

DOCKET NO. 134A - An Amendment to the Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P., Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to construct, operate, and maintain an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline from Sherman to Milford and Long Island Sound.

Connecticut
Siting
Council
December 10, 1990

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 11, 1990, the Connecticut Siting Council issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to the Iroquois Gas Transmission System L.P. (Iroquois) for the proposed construction, operation, and maintenance of the Connecticut portion of a natural gas transmission line. (Docket 134 Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order, dated October 11, 1990)
2. On November 1, 1990, the Newtown Opposition to Pipeline Encroachment (N.O.P.E.) as provided by Section 16-501(d) of the General Statutes requested the Siting Council amend its Certificate and substitute Old Farm Hill Variation A or Old Farm Hill Variation B for the proposed route approved by the Council within the Town of Newtown. N.O.P.E. now states that negotiations between Iroquois, nearby landowners, and developers have led to the resolution of the pipeline routing in this area. (NOPE letter to Connecticut Siting Council, dated November 1, 1990)
3. There are three possible routes in the Old Farm Hill Subdivision area: the proposed route; Old Farm Hill Variation A; and Old Farm Hill Variation B. Iroquois is prepared to construct along any one of the three routes. (Tr., 6/11/90, pp. 7-8)
4. The Old Farm Hill Variation A would depart from the proposed route at approximately milepost (M.P.) 308.5, parallel an existing Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) transmission line across Hanover Road, and proceed easterly for about 750 feet. The variation would proceed south from the transmission line and cross a forested area south of the Old Farm Hill Subdivision, and rejoin the proposed route at about M.P. 309.0. This variation would traverse wetlands for approximately 500 feet, as opposed to about 600 feet for the proposed route in the area. This variation would be slightly longer than the proposed route, resulting in slightly more forest clearing, 21.8 acres versus 20.6 acres. The FERC staff recommended adoption of this variation in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, dated June 1, 1990. (Tr., 6/11/90, pp. 73-74; Iroquois 21; FERC FEIS, Vol. I, p. 6-57)

5. The purpose of the Old Farm Hill Variation A proposed by Iroquois would be to minimize the pipeline's potential effects on the development of the Old Farm Hill Subdivision. (FERC FEIS, Vol. I, p. 6-57)
6. Old Farm Hill Variation B would depart from Variation A and parallel an existing CL&P ROW at a distance of about 125 feet for a total length of approximately 1500 feet. (Iroquois 21)
7. Old Farm Hill Variation B would pass through about 10 lots in the planned Old Farm Hill Subdivision. Iroquois might have to purchase one lot and negotiate an easement across the other lots. (Tr., 6/11/90, p. 8; Iroquois 21)
8. The Old Farm Hill Variation B would traverse wetlands for approximately 300 feet and rejoin the proposed route at approximately M.P. 309.9. N.O.P.E. prefers this variation. (Tr., 6/11/90, pp. 73-76; Iroquois 19)
9. The route of both Old Farm Hill Variation A and Variation B would avoid a large wetland on the west side of Hanover Road which would be crossed by the proposed route. (Iroquois 21; Tr., 6/11/90, p. 7)
10. On November 8, 1990, Iroquois confirmed that the Old Farm Hill Variation B had been agreed to by the State Department of Environmental Protection, the developer of the Old Farm Hill Subdivision, affected landowners, the Hanover Springs Association, NOPE, and Iroquois and would reduce the wetland area which would be traversed by the proposed route. Iroquois also agreed to the prompt adoption of a resolution for amendment to enable the FERC to incorporate the Old Farm Hill Variation B into its final decision. (Iroquois letter to Connecticut Siting Council, dated November 8, 1990)

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