

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 29, 2006

Inspector: Diana Walden

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

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 Composite	<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. 3/29/06.</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. 3/2-3/29/06.</p> <p>- Water levels at the 2nd wetland crossing on the access road at Archers Lane have remained low. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3rd 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. 12/8-3/29/06.</p> <p>-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- Wetlands have not returned to the previous problem causing levels. Continue to monitor. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- The damage should be repaired at the 3rd 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 3rd wetland area but ruts remain. See</p>

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345kV H-Frame	Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/9-3/29/06.	control section for more details. 2/16- 3/29/06.	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. 3/29/06. -Stone dust is used on the access roads at Costa Lane and John Todd Way. 3/2-3/29/06.	-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. 3/29/06.	- 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. 2/22-3/29/06.	- Continue to monitor for muddy conditions and repair controls when necessary. 3/29/06.	-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 3/29/06.	- The streambed was well protected during the construction of the crossing and good controls were installed. 3/23-3/29/06.	-Mats were installed carefully over the streambed and erosion controls were installed at the "corners".
Norwalk Section	-There was no sediment tracking at the various road/ROW intersections. 3/9-3/29/06.	- Continue to monitor. Install stone at road access points or sweep the street as necessary. 3/9-3/29/06.	-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. 3/29/06	- See erosion control section for recommendations here. 3/29/06.	

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Foundation construction Composite	-The only current work in this section is related to clearing. 3/2-3/29/06.	-See erosion control and clearing sections. 3/29/06.	-N/A
345kV H-Frame	-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. 3/23-3/29/06.	- None at this time. 3/29/06.	-N/A
	- All previously existing structures and wire were down in these two sections. 3/29/06.	- None at this time. 3/29/06.	-N/A
	- The crossing between poles #10 and #11 is functioning well for pole delivery. 3/23-3/29/06.	-None at this time. 3/29/06	-N/A
Norwalk Section	- 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. 3/29/06.	-None at this time. 3/29/06	-N/A
	-Foundation drilling and installation was occurring to the north and south of Perry Ave. 3/29/06.	-See dewatering and erosion controls section for recommendations here. 3/29/06.	
Erosion and Sediment Controls	- Water levels appear to remain low at the 2 nd wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. 2/16-3/29/06.	- None at this time. 3/29/06.	-N/A
Composite	- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3 rd wetland area. Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain.	- Damage to the wetland should be repaired. 2/16-3/29/06.	

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Erosion controls continued	3/2-3/29/06. - The 1 st 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. 1/26-3/29/06.	- In areas where sediment is substantial and feasibly removable, contractors should shovel it out carefully by hand. 3/29/06.	
	- 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. 3/15-3/29/06	-Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors to should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&M plan. 2/22-3/23/06. - Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 3/29/06	- CL&P is looking into a solution here.
	- The additional haybales along the access road and wetland at the 2 nd structure off Gallows Hill appear to be functioning to reduce sedimentation to the amphibian breeding habitat. 3/29/06.	-None at this time. Continue to monitor and keep activity out of the various wetland habitats as feasible. 3/29/06.	-Controls were extended here as recommended.
345kV H-Frame			
Chestnut Ridge Section	- 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. 3/23-3/29/06.	-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. 3/29/06.	-N/A at this time
	-The silt fence at the pasture near pole #7 was reinforced and in good shape. 3/29/06.	-None at this time. 3/29/06.	-Additional stakes were installed to reinforce the fence here.
	-Continue to work on removing the sediment near pole #6 as the	- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can	- The temporary pile was removed after the

