

**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:** March 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 was recorded since the previous inspection as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways  <b>Composite</b>	<p>- 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. 3/23/06.</p> <p>- Clearing still needs to continue past Archers Lane. Wood chips have been blown off the cleared ROW in some areas. See the vegetative clearing section for more details. 3/2-3/23/06.</p> <p>- Water levels at the 2<sup>nd</sup> wetland crossing on the access road at Archers Lane have remained low. 3/23/06.</p> <p>- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3<sup>rd</sup> wetland area 2/16/06.</p>	<p>- If necessary, 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. 12/8-3/23/06.</p> <p>-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 3/23/06.</p> <p>- Wetlands have not returned to the previous problem causing levels. Continue to monitor. 3/23/06.</p> <p>- The damage should be repaired at the 3<sup>rd</sup> wetland. See erosion</p>	<p>-N/A until evaluation at the end of work.</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>-Haybales were placed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> wetland area but ruts remain. See</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/9-3/23/06.	control section for more details. 2/16- 3/23/06.	erosion control section for more details.
	- Other work areas are accessed from Hoyts Hill, Chestnut Ridge Rd, the Bethel Reservoir water plant road, Lime Kiln Rd, Whortleberry Rd, John Todd Way and Costa Lane. Wood chips were placed along a majority of the access roads. 3/23/06. -Stone dust is used on the access roads at Costa Lane and John Todd Way. 3/2-3/23/06.	-Continue to monitor the conditions of all access roads. If muddy conditions re-occur, place more wood chips or consider installing silt fence as needed. 3/23/06.	- N/A at this time
	-Mats are in place in the wetland locations in all of the H-frame section. Watch the crossings for muddy conditions and monitor erosion controls. 2/22-3/23/06.	- Continue to monitor for muddy conditions and repair controls when necessary. 3/23/06.	-N/A at this time
	- A larger access road has been graded between poles #10-11 for access to bring in the poles. Mats were installed to create a bridge over the stream and water main 3/23/06.	- The stream bed was well protected during the construction of the crossing and good controls were installed. 3/23/06.	-Mats were installed carefully over the stream bed and erosion controls were installed at the "corners".
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	-There was no sediment tracking at the various road/ROW intersections. 3/9-3/23/06.	- Continue to monitor. Install stone at road access points or sweep the street as necessary. 3/9-3/23/06.	N/A at this time.
	- Work has commenced off Perry Avenue in the Norwalk section. Chain link fences are up across the ROW here but stone dust access roads are in place. 3/23/06	- None at this time. Monitor the status of controls due to the wetlands/water in this area. 3/23/06	N/A at this time

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Foundation construction <b>Composite</b>	-The only current work in this section is related to clearing. 3/2-3/23/06.	-See erosion control and clearing sections. 3/23/06.	-N/A
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	-Poles had been delivered for installation in some locations along the Bethel Reservoir section. Wooden pole installation continues in this and the Chestnut Ridge sections. 3/23/06.	- None at this time. 3/23/06.	-N/A
	- All previously existing structures and wire were down in these two sections. 3/23/06.	- None at this time. 3/23/06.	-N/A
	- The crossing is constructed between pole#10 and #11 allowing for pole delivery. 3/23/06.	-None at this time. 3/23/06	-N/A
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	- Existing poles are in the process of being removed from both the John Todd Way and Costa Lane sections of the ROW. Pole installation is also occurring along these sections. 3/23/06.	-None at this time. 3/23/06	N/A
	-Foundation drilling was occurring to the north and south of Perry Ave. 3/23/06	-None at this time. 3/23/06	-N/A
Erosion and Sediment Controls	- Water levels appear to remain low at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. 2/16-3/23/06.	- None at this time. 3/23/06.	-N/A
<b>Composite</b>	- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3 <sup>rd</sup> wetland area. Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/2-3/23/06.	- Damage to the wetland should be repaired. 2/16-3/23/06.	-Haybales were installed at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> wetland in place of the damaged controls but the ruts in the wetland remain.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Erosion controls continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 1<sup>st</sup> wetland crossing, immediately within the Archers Lane site before the access road opens into the ROW continues to have sedimentation remaining from road run-off. 1/26-3/23/06.</li> <li>- Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-3/23/06. A new area with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW was noted past Archers Lane. 3/15-3/23/06</li> <li>- Additional haybales were extended along the access road at the wetland at the 2<sup>nd</sup> structure off Gallows Hill in an effort to reduce sedimentation to the amphibian breeding habitat. 3/23/06.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In areas where sediment is substantial and feasibly removable, contractors should shovel it out carefully by hand. 3/23/06.</li> <li>-Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors to should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&amp;M plan. 2/22-3/23/06.</li> <li>- Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 3/23/06</li> <li>-None at this time. Continue to monitor and keep activity out of the various wetland habitat as feasible. 3/23/06.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CL&amp;P is looking into a solution here.</li> <li>-Controls were extended here as recommended.</li> </ul>
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>			
Chestnut Ridge Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to provide good controls at the wetlands. Wood chips are in place along the access road and seem to have helped reduce sediment and mud issues. 3/23/06.</li> <li>-The silt fence at the pasture near pole #7 was reinforced to prevent wind damage and toed back in. 3/23/06.</li> <li>-Continue to work on removing the sediment near pole #6 as the remainder as the pile is in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continue to maintain controls at the four "corners" of the approach to the mats and crossings. Watch for increasingly muddy conditions on the mats and install silt fence along the road as needed. 3/23/06.</li> <li>-None at this time. Controls are good 3/23/06.</li> <li>- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-N/A at this time</li> <li>-Additional stakes were installed to reinforce the fence here. 3/23/06</li> </ul>

