposed to be planted to replace the white pines that were removed. The First Selectman indicated that he was comfortable with the junipers.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 2
Referencing Petition p. 9, approximately when in 2023 did Eversource conduct outreach to abutting property owners?

Response:

In May of 2023, a letter was sent to all abutting property owners advising them of Eversource's plans to submit a petition to the Connecticut Siting Council requesting a declaratory ruling on the permanent fence expansion on the northern side of the substation.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 3
Has Eversource received any comments since the Petition was submitted to the Council? If yes, summarize the comments and how these comments were addressed.

Response:

Eversource has not received any comments from the abutting property owners since the Petition was submitted to the Council; however, Eversource did conduct a site visit with First Selectman in April 2024 during where Eversource explained that a juniper species was proposed to be planted to replace the white pines that were removed with the temporary fence expansion. The First Selectman indicated that he was comfortable with the use of junipers.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 4
Referencing Petition p. 4, to which other existing substations do the 1043 and 1232 Lines connect?

Response:

The 1043 Line extends from Sandy Hook Substation to Newtown Substation in Newtown.
The 1232 Line extends from Sandy Hook Substation to Stevenson Substation in Monroe.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 5
What is the tallest existing equipment associated with the substation and its height?

Response:

The tallest existing equipment associated with the substation is the A-frame termination structure for the 1043 Line. The structure including the attached lightning mast, is 67.5 feet in height.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 6
Has the zoning of the host parcel of the existing substation facility changed from farming and residential since 1993?

Response:

No, the zoning of the host parcel of the existing substation facility has not changed from farming and residential.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 7
What is the current area (in acres) of the host parcel that is occupied by the existing substation facility site? 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.

Response:

The current area of the host parcel that is occupied by the existing substation facility is approximately 0.57 acres.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 8
Referencing EM-EVER-097-220613e, specifically the Temporary Vegetation Clearing Notice dated October 7, 2022, and Petition p. 4, the approved temporary vegetation clearing to accommodate the CONNEX boxes to store construction materials was approximately 3,400 square feet. What area of additional vegetation clearing is required for the project?

Response:

No additional clearing is necessary for the Project.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 9
Would the CONNEX boxes remain on-site during project construction, or would they be temporarily or permanently relocated? If they are to be temporarily relocated or permanently relocated, where would the CONNEX boxes be relocated and if temporary, when would they be permanently removed?

Response:

The CONNEX boxes will remain on-site during construction and will be removed from the site upon completion of project construction.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 10
Approximately how often is the substation facility site accessed for maintenance and inspection purposes?

Response:

The substation facility is accessed monthly for maintenance and inspection purposes.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 11
Referencing Petition p. 4 and Attachment A, what is the material, style, and height of the existing fence?

Response:

The existing fence is 8 feet tall consisting of 6 feet 8 inches of steel chain link and 1 foot 4 inches of 3 rows of barbed wire.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 12
Referencing Petition p. 4 and Attachment A, what are the dimensions of the existing substation facility entrance gate?

Response:

The existing entrance gate at the substation is 20 feet wide and 8 feet tall.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 13
What type of surface material covers the existing fenced substation facility area?

Response:

Crushed stone (3/4 inch) covers the existing fenced substation facility area.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 14
What is the distance of the nearest abutting property line from the existing north fence line?
What is the distance of the nearest residence from the existing north fence line?

Response:

The distance to the nearest abutting property line from the existing north fence line is approximately 60 feet. The distance to the nearest residence from the existing north fence line is approximately 135 feet.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 15
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.

Response:

The total cost of the Project is estimated at $150,000. The entire cost of the Project will be allocated to customers of The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 16
What is the estimated cost to implement the proposed landscaping plan?

Response:

The cost to implement the proposed landscaping plan is approximately $40,000.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 17
Is the project part of any Eversource planned upgrades or programs? How would the project improve the reliability of Eversource's transmission system?

Response:

This fence expansion Project is not part of any Eversource planned upgrades or programs. This Project would not improve the reliability of Eversource's transmission system.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 18
What is the distance of the nearest abutting property line from the new north fence line? What is the distance of the nearest residence from the new north fence line?

Response:

The nearest abutting property line is to the west and is approximately 60 feet from the new north fence line. The nearest residence is to the east and is 150 feet from the new north fence line.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 19
Referencing the definition of "site" under RCSA §16-50j-2a(29), what would be the new area (in acres) of the host parcel occupied by the substation facility site post-construction?