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Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	<p>remainder of the pile is in a wetland area. 2/22-3/29/06. The temporary stockpile associated with pole installation had been removed. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- The stockpile near structure #9 has been removed, but the silt fence in this area is in need of repair. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- Silt fence and mats remain in place in a number of locations in this section. 3/29/06</p> <p>- Mats were installed over the stream between poles #10-11. Erosion controls were installed at the "corners". 3/29/06</p> <p>- Mats were installed at another wet area adjacent to the crossing and erosion controls were installed. 3/29/06</p>	<p>support this without further impact. 2/22-3/23/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor and maintain silt fence here until the area is stabilized. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor for any muddy conditions or need for repairs. All observed controls remain in good condition. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. Continue to maintain. 3/29/06</p>	<p>structure was installed.</p> <p>-The stockpile was removed. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- Erosion controls were installed proactively at the mats.</p>
Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way	<p>- Mats were installed at another wet area adjacent to the crossing and erosion controls were installed. 3/29/06</p> <p>-Mats are in place at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #28. 3/2-3/29/06.</p> <p>-Silt fence has been installed around stockpiles resulting from the foundation excavations at a number of structure locations. 3/29/06</p> <p>-Silt fence remains well installed at poles #24 and 25 as they are on either sides of a large wetland</p>	<p>- Monitor erosion controls to determine if more will be necessary at the slope near this spot. 3/29/06</p> <p>-Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions and install silt fence as needed. 3/2-3/29/06.</p> <p>-Continue to monitor the erosion controls and remove stockpiles when feasible. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor and maintain the erosion controls in this area due</p>	<p>Controls were installed proactively and will be monitored</p> <p>- N/A at this time.</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>N/A at this time</p>

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Norwalk Section	<p>system. 3/15-3/29/06.</p> <p>-Dirt was pushed completely over the silt fence at the last foundation which is immediately adjacent to a waterway channel. 3/29/06.</p> <p>-Stone dust from the access road was pushed over the silt fence close to an area of ponded water. 3/29/06.</p> <p>-Evidence of concrete washing and/or dewatering was present along this section in the stone dust and adjacent to foundations. 3/29/06.</p>	<p>to its proximity to the wetland. 3/9-3/29/06</p> <p>-Carefully pull the dirt back and reinstall the silt fence in this area and utilize it as a limit of work. 3/29/06.</p> <p>-The stone dust should be pulled back ASAP and silt fence needs repair. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- Dewatering basins, concrete washout pits or other appropriate controls need to be installed.</p>	
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>-The D&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. 1/4-3/29/06.</p> <p>- Direct damage was noted in the wetland at the 3rd crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-3/29/06.</p> <p>- The rocks at the 1st crossing remain clogged with sediment and noticeable deposits were in the wetland. 1/4-3/29/06.</p> <p>- Use caution in clearing trees from wetland areas.</p>	<p>- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-3/29/06.</p> <p>- The damage to the 3rd wetland should be repaired. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- The 1st crossing could also use some clean stone. Sediment will have to be carefully removed. 1/4-3/29/06.</p> <p>- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as</p>	-N/A until evaluated at the end of work.

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<p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>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. 3/29/06.</p> <p>- Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas or adjacent to streams in this section as well. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 1/19-3/29/06.</p> <p>-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-3/29/06.</p> <p>- At structure #6, some of the mud was removed from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 3/2-3/29/06.</p> <p>-Foundations being installed off Perry Ave are adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies 3/23-3/29/06.</p>	<p>possible. 3/2-3/29/06.</p> <p>- If damage is noted during the spring, the previously created ruts should be repaired if possible. 3/9/06-3/29/06.</p> <p>- Try to leave shrubs and low growth where possible, especially at stream buffers. 2/2-3/29/06.</p> <p>-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-3/29/06.</p> <p>- Continue to remove entire pile. Conditions may be too muddy at this time. 2/16-3/29/06.</p> <p>-See erosion control section.</p>	<p>-Efforts to retain lower growth have been noted in this section.</p> <p>- Most sediment was removed, continue to do so.</p>
<p>Norwalk Section</p>	<p>- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-3/29/06.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and is likely hibernating. 3/29/06.</p>	<p>-Turtles would no longer be active at this time of year. However as weather gets warmer, recommence daily walkthroughs. 3/29/06.</p>	<p>-N/A at this time</p>
<p>State species of concern, threatened and endangered species</p>			

