



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 3, 2024

Deborah Denfeld
Team Lead – Transmission Siting
Eversource Energy
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141
deborah.denfeld@eversource.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1624** – 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 proposed modifications to its existing Sandy Hook Substation and associated equipment located at 13 Farmery Lane, Newtown, Connecticut. **Council Interrogatories to Petitioner.**

Dear Deborah Denfeld:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than May 24, 2024. 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 May 24, 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 A. Bachman
Executive Director

**Petition No. 1624 - Eversource Energy
Sandy Hook Substation Expansion Project
Newtown, Connecticut**

**Interrogatories
May 3, 2024**

Notice

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

Existing Facility Site

4. Referencing Petition p. 4, to which other existing substations do the 1043 and 1232 Lines connect?
5. What is the tallest existing equipment associated with the substation and its height?
6. Has the zoning of the host parcel of the existing substation facility changed from farming and residential since 1993?
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.
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?
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?
10. Approximately how often is the substation facility site accessed for maintenance and inspection purposes?
11. Referencing Petition p. 4 and Attachment A, what is the material, style, and height of the existing fence?

12. Referencing Petition p. 4 and Attachment A, what are the dimensions of the existing substation facility entrance gate?
13. What type of surface material covers the existing fenced substation facility area?
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?

Project Development

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.
16. What is the estimated cost to implement the proposed landscaping plan?
17. Is the project part of any Eversource planned upgrades or programs? How would the project improve the reliability of Eversource's transmission system?
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?
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?
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?

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

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

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?
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?
29. What methods and/or designs could be incorporated into the project to mitigate wildlife intrusions into the expanded fenced substation area post-construction?
30. Could restoration of disturbed areas outside the expanded fenced substation area and/or the landscaping plan incorporate habitat for the benefit of pollinator species, such as bees, moths and butterflies?
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?
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?

Public Safety

33. How would the project comply with the 2023 National Electrical Safety Code standards?
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.
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>
36. What impacts could the expanded fenced substation facility site have on the effectiveness and appearance of the existing sound walls, if any? Explain.

Project Construction

37. Would the crushed stone proposed for the expanded fenced substation facility area match the existing fenced substation facility area surface material?
38. What is the quantity of crushed stone required to cover the surface of the expanded fenced substation facility area?
39. What is the total disturbance area (in acres) for the proposed project?
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?
41. Could Eversource use 100 percent natural fiber or other erosion control protection measures to prevent wildlife entanglement during construction? Explain.
42. Describe site construction inspections that will be conducted for this project.