Response:

The area of the host parcel that will be occupied by the substation facility post construction would be approximately 0.68 acre.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 20
The deadline for completion of construction for EM-EVER-097-220613e is July 25, 2024. Would Eversource need an extension of the deadline for completion of construction for the approved modifications beyond July 25, 2024 to accommodate and/or simultaneously complete the approved modifications and the proposed project?

Response:

No, Eversource would not need an extension of the July 25, 2024, deadline to complete the construction for EM-EVER-097-220613e. The work for the proposed Project would be completed during the time permitted for completion under the subject Petition 1624.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 21
Referencing Petition p. 7, a Wetlands and Watercourses Delineation Report is included in Attachment C. There are two copies of the Potential Vernal Pool Assessment and Recommended Protection Measures included in Attachment C. Provide a copy of the Wetlands and Watercourses Delineation Report.

Response:

Eversource apologizes for the error. Attached is a copy of the Wetlands and Watercourses Delineation Report dated December 4, 2023.

DAVISON ENVIRONMENTAL

Biodiversity Studies • Wetland Delineation & Assessment • Habitat Management • GIS Mapping • Permitting • Forestry

Wetlands and Watercourses Delineation Report
Sandy Hook Substation Expansion Project

Prepared For: Eversource Energy
107 Selden Street
Berlin, CT 06037
Attention: Jeff Bolton

Project Location: Newtown, Connecticut

Date(s) of Investigations: December 4, 2023

Wetland/Watercourse Delineation Methodology:
☒Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses
☐Connecticut Tidal Wetlands
☐Massachusetts Wetlands
☒U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The wetlands inspection was performed by:

Davison Environmental, LLC

Matthew Davison
Professional Soil Scientist
Professional Wetland Scientist

Attachments:
1. Wetland Photographs
2. NRCS Soil Mapping

Introduction

Davison Environmental Certified Professional Wetland and Soil Scientist Matthew Davison delineated the Connecticut and Federal jurisdictional water resources on December 4, 2023. The limits of the delineation area consisted of the Eversource-owned property associated with the Sandy Hook Substation, referred to hereafter as the "Project area". The Project area is located in the Town of Newtown.

From a biogeographical perspective, the Project area is located within the *Southern New England Coastal Plains and Hills* Ecoregion, just north of the transition from the *Long Island Sound Coastal Lowlands* Ecoregion (source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

The *Southern New England Coastal Plains and Hills* ecoregion covers much of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and southeastern Massachusetts, and is diverse in its characteristics and habitats. The landforms of the ecoregion are irregular plains with low hills and some open high hills with relief of about 100 to 400 feet. Elevations range up to about 1000 feet, with the highest elevations found in western Connecticut. Bedrock types are mostly granites, schist, and gneiss, although some soft marble occurs in western Connecticut. Surface materials are mostly glacial till, with some stratified deposits in valleys. Soil patterns are complex and heterogeneous where the numerous, small, till-covered bedrock hills rise above the valleys and general level of outwash. Coarse-loamy and sandy, mesic Inceptisols and some Entisols are typical.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulations governing the delineation of wetlands and watercourses at the site include Connecticut inland wetlands and Federal wetlands regulated by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). A summary of the regulatory language for each jurisdictional body are described below:

The Connecticut jurisdictional wetland and watercourses delineation was conducted by a soil scientist according to the requirements of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (P.A. 155). Inland wetlands include soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial, and floodplain by the National Cooperative Soils Survey as may be amended from time to time, of the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Watercourses means rivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and all other bodies of water, natural or artificial, vernal or intermittent. Intermittent watercourses shall be delineated by a defined permanent channel and bank and the occurrence of two or more of the following

characteristics: *(A) Evidence of scour or deposits of recent alluvium or detritus, (B) the presence of standing or flowing water for a duration longer than a particular storm incident, and (C) the presence of hydrophytic vegetation*.

Waters of the U.S. were delineated in accordance with the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region* (Version 2.0, January 2012). According to this method, three parameters must be satisfied for an area to be mapped as a wetland. These are wetland soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology.

