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DRAFT

Petition No. 1429
Eversource - 1768 Line Upgrade

Partial Development and Management Plan

Staff Report
January 22, 2021

On October 26, 2018, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Declaratory Ruling to The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) for modifications to a portion of its existing 1768 single circuit 115-kV electric transmission line (1768 Line) facility in the Towns of East Granby and Suffield, Connecticut by replacing conductors and 68 structures within Eversource's existing right-of-way (ROW). In its Declaratory Ruling, the Council required Eversource to submit a Partial Development and Management (PD&M) Plan for the portions of the facility modifications that will be constructed within wetlands and watercourses.

Eversource submitted the PD&M Plan on January 11, 2021. The Declaratory Ruling required the following information to be included in the PD&M Plan;

a) Detailed site plans that clarify construction within wetlands, watercourses and at culvert crossings, including structure locations and temporary and permanent impacts related to work pads and construction access, and methods to reduce such impacts, including, but not limited to, the potential use of silt sox for erosion and sediment controls;

The project entails the replacement of 68 double-circuit steel lattice structures with weathering steel monopole structures and the replacement of the single-circuit 556 kcmil aluminum conductor steel supported (ACSS) with a single 1272 kcmil ACSS conductor. The work will occur within a 7.0 mile segment of existing Eversource ROW that traverses wetlands, watercourses, agricultural land and upland areas.

The ROW is generally 300 feet wide with the maintained portion approximately 200 feet wide. All structure replacement work would be performed within the existing ROW. No expansion of the existing ROW or maintained corridor would be required for the Project.

The PD&M Plan contains map sheets at a scale of 1" = 100' that clearly depict the locations of work areas, upland areas, wetlands, watercourses, culvert crossings, structure locations, work pads, and temporary matting. The plans also show proposed re-contouring, direction of stormwater flow and soil mapping.

The ROW contains 22 mapped wetland areas and 12 watercourses. The Project will affect 15 wetlands and 5 watercourses. Tables that list the wetland and watercourses affected by the project are attached.

The ROW contains an existing network of access roads, some of which cross watercourses. Four of the Project related watercourse crossings will occur at locations where existing culverts exist and no impacts to watercourses at these locations are expected. Culvert protection measures would be installed, as necessary.

Nine existing lattice structures that will be replaced are located in wetlands. For the new replacement structures, two will be installed in upland areas. The remaining 7 new replacement structures are located in wetlands, resulting in a permanent total wetland impact of approximately 0.013 acre. For the lattice structures that will be replaced that are located in wetlands, the concrete footings will be left in place, with the existing foundation removed to 12 inches below grade, where feasible, to minimize wetland disturbance.

Temporary construction access and temporary work pads associated with structure replacement would impact 5.4 acres of wetlands and 5 watercourses. Temporary timber mats, or equivalent, will be used for all access across wetlands, as well as for the construction of any work pads, or portions therefore, that will be located in wetlands. At stream crossings where existing culverts are not in place, temporary crossings, consisting of timber mats or equivalent, will be installed as a span to maintain water flows and avoid flooding. Construction access and work pad installation will not require filling or permanent impact to wetlands or watercourses.

The use of temporary timber mats for access roads/work pads in two wetlands is subject to seasonal timing restrictions and specific work area protocols to reduce impacts to state-listed species, as recommended by DEEP.

An Invasive Species Control Plan is included on the site plan which seeks to prevent the spread of invasive species by routinely cleaning equipment and temporary matting, and to avoid the use of hay bales around wetland areas.

A total of 8 vernal pools were identified and delineated along the Project ROW. Project work was initially proposed within one vernal pool in East Granby to allow for a continuous temporary access road along the ROW; however, access to this area has be redesigned in the PD&M to avoid direct impacts to the vernal pool by eliminating the continuous temporary access road.

Project work would occur within the vernal pool envelopes (100 feet from the edge of the vernal pool) of 6 vernal pools. Eversource would conduct work within and adjacent to vernal pools in accordance with Eversource's *2016 Best Management Practices Manual for Massachusetts and Connecticut* (Eversource BMPs) as well as Project specific Vernal Pool Protective Measures. The protective measures to be used, where feasible, include, but are not limited to, avoidance and minimization of construction activities, restricting tree clearing, avoid removing shrub vegetation within 25 feet of a vernal pool, use of temporary matting, and the installation of specific erosion and sedimentation control measures. Erosion control measures, such as syncopated silt fencing will be designed and installed to allow for unencumbered amphibian access to vernal pools.

The construction of one temporary work pad will result in the conversion of approximately 0.07 acre of forested wetland to a scrub shrub wetland.

No 100-year flood zones are located within structure work areas. One structure and several work pads are within a 500 year flood zone in East Granby. Temporary matting would be used for work pads and construction access in these areas.

