

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: February 22 and 23, 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: Only a trace of precipitation has been recorded since the last inspection as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways	- 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. 2/22/06	- With freezing and thawing periods, additional measures for stability should be considered for 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. 12/8-2/22/06
Composite	- Water levels at the 2 nd wetland crossing on the access road have remained constant or decreased slightly since the last inspection. 2/22/06.	- Wetlands have not returned to the previous problem causing levels. Continue to monitor. 2/22/06.
	- Snow removal once again caused issues at the 2 nd and 3 rd wetland crossing along this access road. A skidder slipped off the road into the 3 rd wetland area creating some ruts in the wetland and taking out the silt fence. 2/22/06.	- Sediment was piled up and over the controls and needs to be removed from the wetlands. The damage should be repaired. See erosion control section for more details 2/22/06
345kV H-Frame	- Work along the access roads continues in the vicinity of Hoyts Hill. Significant clearing continues in this Chestnut Ridge Rd. section	- Continue to maintain as needed. 2/2-2/22/06 -Some brush could be removed from wetlands between poles #6 and 7 and some areas could use silt fence

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	<p>and chips were placed along portions of the roads. 2/16-2/22/06</p> <p>-Mats are in place in wetland locations in the Bethel Reservoir section. Watch the crossings for muddy conditions and erosion controls. New wood chips were also placed to increase stability. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Mats were removed from the stream crossing between poles#10-11 in preparation to build a stronger crossing for access to bring in the poles. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Access and clearing are now occurring off John Todd Rd. and Costa Drive. A stone dust access road is in place within the ROW. 2/22/06</p> <p>-Watch for sediment tracking at the various road/ROW intersections. 2/22/06</p>	<p>along the road near the wetland edge between poles #5 and 6. 2/16-2/22/06</p> <p>- The crossings are well constructed and conditions were slightly improved with placement of wood chips on the access road. Continue to provide/extend silt fence- see the erosion control section for details. 2/16-2/22/06</p> <p>- Make sure that the stream is not impacted in this construction. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Continue to install wetland crossings and erosion controls as needed. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Continue to monitor. Install stone at road access points or sweep the street as necessary. 2/22/06</p>
<p>Foundation construction Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>- Dumpsters were in place near the Archers Lane area to remove materials. 2/16-2/22/06</p> <p>- Significant clearing was noted off Gallows Hill Rd. Preparation for installation of another structure here was underway. 2/22/06</p> <p>-Excavations continued for wooden pole installation in the Bethel Reservoir and the Chestnut Ridge/Hoyts Hill sections. 2/9-2/22/06</p> <p>- Lines were being taken down from structures along the Bethel Reservoir and Chestnut</p>	<p>-None at this time. 2/22/06</p> <p>- See clearing section for more detail. 2/22/06</p> <p>- None at this time. 2/22/06</p> <p>- None at this time. 2/22/06</p>

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	Ridge Rd. sections. 2/16-2/22/05	
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls (includes inspection within 24 hours of a storm event)</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- Water levels remained constant or decreased to some degree at the 2nd wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. Snow plowing issues remain with sediment still piled over the controls at both the 2nd and 3rd wetland crossings and damage to the silt fence and wetlands at the 3rd wetland. 2/16-2/22/06.</p>	<p>-The effectiveness of these controls have been reduced due to this. Sediment/snow piles still need to be pulled back from the wetlands and the controls still need to be cleaned up. Damage to the wetland should be repaired and haybales or silt fence reinstalled. 2/22/06</p>
Erosion controls continued	<p>- The 1st wetland crossing, immediately within the Archers Lane site before the access road opens into the ROW continues to have increased sedimentation/turbidity issues from road run-off. Sediment accumulation in the wetland ranges from a thin layer on the leaves to several inches thick. 1/26-2/22/06</p> <p>- The 2nd structure in from Gallows Hill has had a bare soil/boulder slope adjacent to the wetland with controls in place since 11/23/05 but recent work caused soil to be pushed over to the wetland side. The silt fence was also down along the path here. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Wood chips were noted blown into the uplands off the ROW. This is probably not a good practice as this reduces natural habitat and may smother plants. 2/22/06</p>	<p>- Solutions to prevent sedimentation and turbidity in the ponded water here need to be investigated and implemented. Cleaning out the sediment in the stone may help. 1/4-2/22/06</p> <p>- In areas where sediment is substantial and feasibly removable, contractors should shovel it out carefully by hand. 1/26-2/22/06</p> <p>- The area should be regraded, to final contours and restored when feasible and the erosion controls will need some repair. 2/22/06</p>
<p>345kV H-Frame</p> <p>Chestnut Ridge Section</p>	<p>- Significant clearing continues in the Chestnut Ridge section. Continue to provide good controls at the wetlands near poles #1 and 2.</p>	<p>-Make sure chips stay on the ROW or piles are removed. Consider asking contractors to remove the off ROW chips. 2/22/06</p> <p>-Continue to place controls at all four “corners” of the approach to the mats and crossings. Watch for increasingly muddy conditions</p>