Methods

Soils, vegetation and hydrology were examined per the aforementioned regulatory requirements. Along the wetland boundary, a hand auger was used to investigate the soil profiles to a minimum depth of 20 inches. This was necessary to determine the U.S. Department of Agriculture drainage class (per State requirements) as well as the presence of hydric soil indicators per the USACE requirements (e.g., reduced matrix, redoximorphic features). Soil profiles were reviewed approximately every 15-30 feet along the boundary, typically digging one hole on either side of the defining boundary to confirm the wetland limit. This information was coupled with observed hydrology (or the presence of hydrologic indicators) as well as the presence of hydrophytic vegetation to determine the final location of the placement of each wetland flag. As is typically the case with most Connecticut wetlands, the boundary of State and Federal jurisdictional wetlands was identical. The wetland boundary was field demarcated with pink plastic flagging tape labeled “Wetland Delineation”. The wetland flag locations were field located using a Trimble R1 GNSS Receiver capable of sub-meter accuracy.

Results and Wetland Descriptions

One wetland (W1) and two intermittent watercourses (S1 & S2) were delineated in the Project area as illustrated on the Project mapping.

The delineated wetland is a *groundwater depressional wetland* situated in glacial till. The predominate wetland hydrology observed was *seasonally saturated* (along the wetland boundary). Wetlands with a seasonally saturated hydrology have a substrate that is saturated for extended periods during the growing season, but standing water is rarely present. *Seasonally flooded* hydrology was observed within the wetland interior. Wetlands with this hydrology are flooded for extended periods during the growing season, but usually no surface water is present

by the end of the growing season. Vegetative cover is *palustrine forested* (PFO). The wetland surface along the wetland boundary is extremely stony.

Two intermittent watercourses were delineated which originate on the hillside and drain to W1. S1 appears to be groundwater break-out in an extremely stony substrate. A review of upgradient areas did not reveal an obvious source (i.e., wetland or stormwater discharge structure). This watercourse ends where it infiltrates in the stony substrate and the observable channel ends. S2 originates on the hillside just off-site, draining into the site and W1 along the northern property boundary.

Wetland soil types observed consist of the Timakwa and Natchaug complex. The Timakwa series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils formed in woody and herbaceous organic materials over sandy deposits in depressions on lake plains, outwash plains, till plains, moraines, and flood plains. These soils have moderate to very rapid permeability in the organic material and rapid to very rapid permeability in the sandy material.

The Natchaug series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils formed in woody and herbaceous organic materials overlying loamy deposits in depressions on lake plains, outwash plains, till plains, moraines, and flood plains. These soils have moderate to very rapid permeability in the organic material and moderately slow to moderately rapid permeability in the loamy material.

WETLAND PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: View of Wetland W1 along wetland boundary

