Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Date: January 12, 2006

Inspector: Don Ukers

Location: Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane) and (345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill)

Storm/ Rain Event: Approximately 0.53" of precipitation fell mostly in the form of rain on 1/11 as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways **Composite**	- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Road by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and an area cleared from the station to the ROW. 1/12/06 - Snow cover has melted for the most part. The locations where snow and sediment had been piled over the silt fence near adjacent wetlands appeared to be repaired. 1/12/06	- With freezing and thawing periods, additional measures for stability should be considered if there are still access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, it will have to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-1/12/06 -Future snow plowing issues needs attention. Either wetland crossings need to be built wider with buffers to accommodate snow or it has to be pushed to a designated spot. 12/14-1/12/06. -Sedimentation was not an issue yet but it could be a potential as disturbed soil could run off the road towards the wetland. Additional haybales or silt fence lining the approach and the wetland boundaries will help. 1/12/06
345kV H-Frame	- Construction of access roads off Chestnut Ridge Rd continues with stone dust/gravel present in some areas. The approach to matted crossings need some attention to erosion controls. 1/12/06 -The access road from Bethel Reservoir remains in use. A number of stream/wetland crossings are present with	- The crossings are very well constructed and the stream was flowing clear. Watch for creation of any ruts as they

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	mats well in place. 1/12/06 - The larger wetland crossing moving south has been placed with mats as proposed. 1/12/06	will need to be restored to original condition. 1/12/06 - Provide erosion controls on the approach to the mats as necessary to prevent sedimentation.1/4-1/12/06
Foundation construction **Composite** **345kV H-Frame**	-Cables were set up at several old wooden structure in preparation for removal. 1/4-1/12/06 - A structure foundation was installed near a driveway off Chestnut Ridge. A stockpile was resulting. 12/22-1/12/06 - Clearing and access road construction/mat installation is ongoing in this section. 12/30-1/12/06 - Drilling for structure foundations was also occurring. 1/12/05	-None at this time. 1/12/06 - None at this time. The stockpile remained and had additional silt fence installed. 1/12/06
Erosion and Sediment Controls (includes inspection within 24 hours of a storm event) Erosion and Sediment Controls **Composite**	-Water has been flowing through/under the silt fence at the wetland crossing past Archers Lane and slight turbidity was still noted here even with the haybales present. 12/01-1/12/06. - The first wetland crossing, immediately within the Archers Lane site before the access road opens into the ROW is still showing similar sedimentation/turbidity issues from road run-off. A thin layer of fine sediment was noted in the leaves under the water. 1/4-1/12/06 - The 2nd structure in from Gallows Hill has a bare soil/boulder slope adjacent to the wetland with controls still well in place. 11/23-1/4/06.	- The silt fence should be extended, towed in, and/or repaired as necessary (or the haybale line should be continued along the low point to prevent turbidity). 12/8-1/12/06. Solutions need to be investigated. - Solutions to prevent sedimentation and turbidity in the ponded water here need to be investigated and implemented. 1/4-1/12/06 - The area should be regraded, to final contours and restored when feasible. 12/1-1/12/06 - Some general site clean-up should be performed around each structure work area.

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345kV H-Frame Erosion controls continued	- Mats for stream/wetland crossings are being installed well in several areas in the Chestnut Ridge/Hoyts Hill portion of the ROW. Areas of silt fence were installed near the crossings as recommended but they need to be toed-in to prevent sediment potentially washing into the resource area. 1/12/06 - The larger wetland crossing in the Bethel Reservoir ROW was matted and the access road looks good. 1/12/06 -Silt fence was recommended at the structure where clearing and the access road had ceased in this portion of the ROW. 1/12/06	12/30-1/12/06 -Additional haybales or silt fence are needed to line the approach or the wetland boundary on both sides of the mats in some locations. 1/12/06 -Install controls to the approach to the mat to prevent sedimentation if needed. 1/12/06 -Install fence as necesary. 1/12/06
Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation **Composite** **345kV H-Frame**	-The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings had worked well, but at the two areas near Archers Lane, turbid water continues to enter the ponded water here. 12/8-1/12/06 - The rocks at the crossings are also clogged with sediment at this point 1/4-1/12/06 -All streams under the mat crossings were running clear. But additional attention to erosion controls is required in some areas to prevent potential sedimentation. ¼-1/12/06. - The wetland ruts resulting from accessing and skidding out trees a few weeks ago should be monitored. 1/12/06	- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. Extend and/or toe in areas of silt fence, add haybales, or develop other solutions to prevent additional turbidity. 12/8-1/12/06 Consider cleaning up the crossings. 1/4-1/12/06 -See recommendation in erosion control section.1/4-1/12/06 - If channelization is noted as a result during the spring, the ruts/contours of the area should be repaired if possible. 1/12/06
State species of concern,	- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-	-Turtles would no longer be active at this time of year.

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threatened and endangered species	listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-1/12/06. -The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and are likely hibernating. 1/12/06.	1/12/06
Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)	- Clearing continues for the H-frame section. Smaller trees and brush are being chipped on site (some chips will be removed) and larger trees are stockpiled and may be utilized by landowners. 12/22-1/12/06 - Some of the chips were spread out on the ROW. 12/30-1/12/06 - Some trees will be cleared adjacent to the stream to expand the ROW. 1/12/06	-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-1/12/06 -Efforts to retain mountain laurel and other shrubs were noted. 1/4-1/12/06 - Chips spread on the ROW should not be to a depth of more than 3" by the time the growing season is about to begin. 1/4-1/12/06 - Stumps will remain and trees will be felled toward the mats to avoid ruts in the stream. 1/12/06
Dewatering	- Dewatering was not noted at this inspection. 1/12/06	- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. Otherwise use a filter bag or containment of some kind. 1/12/06
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 1/12/06.	-None at this time. 1/12/06.
Spills and Material Storage	- No drips or leaks were noted under any of the vehicles this week. 1/12/06	- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Take care not to get carried away and to be vigilant when refueling. Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Additional Observations		

Next likely scheduled inspection: Thursday January 19, 2006

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Inspector's Signature: *Diana Walden for Don Ukers*

(Composite Section): Photo shows a view of the now muddy access road adjacent to Archers Lane where sediment and turbidity continues to pass through the silt fence to the adjacent wetland. Repairs or a more encompassing solution is necessary. 1/12/06

Photo on the left shows the second wetland along the ROW access road where turbid water is pooling against the silt fence. Although some haybales are in place, slightly turbid water was noted in the wetlands. Photo on the right shows the Gallows Hill wetland crossing working well.

View of the area near the 2nd structure in from Gallows Hill. Bare soil remains piled near the erosion controls. While sedimentation is not an issue at this time and controls are good, the area should be graded to final contours and restored. 1/12/06

345kV (H-Frame Section): Photo on the left shows where mats were installed at the larger wetland crossing near the Bethel Reservoir land. Photo on the right shows the structure where clearing and the access road had reached. Erosion controls were recommended here. 1/12/06

View of mats installed over a wetland crossing located between Hoyts Hill and Chestnut Ridge Rd. Silt fence check dams were installed as recommended but some areas weren't toed-in. We also recommend more areas of fence on either side of the crossings to keep sediment from the access road out. 1/12/06

Photo on the left is a view of the access road constructed for continuing work on the ROW. Some areas of silt fence need to be toed-in properly. Photo on the right shows active drilling for structure foundations in this section. 1/12/06