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Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	<p>Some silt fence could be installed adjacent to the access road between poles #5 and 6. Conditions were muddy and wetlands are adjacent. 2/22/06</p> <p>-The silt fence at the pasture near pole #7 could use some repair. 2/22/06</p> <p>- A silt fence check dam at the wetland between poles #6 and 7 could use some repair as well. 2/22/06</p> <p>- A portion of the sediment near structure #6 has been removed. Continue to work on the remainder as the pile is in a wetland area. 2/22/06</p> <p>- The stockpile from structure #9 foundation installation was still present. The silt fence here has a gap in coverage. 1/26-2/22/06</p> <p>- Conditions at all matted crossings appeared to improve as additional wood chips had been placed. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Conditions had been muddy on the access road near proposed pole #19 beyond the original mat at the crossing. 2/16-2/22/06</p> <p>-Silt fence was also installed at this structure now that foundation work is beginning here. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Sediment had run-off the access road between poles #19 and 21 into some wetland pockets. 2/16-2/22/06</p>	<p>on the mats and install silt fence along the road as needed. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Repair as necessary. This is to prevent sedimentation to an adjacent landowners property rather than a resource area. 2/22/06</p> <p>-Repair as necessary. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Continue to remove the soil here ASAfeasible when conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22/06</p> <p>- The stockpile should be removed as soon as feasible to prevent run-off to the road. 2/16-2/22/06</p> <p>- Continue to maintain erosion controls at the corners of the mats at the approach. 2/2-2/22/06</p> <p>- An additional mat is being delivered to be installed with the first one to increase stability here. 2/22/06</p> <p>-Continue to maintain fence as necessary due to the proximity of the wetlands. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Silt fence cannot be toed in here easily so haybales will be installed instead along the access road 2/22/06</p>
Inland Wetland and	-The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at	- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be

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Watercourse encroachment and mitigation	the wetland crossings had worked well, but at three areas near Archers Lane, turbidity issues have been present. Run-off from the road, the drainage pipe, and snow plow issues had led to sedimentation. 1/4-2/22/06	removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-2/22/06
Composite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New deposits of sediment were noted in the wetlands beyond the controls at the 2nd and 3rd wetland crossings due to recent snow plowing and direct damage was noted to the wetland at the 3rd crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-2/22/06 - The rocks at the 1st crossing remain clogged with sediment and noticeable deposits were in the wetland. 1/4-2/22/06 - Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. Clearing was noted along the wetland near Gallows Hill. 2/22/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues remain from the recent plowing. The sediment has to be carefully pulled back from the wetland and the controls repaired. Haybales can be installed instead of fence if more feasible. The wetland should be repaired as well 2/22/06 - The 1st crossing could also use some clean stone. Sediment will have to be carefully removed. 1/4-2/22/06 - Use mats to access and skid out trees. Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible. 2/22/06
345kV H-Frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Crossings remain well installed and additional wood chips have reduced some of the mud issues. 2/22/06 - Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas or adjacent to streams. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 1/19-2/22/06 - Some brush was piled in the wetland between pole #6-7 due to the clearing activities. 2/16-2/22/06 - At the excavation for proposed structure #6, some of the mud was removed from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -See recommendations in erosion control section.1/4-2/22/06 - If channelization is noted as a result during the spring, the previously created ruts should be repaired if possible. Try to leave shrubs and low growth where possible, especially at stream buffers. 2/2-2/22/06 -Carefully remove brush piles and trees from wetland areas. 2/16-2/22/06 - The entire pile should continue to be pulled back/removed and controls reinstalled closer to the pole.