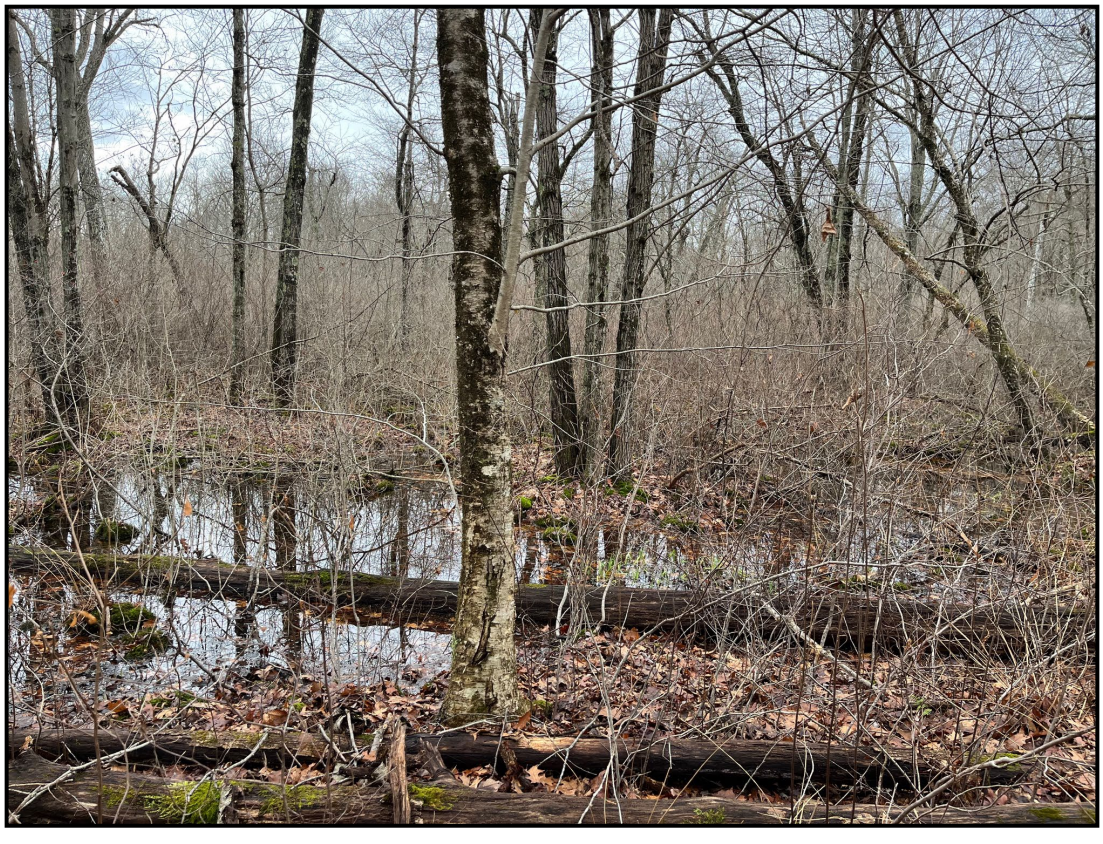


Photo 2: View of Wetland W1 (seasonally flooded hydrology)

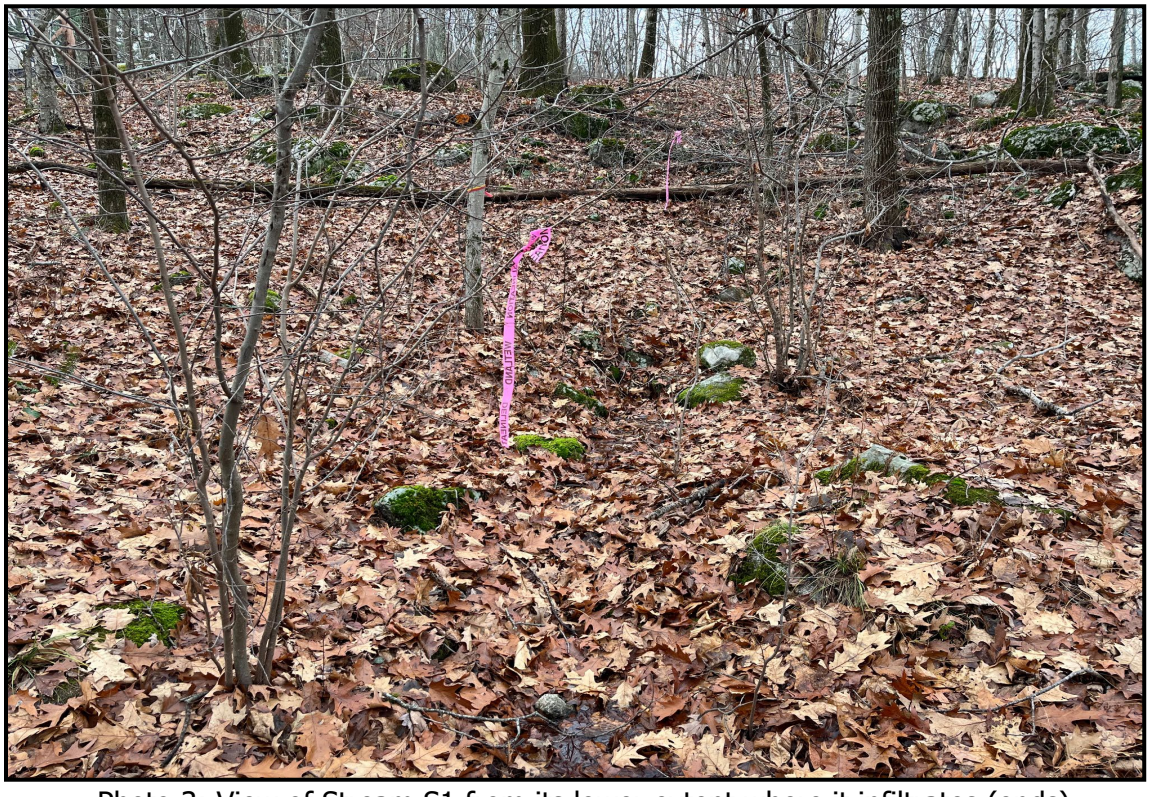


Photo 3: View of Stream S1 from its lower extent where it infiltrates (ends)