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Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	<p>a wetland area. 2/22-3/23/06. An additional temporary stockpile associated with pole installation has been placed in this area, upgradient of the silt fence. This pile is temporary and will be removed after the structure is installed. 3/15-3/23/06.</p> <p>- The stockpile from structure #9 foundation installation was still present. The silt fence here has a gap in coverage. 1/26-3/23/06.</p> <p>- Silt fence and mats remain in place in a number of locations in this section. 3/23/06</p>	<p>3/23/06.</p> <p>-Monitor the temporary stockpile and install additional erosion controls if necessary. Remove this pile as soon as feasible. 3/15-3/23/06.</p> <p>- The stockpile should be removed as soon as feasible to prevent run-off to the road. 2/16-3/23/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor for any muddy conditions or need for repairs. All observed controls remain in good condition. 3/23/06</p>	<p>-Fence is inspected regularly.</p>
Costa Lane and John Todd Way	<p>- Mats were installed over the stream between poles #10-11. Erosion controls were being installed at the "corners". 3/23/06</p> <p>-Mats are in place at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #28. 3/2-3/23/06.</p> <p>-Silt fence has been installed around stockpiles resulting from the foundation excavations at a number of structure locations. 3/23/06</p> <p>-Stilt fence remains well</p>	<p>- None at this time. Continue to maintain. 3/23/06</p> <p>-Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions and install silt fence as needed. 3/2-3/23/06.</p> <p>-Continue to monitor the erosion controls and remove stockpiles when feasible. 3/23/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor and maintain the erosion controls in this area due</p>	<p>- Erosion controls were installed proactively at the mats.</p> <p>- N/A at this time.</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	<p>installed at poles #24 and 25 as they are on either sides of a large wetland system. 3/15-3/23/06.</p> <p>-Foundations being installed off Perry Ave are adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies. Maintain erosion controls here. 3/23/06</p>	<p>to its proximity to the wetland. 3/9-3/23/06</p> <p>- Continue to monitor and install controls as necessary. 3/23/06</p>	
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p>	<p>-The D&amp;M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at 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. 1/4-3/23/06.</p> <p>- Direct damage was noted to the wetland at the 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-3/23/06.</p> <p>- The rocks at the 1<sup>st</sup> crossing remain clogged with sediment and noticeable deposits were in the wetland. 1/4-3/23/06.</p> <p>- Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. Wood debris at the wetland near Gallows Hill will be left in place within the first ~30 feet from the wetland. 3/23/06.</p> <p>- Wood chips were noted in the wetland off ROW near the 3<sup>rd</sup> structure in</p>	<p>- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-3/23/06.</p> <p>- The damage to the 3<sup>rd</sup> wetland should be repaired. 3/23/06.</p> <p>- The 1<sup>st</sup> crossing could also use some clean stone. Sediment will have to be carefully removed. 1/4-3/23/06.</p> <p>- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible. 3/2-3/23/06.</p> <p>- If damage is noted during the spring, the previously created ruts should be repaired if possible. 3/9/06-3/23/06.</p> <p>-See vegetative clearing section for more details.</p>	-N/A until evaluated at the end of work.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	<p>from Gallows Hill 3/15-3/23/06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas or adjacent to streams in this section as well. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 1/19-3/23/06.</li> <li>- Some brush was piled in the wetland between pole #6-7 due to the clearing activities. 2/16-3/23/06.</li> <li>-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-3/23/06.</li> <li>- At the excavation for proposed structure #6, some of the mud was removed from the wetland but they will continue to do so. 3/2-3/23/06.</li> </ul>	<p>3/23/06.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Try to leave shrubs and low growth where possible, especially at stream buffers. 2/2-3/23/06.</li> <li>-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from wetland areas. 2/16-3/23/06</li> <li>-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-3/23/06.</li> <li>- Continue to remove entire pile. Conditions may be too muddy at this time. 2/16-3/23/06.</li> </ul>	<p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>-Efforts to retain lower growth has been noted in this section.</p>
State species of concern, threatened and endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-3/23/06.</li> <li>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and is likely hibernating. 3/23/06.</li> </ul>	<p>-Turtles would no longer be active at this time of year. However as weather gets warmer, recommence daily walkthroughs. 3/23/06.</p>	<p>-N/A at this time</p>
Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)	<p>-Clearing had been noted in the composite section near Gallows Hill Rd. This includes work in wetlands. Adjacent homeowners mentioned damage to mountain</p>	<p>-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-3/23/06.</p>	