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	the wetland but they will continue to do so. 2/22/06	Conditions may be too muddy at this time. 2/16-2/22/06
State species of concern, threatened and endangered species	<p>- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-2/22/06.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and is likely hibernating. 2/22/06.</p>	-Turtles would no longer be active at this time of year. 2/22/06
Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)	<p>-Significant clearing was noted in the composite section near Gallows Hill Rd. This includes work in wetlands. 2/22/06</p> <p>- A significant amount of chips were blown into the upland area off the cleared ROW. This could smother plants and reduce habitat. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Significant clearing continues in the Chestnut Ridge Rd. to Hoyts Hill section. Chips were being spread on the ROW in this area. 2/16-2/22/06</p> <p>- Efforts have been good to keep chips out of wetlands and placing them on the access road helps increase stability. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Carefully remove any larger branches or brush strewn in streams and wetlands. 2/9-2/22/06</p>	<p>- Take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22/06</p> <p>- Chips need to remain on ROW or be removed. Chips currently off ROW should be removed. 2/22/06</p> <p>-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-2/22/06 Makes efforts to retain shrubs. 2/22/06</p> <p>- 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. 1/4-2/22/06</p> <p>- Efforts to retain shrubs were noted in some sections. Attempt to retain buffers, especially at streams and wetlands. 2/2-2/22/06</p>
Dewatering	- Active dewatering was not noted at a particular structure this week. 2/22/06	- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. (Make sure to check downgradient for these areas- i.e. as in pole #6) Otherwise

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		use a filter bag or adequate containment. 2/22/06
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 2/22/06.	-None at this time. 2/22/06.
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment had leaks noted at the time of inspection. 2/22/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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.
Additional Observations		

Next likely scheduled inspection:

Thursday, March 2, 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 on the left shows a view of the 2nd crossing along the road from Archers Lane. Water had receded slightly from last week but sediment from snow plowing still needs to be removed. Photo on the right shows a spot where silt fence was damaged at the 3rd crossing. 2/22/06



Photo on the left shows the 3rd wetland crossing from Archers Lane. A skidder slid off the road and into the wetlands during snow plowing last week. The damage in the wetland should be repaired and the erosion controls fixed. 2/22/06



Photo on the left shows the erosion controls near the wetlands at the second structure off Gallows Hill. Sediment has been pushed over them and needs to be pulled back. Photo on the right shows the wetland crossing at the same location where silt fence is down. 2/22/06



Photo on the left shows an overview of the ROW in this section where additional clearing has occurred. Photo on the right shows where wood chips were blown into the woods beyond the cleared ROW. This does not appear to be a good practice for land outside the ROW. 2/22/06



345kV (H-Frame Section): Photo on the left shows a view towards pole #21 from access off John Todd Road. Photo on the right shows the view from Costa Drive towards the access road within the ROW. 2/22/06



Photo shows a further view of the ROW off Costa Drive. 2/22/06



Photo on the left shows silt fence which has been installed at pole #19 now that foundation work is beginning here. Photo on the right shows the view along the access road in the Bethel Reservoir section with new wood chips in place to help stabilize. 2/22/06



Photo on the left shows the area near the stream between poles #10 and 11 where mats have been removed. Photo on the right shows the mats stockpiled for removal. 2/22/06



Photo shows a view of the clearing continuing in the Chestnut Ridge Rd. section. 2/22/06



View of the access road and erosion controls near pole #7. Some repairs to the silt fence were recommended here. 2/22/06