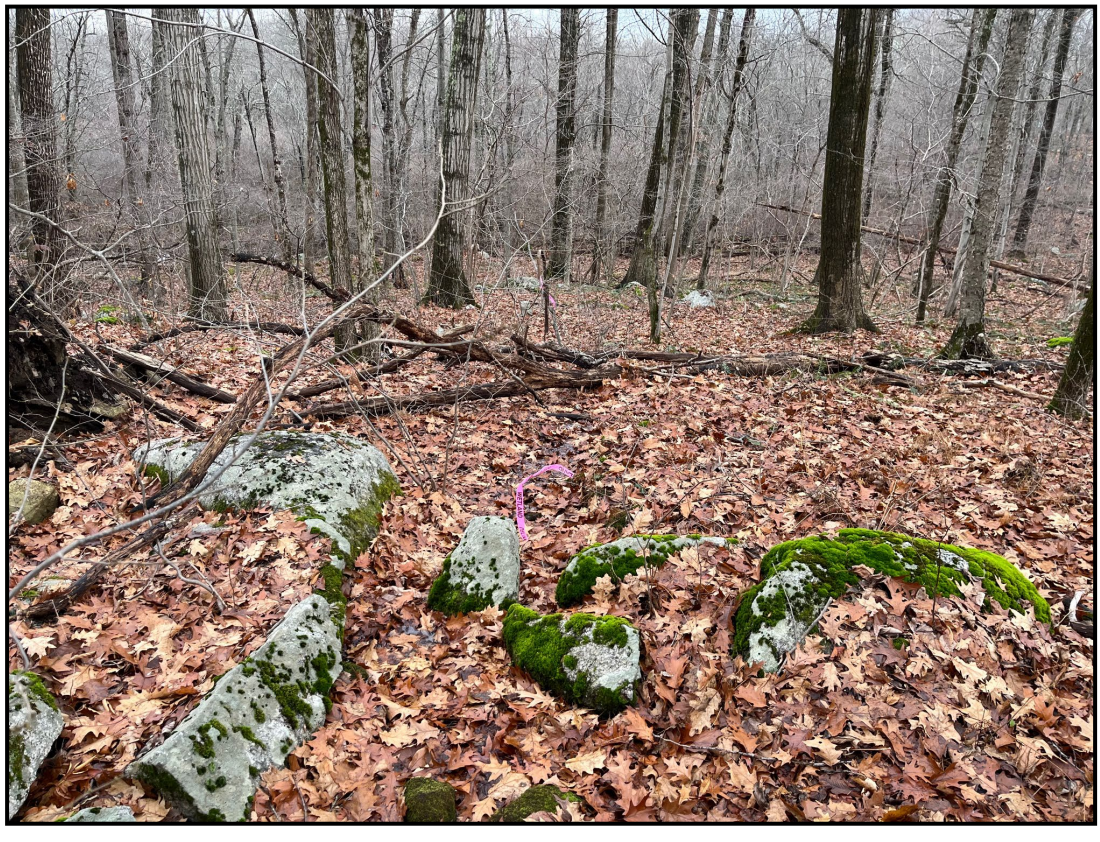
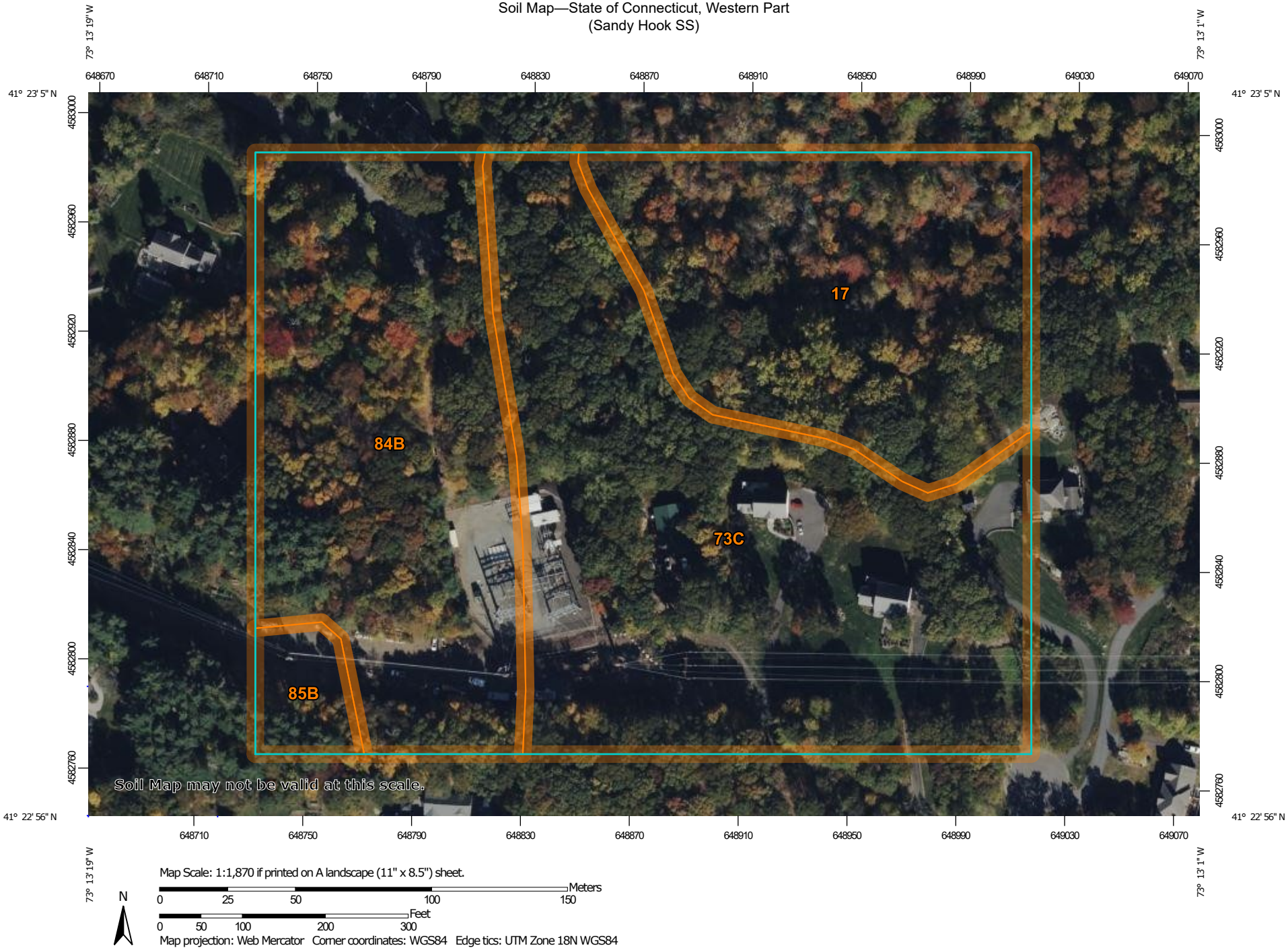