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<b>Composite</b>	<p>laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-3/23/06.</p> <p>-The wetland area at the 2<sup>nd</sup> structure is now being used as breeding habitat by wood frogs. A portion of this wetland was previously cleared and shrubby brush and larger limbs remain within. 3/15-3/23/06.</p> <p>- A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and also along the wetland edge at the 3<sup>rd</sup> structure off Gallows Hill. This could smother plants and reduce habitat. 2/22-3/23/06.</p> <p>-This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-3/23/06</p> <p>-Clearing will need to continue along the ROW past Archers Lane and a number of trees are marked for removal in a wetland which also serves as amphibian breeding habitat. 3/15-3/23/06.</p>	<p>-Limbs and debris can remain in the wetland as well as within a “buffer” of ~30 feet on either side 3/23/06.</p> <p>- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&amp;M plan. 2/22-3/23/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3”. 3/23/06</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>- CL&amp;P is looking into this.</p>
	<p>-Clearing continues along the Costa Lane, and John Todd Way sections. Wood chips were placed along the majority of the roads. 2/16-3/23/06.</p> <p>-Large branches and brush were noted in wetlands and stream areas in a number of locations. 2/9-3/23/06.</p>	<p>- To avoid wetland damage, the trees will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-3/23/06</p> <p>- Chips spread on the ROW should be spread to a depth not more than 3” by the time the growing season is about to begin. 3/23/06.</p> <p>- Carefully remove any larger branches or brush strewn in streams and wetlands which are not currently being used for amphibian breeding habitat 3/15-3/23/06.</p>	<p>- CL&amp;P proposed the work under these specs.</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p>
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>			



Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Norwalk Section	<p>-In all sections make efforts to retain shrubs, especially in wetland areas. Efforts have been noted in some areas but could have improved in others. 3/15-3/23/06.</p> <p>-Significant clearing was not noted yet in this section as the ROW has fairly low growth 3/23/06</p>	<p>Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&amp;M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-3/23/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 3/23/06</p>	-N/A
Dewatering	- Dewatering had occurred previously at structure #6. The controls installed were sufficient and no additional sediment was noticed beyond the controls in this area. 3/9-3/23/06.	- 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) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment. 3/9-3/23/06.	-Silt fence and hay bales were used properly for this dewatering.
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 3/23/06.	-None at this time. 3/23/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	<p>-None of the parked or active equipment was leaking at the time of inspection, but there was an old spill noted on the access road between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> structure in from Gallows Hill. 3/15-3/23/06</p> <p>- Poles were also noted stored in the wetland area between poles 5-6. Avoid creating ruts when removing these for installation and avoid future storage in wet areas 3/15-3/23/06</p>	<p>-Clean the affected area and investigate the source of the fuel leak. 3/15/06.</p> <p>- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site</p> <p>- Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios.</p> <p>- Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled.</p> <p>- 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.</p>	
Additional Observations			