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Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)	-Clearing had been noted in the composite section near Gallows Hill Rd. This includes work in wetlands. Adjacent homeowners mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-3/29/06.	-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-3/29/06.	
Composite	-The wetland area at the 2 nd 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. 3/15-3/29/06.	-Limbs and debris can remain in the wetland as well as within a "buffer" of ~30 feet on either side. 3/29/06.	-N/A
	- A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and also along the wetland edge at the 3 rd structure off Gallows Hill. This could smother plants and reduce habitat. 2/22-3/29/06.	- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&M plan. 2/22-3/29/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 3/29/06.	- CL&P is looking into this.
	-This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-3/29/06		
	-Clearing will need to continue along the ROW past Archers Lane and a number of trees are marked for removal in a wetland that serves as amphibian breeding habitat. 3/15-3/29/06.	- To avoid wetland damage, the trees will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-3/29/06	- CL&P proposed the work under these specs.
345kV H-Frame	-Clearing continues along the Costa Lane, and John Todd Way sections. Wood chips were placed along the majority of the roads. 2/16-3/29/06.	- 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. 3/29/06.	-N/A at this time
		- Carefully remove any	

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Norwalk Section	<p>-Large branches and brush were noted in wetlands and stream areas in a number of locations. 2/9-3/29/06.</p> <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. 3/15-3/29/06.</p> <p>-Significant clearing was not noted yet in this section as the ROW has fairly low growth 3/29/06.</p>	<p>larger branches or brush strewn in streams and wetlands which are not currently being used for amphibian breeding habitat 3/15-3/29/06.</p> <p>-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-3/29/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 3/29/06.</p>	-N/A
Dewatering	<p>- Dewatering had occurred previously at structure #6. The controls installed were sufficient and no additional sediment was noticed beyond the controls in this area. 3/9-3/29/06.</p> <p>-Evidence of concrete washing and/or dewatering was present to the ground along the Norwalk Section. 3/29/06.</p>	<p>- 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. 3/9-3/29/06.</p> <p>- No controls or containment were noted.</p>	-Silt fence and hay bales were used properly for this dewatering.
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 3/29/06.	-None at this time. 3/29/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	-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 nd and 3 rd structure in from Gallows Hill. 3/15-3/29/06.	<p>-Clean the affected area and investigate the source of the fuel leak. 3/15-3/29/06.</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</p>	

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	- Poles were removed from the wetland near structure #6.	fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.	-The poles were removed carefully from the wetland between poles #5 and 6. The wetland was not damaged in the process. 3/29/06.
Additional Observations			

Next likely scheduled inspection:

Thursday April 6, 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



(Composite Section-Archers Lane): Photo on the left shows an overview of the 2nd crossing at Archers Lane where controls are in good shape. Photo on the right shows where the skidder slipped off the road at the 3rd crossing and ruts remain in the wetland. 3/29/06.



(Composite Section-Gallows Hill): Photo on the left shows an overview of the wetland crossing at the 2nd structure. Controls are in good shape. Photo on the right shows where the wood chips remain in the woods off the ROW near the third structure. 3/29/06.



(345kV H-Frame): Photo on the left shows a view of the area near structure #10 where most poles have been removed for installation along the ROW. Photo on the right shows the mats installed at the stream and water main crossing between Poles #10-11 for accessing the remainder of the ROW. Mats were also installed over a 2nd wet area and controls were installed well. 3/29/06.



Photo on the left shows a portion of the Bethel Reservoir section where poles have been placed for installation. Photo on the right shows the ongoing installation of structures in this area as well. 3/29/06.



Photo on the left shows the area at structure #9 where the soil stockpile was removed. Silt fence should be maintained here until the area is stabilized. Photo on the right is a view towards Hoyts Hill from structure #2. 3/29/06.



Photo on the left shows the area near structure #6 where the temporary stockpile was removed after pole installation. Remaining sediment will continue to be removed. Photo on the right shows the wetland in this area was not damaged during pole removal and installation. 3/29/06.



Photo on the left shows structures being installed in the area of Costa Lane. Norwalk Section:
Photo on the right shows the stone dust access road to a foundation. A concrete washout was noted here. A containment basin should be set up. 3/29/06



Photo on the left shows where stone dust was pushed over the silt fence. The stone dust should be pulled back and fence repaired ASAP due to proximity of the waterway. The photo on the right shows dirt piled completely over the silt fence. Fence needs repair ASAP, again due to the adjacent wetland. 3/29/06.