Photo 4: View of Stream S2 where it drains into W1

NRCS SOIL MAPPING

Soil Map—State of Connecticut, Western Part
(Sandy Hook SS)



Map Scale: 1:1,870 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

N

Meters: 0 25 50 100 150

Feet: 0 50 100 200 300

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 18N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:12,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: State of Connecticut, Western Part
Survey Area Data: Version 1, Sep 15, 2023

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Oct 21, 2022—Oct 27, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
17	Timakwa and Natchaug soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes	3.9	24.7%
73C	Charlton-Chatfield complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky	6.6	42.6%
84B	Paxton and Montauk fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes	4.7	30.1%
85B	Paxton and Montauk fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	0.4	2.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		**15.6**	**100.0%**

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 22
Referencing Petition p. 6, what modifications would be made to the original facility site landscaping plan that was approved by the Council and why are these modifications necessary?

Response:

The original facility site landscaping plan that was approved by the Council proposed planting white pines along the northern fence line of the substation. The proposed landscaping plan replaces the white pines with junipers. Since the original planting plan was developed, Eversource Vegetation Management has classified white pines as a incompatible tree species since they are weak wooded, more susceptible to disease, and, more importantly, can grow into the wire zone or cause interference and clearance issues with Eversource equipment.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 23
Referencing Petition p. 6, are the proposed juniper trees deer resistant? If not, could a deer resistant species be substituted for the juniper trees? Explain.