The proposed project is not located within a DEEP-designated Aquifer Protection Area, public water supply watershed lands, or any public supply reservoirs or public water supply wells.

Temporary erosion and sedimentation (E&S) controls, consisting of silt fence, straw bales, wattles, filter (silt) socks, etc., will be installed consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* prior to construction work. E&S controls will be installed where necessary around access roads and work pads in or near wetland and watercourses, as well as on steep slopes leading to water resources. Steep slopes from work area recontouring will be stabilized using slope protection measures, such erosion control blankets or temporary seeding. Specific measures will be reviewed by the project engineer prior to installation.

After construction is complete, all temporary mats will be removed from wetlands and from watercourse spans. Wetlands affected by construction activities then will be restored to pre-construction conditions to the extent practical. Disturbed areas will be seeded with annual rye grass or a wetland seed mix. E&S controls will remain in place until site stabilization.

If necessary, snow removal and the use of de-icing procedures will be in accordance with the Eversource Snow Removal and De-Icing Procedures contained within the PD&M which include, but are not limited to, snow removal procedures that limit disturbance to topsoil, subsoil and gravel, repair of damaged E&S controls, minimization of use of deicing materials on timber matting, and the stockpiling of snow during heavy snow events in upland areas.

The Project was issued a DEEP General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities (General Permit) on December 7, 2020. The General Permit included a Project-specific Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) that details the E&S controls to be used during construction.

Pursuant to Eversource's General Permit for the Project, a qualified stormwater inspector will perform weekly inspections of the work areas until final stabilization.

b) Details of construction-related dewatering.

If groundwater is encountered during structure foundation excavation, it will be pumped from the excavation and discharged to an upland area in a location that will not affect a downgradient wetland or watercourse. The water may be discharged on-site into a sediment control basin, filter bag, or pumped into a temporary tank and/or tanker truck for transfer and discharge to an upland area or at an appropriate off-site location. Untreated groundwater will not be discharged to wetlands or water bodies.

If dewatering activities inadvertently cause sedimentation into water resources, the contractor will stop the dewatering operation until the sedimentation issue is controlled.

If approved, staff recommends the following condition:

1. Compliance with the reporting requirements under Section 16-50j-62 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

ATTACHMENT –

Wetland and Watercourse Impact Tables

Table 5-1: Summary of Project Effects to Wetlands and Watercourses

Wetland / Watercourse ID (Town)	Appendix A Map sheet #	Wetland / Watercourse Effects (approx. square feet)		
		Temporary (Matting)	Permanent (Structure Foundations)	Secondary (Selective Tree Removal)
Town of East Granby				
W1A	01	35,585	0	2,849
W1B	01	-	-	-
W1C	01	-	--	-
W1	01/02	59,778	160 (Str. 3181. 3182)	0
W2	02/03	745	0	0
W3	03	7,416	0	0
W4	04	-	-	-
W5/S3	04/05	375	0	0
W6	05	-	-	-
W7	05/06	5,976	0	0
W8	08	-	-	-
Town of Suffield				
W9	09/10	11,956	80 (Str. 3203)	0
W10	10/11	-	-	-
W11	11	503	0	0
W12/S6	11/12	-	-	-
W13	12	-	-	-
W14/S8	16	230	0	0
W15	17	-	-	-
W16	17/18	-	-	-
W17/S10/S11	19/20	13,332	0	0
W18	20	4,618	0	0
W19	21/22	64,266	240 (Str. 3236, 3237, 3238)	0
W20	22	7,205	0	0
W21	23/24	7,969	0	0
W22/S12	25	16,032	80 (Str. 3247)	0
TOTAL		**235,757 (5.41 acres)**	**560 (0.013 acre)**	**2,849 (0.07 acre)**

Notes: 1. Indicates wetland within ROW, but not affected by Project construction.

Table 5-2: Summary of Watercourses within Project ROW and Crossing Methods

Wetland / Watercourse ID (Town)	Appendix A Map sheet #	Crossing Method	
		Timber Mat Span	Existing Culvert (in Upland or Wetland)
Town of East Granby			
S1	01		
S1B	01	X	X (culverts on either side of crossing)
S2	02		
S3	05	X (within W5)	
S4	08		X (upland along existing access road)
Town of Suffield			
S5	09		
S6	11		X (upland along existing access road near W12)
S7	13		X (upland along existing access road)
S8	16		X (upland along existing road across W14)
S9	17		
S10	19	X (within W17)	
S11	19	X (within W17)	
S12	25	X (within W22; stream located within a portion of temporary timber mat work pad for Structure 3247)	

Notes: Indicates watercourse within ROW, but not affected by Project construction.