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NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY
P. O. BOX 270
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06101
203-666-6911

DONALD C. SWITZER
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

POWER FACILITY
EVALUATION COUNCIL

August 23, 1972

Mr. William C. Joram, Jr.
Executive Director
Power Facility Evaluation Council
State Office Building (Room 31A)
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06115

Dear Mr. Joram:

Pursuant to Section 16-50j-39 of the Administrative Regulations adopted by the Power Facility Evaluation Council, Northeast Utilities Service Company, on behalf of its corporate affiliate, The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&PCo), hereby petitions for an advisory ruling determining that no certificate of environmental compatibility and public need is required pursuant to Section 16-50K(a) of the General Statutes of Connecticut for the CL&PCo electric transmission line project described herein. It is submitted that no such certificate is required because of one or more of the following reasons:

- a. This transmission line was constructed prior to April 1, 1972, and therefore, in accordance with Section 16-50K(d) of the General Statutes the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act has no application to it.
- b. The proposed project is not substantial enough to constitute "modification" of the transmission line.
- c. The proposed project will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect.

The proposed project would consist of the reconductoring (sometimes called "rewiring") of a section of existing 115 kV transmission line extending easterly approximately 4.2 miles from a point known as Wawecus Junction in the town of Norwich. This work, scheduled for completion in October 1973, is intended to improve the 115 kV supply to the Tunnel Substation (located in the town of Preston) which serves a fourteen (14) town region in the Quinnebaug River Valley.

The existing 115 kV transmission lines on this right-of-way were constructed by CL&PCo in 1961 and 1971. Since the facility was constructed prior to April 1, 1972, it is not within the group of utility generating plants and transmission lines specified in the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act: "This act shall apply to any facility the construction of which is commenced on or after April 1, 1972..." (Section 16-50k(d), General Statutes of Connecticut). The language of the statute expresses the General Assembly's intention that pre-April 1, 1972 facilities could be modified without the issuance of a certificate by the Power Facility Evaluation Council.

The proposed project would consist of removing the three existing 4/0 copper conductors and their supporting structures built in 1961, and replacing them with three 1272 MCM ACSR conductors having a diameter approximately 0.8 inches larger on existing structures built in 1971. Attached is a sketch showing the existing and proposed configurations. The line would continue to be used to transmit electricity at 115 kV. The Public Utility Environmental Standards Act does not define "modification" and it therefore must be interpreted in accordance with its customary usage. The dictionary definition of "modification" is "the act or action of changing something without fundamentally altering it." "Change" is defined as "the action of making something different in form, quality or state." It is submitted that the mere replacement of the conductors and removal of certain existing structures on this transmission right-of-way with conductors of slightly larger dimensions will not cause this facility to be different in form, quality or state within the context of the statute's concern with significant impact of utility facilities on environment and ecology.

The proposed project will not involve increasing the size or location of the transmission structures or materially altering their appearance (except for the removal of certain structures). Nor will the cleared right-of-way area be enlarged. The project would cause no discernible adverse effect on the environment or ecology, nor would it damage scenery, historic or recreational values. Section 16-50k(a) provides that the Power Facility Evaluation Council must determine that a proposed project may have a "substantial adverse environmental effect" prior to the requirement that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need be obtained. It is submitted that the Council should determine that this proposed project will have no such substantial adverse environmental effect and therefore that no certificate is required.

Mr. William C. Joram, Jr.

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Communications regarding this request should be directed to Donald C. Switzer, Executive Vice-President, Northeast Utilities Service Company, P. O. Box 270, Hartford, Connecticut 06101 (telephone 666-6911).

