



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 7, 2007

Mr. Robert E. Carberry
Manager – Transmission Siting and Permitting
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

RE: **PETITION NO. 793** - Connecticut Light & Power Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to an existing Connecticut Light & Power Company 115-kV transmission line, Brookfield, Connecticut.

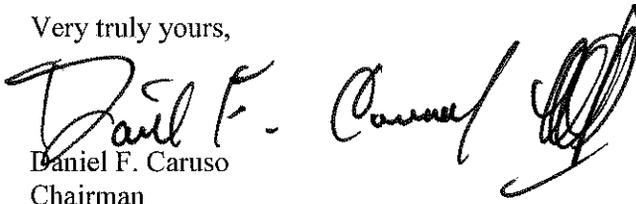
Dear Mr. Carberry:

At a public meeting held on February 6, 2007, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that this proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition, dated November 3, 2006.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Very truly yours,

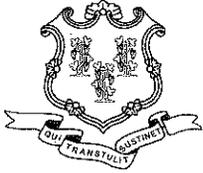


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Chairman

DFC/CML/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report dated January 18, 2007

c: Honorable Jerry Murphy, First Selectman, Town of Brookfield
Clare Ann Walsh, Land Use Enforcement Officer, Town of Brookfield
Heather Paton, Land Use Office, Town of Brookfield



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Petition 793
Connecticut Light and Power
Brookfield
Staff Report
January 18, 2007

On November 3, 2006, the Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) submitted a Petition (Petition) for a declaratory ruling that no certificate of environmental compatibility and public need is required for the proposed modifications to an existing CL&P 115-kV transmission line in the Town of Brookfield. CL&P proposes to replace structures, line conductors and lightning shield wires where the CL&P right-of-way crosses the Route 7 bypass project. On December 18, 2006, Council member Edward S. Wilensky and Christina Lepage of the Council staff met with CL&P representative Ray Gagnon to conduct a field review of the proposal.

Currently, two 115-kV circuits are supported on a line of double-circuit, wood-pole, H-frame structures along a CL&P right-of-way between West Brookfield Junction and West Brookfield Substation.

CL&P proposes to remove three 67-foot, double-circuit, wood pole, H-frame structures (numbers 2685, 2686 and 2687). Two pairs of single-circuit monopoles would be installed on concrete foundations and located near the existing structures (numbers 2685 and 2687). Each steel pole located in the 2685 area would be 110 feet tall and each steel pole located in the 2687 area would be 105 feet tall. CL&P would replace the section of transmission line conductors between the existing structures (numbers 2685 and 2687). The existing conductors currently consist of six 336.4-kcmil ACSR conductors and two 3/8-inch copperweld shield wires. CL&P proposes to replace the conductors with six 1272-kcmil ACSS conductors and two 1/2-inch alumoweld shield wires. The new conductors and shield wires would be installed on the new steel monopoles.

The purpose of the proposed project is to accommodate the construction of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Route 7 Bypass Project in Brookfield. CDOT required CL&P's replacement structures to be located outside of the CDOT right-of-way. To conform to the CDOT requirement, CL&P proposes to make the line span longer and make the new structures taller than the existing structures. CL&P's proposed modifications will accommodate CDOT's construction activities; accommodate the new highway's operating requirements; not require widening of CL&P's existing 100-foot right-of-way; provide physical line separation in compliance with emerging reliability standards; meet the requirements of the proposed monopole vertical conductor configuration through the use of taller structures than the existing horizontal conductor configuration.

CL&P's existing right-of-way would be used as access for the construction of the two proposed structures (numbers 2685 A and B). The right-of-way is within a residential area and crosses a wetland and stream. A temporary mat bridge would be installed prior to the commencement of any construction activities. Following construction, the mat bridge access would be removed and the ground would be restored to preexisting conditions.

CL&P sent a notice to abutting landowners on January 2, 2007 requesting comments to the Council by January 11, 2007.

Access to structures 2687 A and B would be via the existing CL&P right-of-way and from state property, which was acquired for the CDOT Route 7 Bypass Project. The CDOT land was the location of a former gravel pit. Some improvements to the existing CL&P right-of-way may be required for access.

CDOT studied the Route 7 Bypass corridor in 2004 for the presence of reptiles. The study found box turtle and bog turtle habitat in the area of CL&P's proposed construction. A subsequent study conducted in the spring of 2005 determined that there are no bog turtles along the corridor. CL&P proposes to mitigate construction activities to prevent impacts to box turtles. CL&P would survey the area for box turtles daily, prior to the commencement of work. If turtles are found they would be moved to a nearby safe location.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends that construction not be performed from November 1 to April 1 to protect the eastern box turtles, which hibernate on land during the winter. Other recommendations of the DEP include:

- Avoid old field habitat from June through October. Box turtles are active from June to August.
- Work performed during early morning and evening hours should be done with special care not to harm basking or foraging turtles.
- Work performed during and after rainstorms in the summer should be done with special care.
- Each day, before the start of construction, a qualified individual should survey the proposed area and relocate any turtles in the construction zone.
- Every precaution should be taken to avoid degradation of wetland habitats, including wet meadows and seasonal pools.

Construction would be performed in accordance with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment control.

CL&P proposes to begin construction in April of 2007.