**Next likely scheduled  
inspection:**

Wednesday March 29, 2006

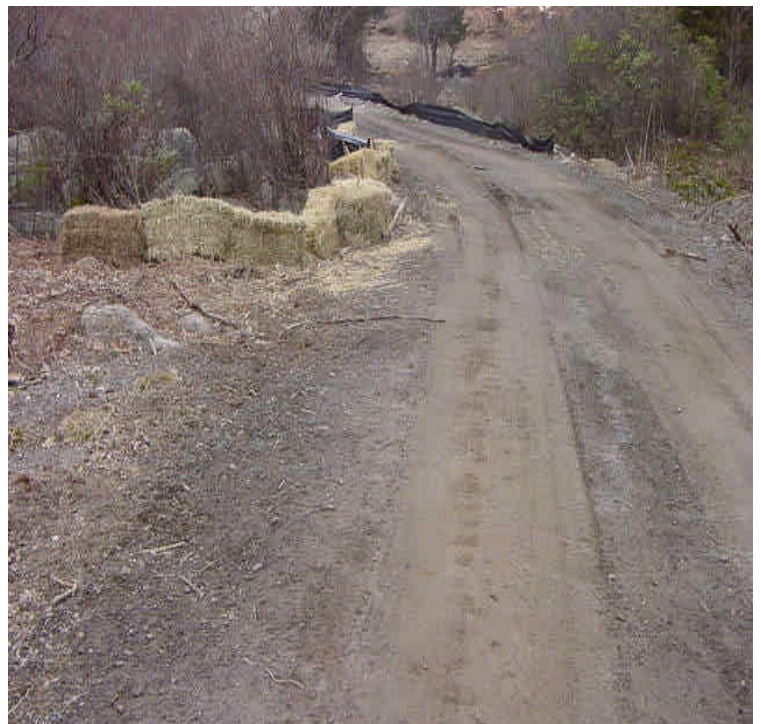
I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete 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-Archers Lane):** Photo on the left shows an overview of the 2<sup>nd</sup> crossing at Archers Lane where controls are in good shape. Photo on the right shows where the skidder slipped off the road at the 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing and ruts remain in the wetland. 3/23/06



**(Composite Section-Gallows Hill):** Photo on the left shows an overview of the wetland crossing at the 2<sup>nd</sup> structure. Controls are in good shape and haybales were added. Photo on the right shows a closeup of the haybale extension. 3/23/06.





Photo shows a view of where the wood chips remain in the woods near the wetland at the 3<sup>rd</sup> structure in from Gallows Hill. CL&P is looking into a solution here. 3/23/06.



(345kV H-Frame): Photo on the left shows an overview of the Chestnut Ridge Section with several of the new H-frame structures installed. Photo on the right shows the mats installed at the stream and water main crossing between Poles 10-11 for accessing the rest of the ROW. 3/23/06.





**Photo on the left shows a view of the access road near Pole #19 where controls remain in good shape. Photo on the right shows the cleared area where pole #21 will be installed. 3/23/06.**



**Photo shows a view of the extensive wetland near John Todd Way between poles #24-25. Silt fence is well installed at both sides of the wetland near the pole foundations. 3/23/06**





**Photo on the left shows the excavation at a pole location off Costa Lane. A structure is being installed in the background of the photo. Photo on the right shows ongoing work at another pole location off Costa Lane. 3/23/06**



**Photo on the left shows a view of the ROW off Costa Lane, looking towards the structures on Gallows Hill Rd. Photo on the right shows the ROW off Perry Ave in the Norwalk Section where work has commenced. Excavations for foundations were being drilled. 3/23/06**