



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Meeting Minutes

Meeting of July 20, 2023

A Zoom remote conference meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (energy/telecommunications) was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order with a quorum present by Presiding Officer John Morissette at 1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

John Morissette
Presiding Officer
Robert Hannon
Robert Silvestri

Brian Golembiewski
(designee for Commissioner Dykes)
Quat Nguyen
(designee for Chairman Gillett)

Council Members Absent:

Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

Staff Members Present:

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Robert Mercier
Siting Analyst
Ifeanyichukwu Nwankwo
Siting Analyst

Christina Walsh
Supervising Siting Analyst
Michael Perrone
Siting Analyst
Adam N. Morrone
Siting Analyst

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Fontaine

1. Minutes of June 22, 2023.

Mr. Nguyen moved to approve the Minutes of June 22, 2023; seconded by Mr. Silvestri. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **DOCKET NO. 3B – The United Illuminating Company Amended Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for replacement of a portion of the existing Derby – Shelton 115-kV electric transmission line facility. Reopening of this Certificate based on changed conditions pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-181a(b). Partial Development and Management Plan II.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve Partial Development and Management Plan II with the conditions noted in the staff report; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed with Mr. Hannon abstaining.

3. **DOCKET NO. 516 – The United Illuminating Company (UI) application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Fairfield to Congress Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project that consists of the relocation and rebuild of its existing 115- kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines from the railroad catenary structures to new steel monopole structures and related modifications along approximately 7.3 miles of the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Metro-North Railroad corridor between Structure B648S located east of Sasco Creek in Fairfield and UI’s Congress Street Substation in Bridgeport, and the rebuild of two existing 115-kV transmission lines along 0.23 mile of existing UI right-of-way to facilitate interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV electric transmission lines at UI’s existing Ash Creek, Resco, Pequonnock and Congress Street Substations traversing the municipalities of Bridgeport and Fairfield, Connecticut. Request for Party/Intervenor Status.**

Mr. Nguyen moved to grant BJ’s Wholesale Club, Inc. Party status; seconded by Mr. Hannon. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **PETITON NO. 1533 – ReNew Developers, LLC declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a customer-side 4.99-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at 42 Old Amston Road, Colchester, Connecticut. Motion to Reopen and Modify the Declaratory Ruling Due to Changed Conditions.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to approve the Motion to Reopen and Modify the Declaratory Ruling; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed with Mr. Hannon abstaining.

5. **PETITION NO. 1558 – Community Power Group LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 4-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 24 Middle Road, Ellington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. Draft Findings of Fact.**

After reviewing the Draft Findings of Fact, Presiding Officer Morissette conducted a non-binding straw poll of the Council members with Mr. Silvestri, Mr. Nguyen, Mr. Golembiewski, Mr. Hannon and Presiding Officer Morissette voting in favor of the proposed facility with the development and

management plan conditions to incorporate site inspections and any necessary mitigation measures to be performed after extreme rainfall events; incorporate landscape planting inspections and replace dead or dying plantings; submit a Spill Prevention Control Plan for site construction and operation; submit a post-construction noise analysis; install straw bales or other generally accepted similar control measures to reinforce silt fencing adjacent to wetland areas; install solid fencing adjacent to the transformers to reduce noise; and install landscape plantings perpendicular to the access road to screen the interconnection area; and with the recommendation to consult with Eversource Energy regarding the installation of underground lines and pad-mounted equipment on the customer side of the electric distribution interconnection or other interconnection design(s) that reduces visibility to the extent feasible.

Presiding Officer Morissette directed staff to draft a favorable Opinion and Decision and Order to be reviewed at the next meeting.

6. **PETITION NO. 1565 – The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed East of Hurd State Park to East Haddam Junction Line Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement of electric transmission line structures along its existing 6.2-mile electric transmission line right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) No. 1772 and 345-kV Nos. 362, 376 and 364 Lines between Structure Nos. 12053 and 19099 east of Hurd State Park in East Hampton, Haddam Neck Switching Station in Haddam, and East Haddam Junction in East Haddam, Connecticut traversing the municipalities of East Hampton, Haddam and East Haddam, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. Decision.**

Mr. Golembiewski moved to approve this petition with the conditions noted in the staff report with the additional condition to submit the final design of the Succor Brook bridge, consistent with DEEP Inland Fisheries Division Stream Crossing Guidelines, prior to the commencement of construction; seconded by Mr. Silvestri. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **PETITION NO. 1567 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed 1637/1720 Lines Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along its existing 4.0 mile electric transmission line right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) Nos. 1637 and 1720 Lines between Grist Mill Road in Norwalk, Norwalk Junction in Wilton, and Weston Substation in Weston, Connecticut traversing the municipalities of Norwalk, Wilton, and Weston, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. Request for Party or CEPA Intervenor Status.**

Mr. Golembiewski moved to grant Party and CEPA Intervenor Status to Jeannie Rubsam and Peter Rubsam; seconded by Mr. Hannon. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **PETITION NO. 1575 – The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for proposed modifications to its existing Salisbury Substation located at 316 Indian Mountain Road, Salisbury, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line structure improvements. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Mr. Nguyen moved to set the date by which to render a decision in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-176(e) and Section 16-50j-40(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as no later than November 18, 2023; seconded by Mr. Hannon. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **PETITION NO. 1576 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed Middletown Substation to Oxbow Junction Upgrade Project consisting of the replacement of electric transmission line structures along approximately 5.5 miles of its existing No. 1620 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line right of way between Middletown Substation in Middletown and Oxbow Junction in Haddam, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Mr. Silvestri moved to set the date by which to render a decision in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-176(e) and Section 16-50j-40(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as no later than November 20, 2023; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **PETITION NO. 1577 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed Frost Bridge to Noera Rebuild Project consisting of the replacement and reconductoring of electric transmission line structures along approximately 5 miles of its existing electric transmission line right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) 1163 and 1550 Lines between Frost Bridge Substation in Watertown to Noera Substation in Waterbury, traversing the municipalities of Watertown, Thomaston, Plymouth and Waterbury, Connecticut, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. CGS §4-176 Deadline for Action – Set Date for Decision.**

Mr. Nguyen moved to set the date by which to render a decision in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-176(e) and Section 16-50j-40(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as no later than November 28, 2023; seconded by Mr. Golembiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Administrative Matters

The following energy/telecommunications meeting dates were discussed:

- Docket No. 516, Tuesday, July 25, 2023, **evidentiary hearing session** beginning at 2:00 p.m. and **public comment session** beginning at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, August 3, 2023, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, August 17, 2023, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.
- Energy/Telecommunications Meeting, Thursday, August 31, 2023, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** via Zoom remote conferencing.

Adjournment.

Mr. Silvestri moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer Morissette adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/laf