Response:

Yes, the proposed junipers trees are deer resistant.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 24
Would Eversource replace landscaping elements in the event of die-off?

Response:

Yes, Eversource would replace landscaping elements in the event of a die-off.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 25
Referencing Petition p. 7, what is the distance to the wetlands and two intermittent watercourses from the closest point of the new north fence line?

Response:

The distance from the closest point of the new north fence line to wetland W1 is approximately 274 feet. The distance to the intermittent stream S1 is approximately 126 feet. The distance to intermittent stream S2 is approximately 394 feet.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 26
Referencing Petition Attachment C, Potential Vernal Pool Assessment and Recommended Protection Measures, p. 3, marbled salamander are known to occur in the vicinity. What are the breeding requirements for the salamander? To what distance from the vernal pool does the salamander require for breeding and other life-cycle activities?

Response:

According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("CT DEEP"), "The marbled salamander is the only member of the Ambystomatidae family to breed on land and not in the water. Males typically precede females to a dried-up site that will fill with water after a big rain. Once there, they deposit packets of sperm (technically known as spermatophores). When the females arrive to the breeding grounds, they deposit between 30 to over 200 eggs underneath moist vegetation or debris." (https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/fact-sheets/marbled-salamander).

The exact distance requirement from the vernal pool for marbled salamander breeding is uncertain, but according to the CT DEEP, "...terrestrial ranges are usually close to breeding sites." In addition, vernal pools can provide refuge for the marbled salamander. (https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/fact-sheets/marbled-salamander).

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 27
Referencing Petition Attachment C, Potential Vernal Pool Assessment and Recommended Protection Measures, p. 5, "minimal loss of forest habitat is proposed within the Critical Terrestrial Habitat."

a. Approximately what is the amount of lost forest habitat within the Critical Terrestrial Habitat?;
b. What portions of the forested habitat could be utilized as directional corridors for the life-cycle activities of species that occur on the host parcel?; and
c. What species would typically use this area of forest habitat and at what time of the year?

Response:

Please see the responses below:

a. The area previously cleared was approximately 0.78 acre.

b. In practicality, all remaining portions of the forested habitat could be utilized as "directional corridors" for the life-cycle activities of species that occur on the host parcel.

c. It is difficult to know for certain all the species that would typically use the forest habitat in this area and at what time of year; however, as noted in the Potential Vernal Pool Assessment and Recommended Protection Measures, several species of amphibians depend on vernal pools for reproduction and development. These species are referred to as "indicator species" (Calhoun and Klemens, 2002). In Connecticut, indicator species include:
    - Blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)
    - Spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*)
    - Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*)
    - Marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*)
    - Wood frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*), and
    - Fairy shrimp (*Branchiopoda anostraca*)

The wood frog and the spotted salamander are the two most common indicator species in Connecticut, occurring statewide. Fairy shrimp also occur statewide but are relatively uncommon.

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Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 28
Referencing the recommendation for silt fence around the proposed expansion area prior to commencement of construction on p. 5 of Petition Attachment C, Potential Vernal Pool Assessment and Recommended Protection Measures, what other protection measures could be implemented for the marbled salamander and other species that occur at the site during the construction period?

Response:

Additional protection measures that could be implemented for the marbled salamander and other species that occur at the site during the construction period would be to train the construction crews to identify marbled salamander and other species, and to conduct sweeps each day. However, Eversource believes the recommendations contained within Attachment C are adequate for the protection of marbled salamanders and other species that may occur at the site.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 29
What methods and/or designs could be incorporated into the project to mitigate wildlife intrusions into the expanded fenced substation area post-construction?

Response:

Additional methods and/or designs that could be considered for incorporation into the fence expansion to deter wildlife intrusions include concrete walls; plates or panels buried below grade and carried up to a certain height of the fencing; or burying a portion of the chain link fencing below grade. However, those methods or design elements are not warranted based on operational history of substations enclosed by chain link fencing without such additional measures. The chain link fencing will keep large animals out. While smaller animals and birds could enter the enclosed substation and leave the substation freely, thereby not impacting small wildlife movement.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 30
Referencing Mapsheet 1 of 1, the entire area is a New England Cottontail (NEC) "final" focus area. What is meant by "final?" What measures would be implemented to protect NEC during construction?