Very truly yours,

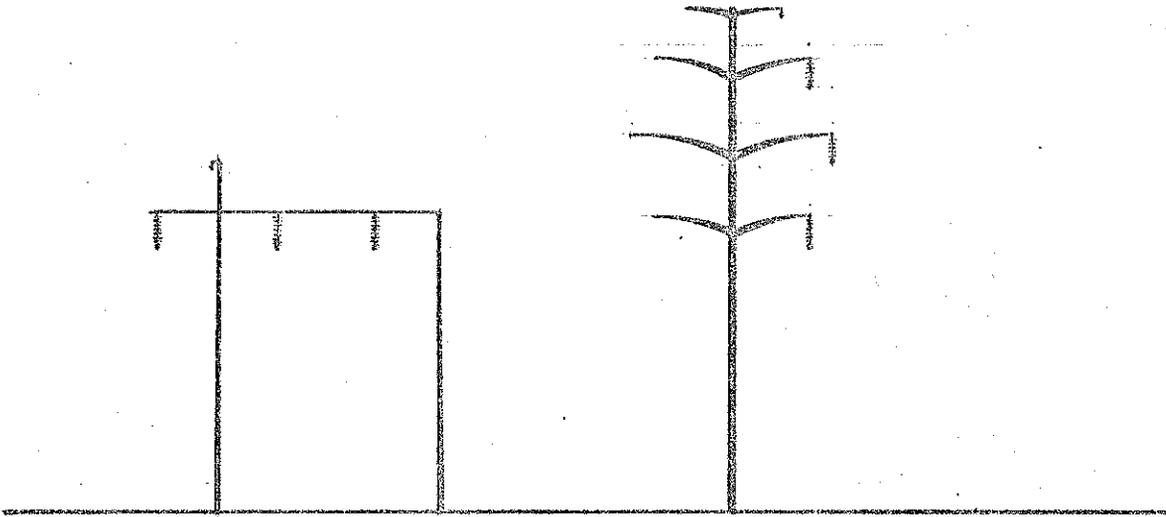
NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY

By Donald C. Switzer
Donald C. Switzer
Executive Vice-President

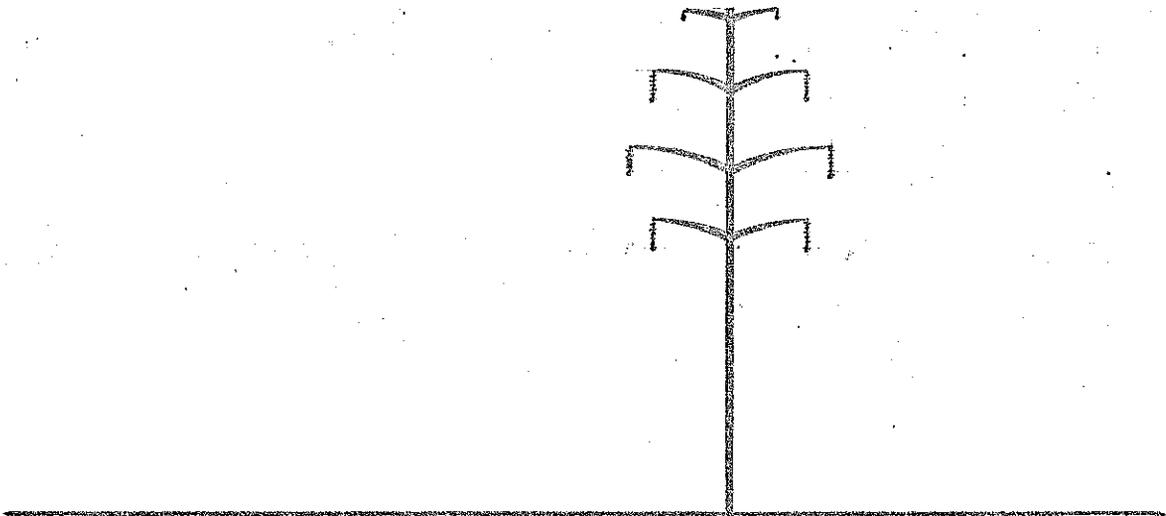
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Attachments

EXISTING CONFIGURATION



PROPOSED CONFIGURATION



WAWECUS JCT. - TUNNEL

115KV LINE

NOT TO SCALE

AUG. 22, 1972