Response:

Unfortunately, installation of the junipers (*Juniperus chinensis)* plants will not provide adequate space for plants that attract pollinator species. In addition, the shade from the junipers and the adjacent forested area would not provide favorable growing conditions for pollinator plant species.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 31
Referencing Mapsheet 1 of 1, the entire area is a New England Cottontail (NEC) "final" focus area. What is meant by "final?" What measures would be implemented to protect NEC during construction?

Response:

The word "final" is an error and therefore should be disregarded.

Eversource would implement its NEC best management practices during construction, which focus on habitat management. Unlike other smaller, slower wildlife such as turtles, we expect rabbits to naturally vacate the immediate area during construction and therefore no additional measures are warranted.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 32
Referencing Mapsheet 1 of 1, the transmission line corridor and substation interconnection, including an area where equipment is to be removed for EM-EVER-097-230613e, is depicted as a NEC Key Habitat Area. What measures could be implemented after construction of both projects to enhance NEC habitat?

Response:

Implementation of Eversource's long term integrated vegetation management program, incorporating applicable NEC best management practices, such as limiting vegetation removal to incompatible species and leaving portions of cut woody debris as cover habitat along the ROW will enhance NEC habitat.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 33
How would the project comply with the 2023 National Electrical Safety Code standards?

Response:

The Project will comply with the 2023 National Electrical Safety Code as it applies to perimeter fencing and the ground grid standards.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 34
Referencing Petition p. 4, the existing facility is a bulk substation. Identify the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission physical security standards that apply to the substation.

Response:

Sandy Hook Substation was identified incorrectly in the petition as a bulk substation and therefore is not subject to current physical security standards required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 35
Please describe how the proposed project is consistent with the NERC Evaluation of the Physical Security Reliability Standard and Physical Security Attacks to the Bulk-Power System, dated April 14, 2023 and available at:

https://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/NERC%20Filings%20to%20FERC%20DL/NERC%20Report%20on%20CIP-014-3.pdf

Response:

Sandy Hook Substation was identified incorrectly in the petition as a bulk substation and therefore is not subject to the requirements of CIP-014 detailed in the above-referenced report.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 36
What impacts could the expanded fenced substation facility site have on the effectiveness and appearance of the existing sound walls, if any? Explain.

Response:

There are currently no sound walls in the substation facility. Sound studies conducted at the substation have shown that the substation is currently in compliance with applicable sound thresholds at the property line. Predicted sound levels after the second transformer is installed also show compliance with the noise regulations.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 37
Would the crushed stone proposed for the expanded fenced substation facility area match the existing fenced substation facility area surface material?

Response:

Yes, the crushed stone proposed for the expanded fenced substation facility area will match the existing fenced substation facility area surface material.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 38
What is the quantity of crushed stone required to cover the surface of the expanded fenced substation facility area?

Response:

Approximately 1,650 cubic feet of ¾ crushed stone will be required to cover the surface of the expanded fenced area.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 39
What is the total disturbance area (in acres) for the proposed project?

Response:

The total disturbance area for the proposed Project is approximately 0.12 acre.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 40
Referencing Petition p. 8, is the preliminary design of the project at least 50 percent complete? If not, would construction comply with the Connecticut Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines and Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual, effective March 30, 2024?

Response:

The design of the Project is complete.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 41
Could Eversource use 100 percent natural fiber or other erosion control protection measures to prevent wildlife entanglement during construction? Explain.

Response:

Eversource prohibits non-biodegradable plastic netting in erosion control products specifically to avoid wildlife entanglement. Eversource is not aware of wildlife entanglement instances with other forms of E&S controls, such as silt fencing, straw wattles, etc. that are commonly used. Eversource could consider using 100 percent natural fiber E&S controls; however, it is unclear whether this change in practice would provide an environmental benefit compared to current methods.

Date Filed: May 24, 2024

Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question: 42
Describe site construction inspections that will be conducted for this project.

Response:

An Eversource Construction Representative will be onsite every day overseeing the contractors doing the work to ensure that construction standards are adhered to, and that the construction work conforms to the representations made in the petition and permits.