

PET. # 2



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

DONALD C. SWITZER
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

September 20, 1972

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

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POWER FACILITY
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Joram:

Pursuant to Section 16-50j-39 of the Administrative Regulations adopted by the Power Facility Evaluation Council, Northeast Utilities Service Company, as agent for its corporate affiliate, The Hartford Electric Light Company (HELCO), 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 HELCO electric transmission line project described herein. It is submitted that no such certificate is required because of one or both of the following reasons:

- a. The proposed project is not substantial enough to constitute "modification" of the transmission line.
- b. The proposed project will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect.

In addition to the foregoing reasons, we believe that no application is required for this project because the 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 does not apply to it.

The proposed project would consist of the reconductoring (sometimes called "re-wiring") and replacing the structures of a section of the existing Manchester-South Meadow 115 kV transmission line extending approximately 1.5 miles from the vicinity of the Manchester-East Hartford town line westerly to Route 15. This work, scheduled for completion in September 1973, is intended to improve the 115 kV supply

to the metropolitan Hartford area by strengthening the electrical connection between the South Meadow generating station and the major substation at Manchester which connects the 115 kV and 345 kV transmission systems.

The existing Manchester-South Meadow 115 kV transmission line, which is 5.85 miles long, was rebuilt and reconducted with 1272 kcmil ACSR in 1970 except for the section subject to this request for an advisory ruling.

The section of the line now under consideration was reconducted with 556 kcmil ACSR as an interim measure in 1970 but the structures were not rebuilt for the 1272 kcmil ACSR conductor at that time since the location of a major highway interchange in the vicinity of Sunrise Hill in East Hartford had not yet been fixed. Although the exact location has yet to be officially announced, every effort has been made to minimize interference of this line with the interchange. Thus, this work will effectively complete a project begun in 1970 and left incomplete to accommodate proposed changes in the highway system.

The proposed project would consist of removing the six existing 556 kcmil ACSR conductors installed in 1970 and their supporting lattice steel structures (which will not support the larger conductor) built in 1952. The conductors would be replaced with a like number of 1272 kcmil ACSR conductors having a diameter less than 0.5 inches larger. The twelve double-circuit lattice steel towers would be replaced with twelve double-circuit single steel pole structures as shown on the attached sketch. The structures would essentially be the same height and in the same location as the existing ones.

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 replacement of the conductors with conductors of slightly larger diameter and the replacement of the structures with ones equivalent in number, height and location on this transmission right-of-way 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.

Mr. William C. Joram, Jr. -3-

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Although the appearance of the transmission structures will be altered, their size and location will not be materially changed. 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.

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

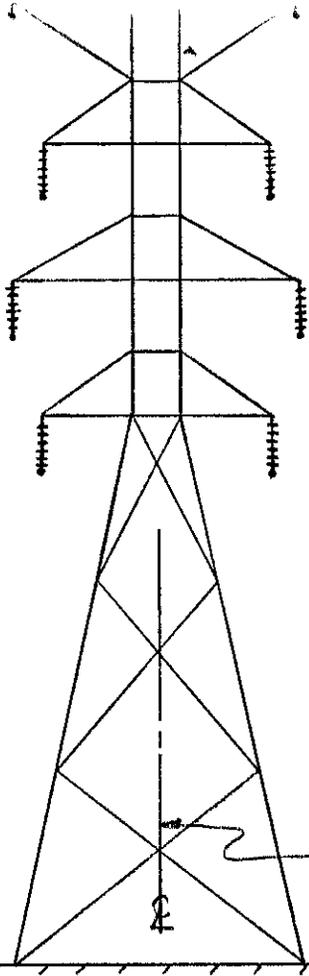


Donald C. Switzer
Executive Vice-President

DCS/bt

Attachments

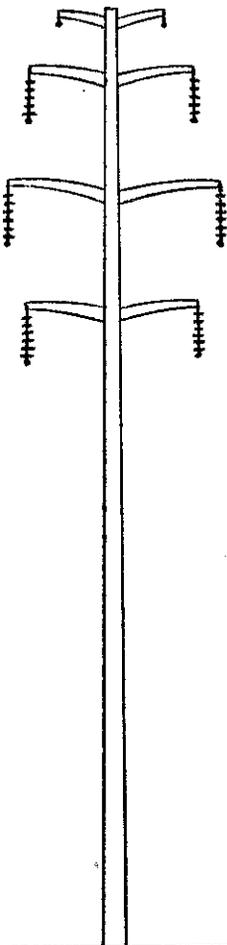
SOUTH MEADOW
TO
MANCHESTER
115 KV LINE
REBUILD - PHASE II



DOUBLE CIRCUIT
STEEL TOWER

EXISTING & PROPOSED
115 KV LINE

EXISTING CONFIGURATION



DOUBLE CIRCUIT
STEEL POLE

PROPOSED CONFIGURATION



LOCATION PLAN

SOUTH MEADOW-MANCHESTER
115 KV. LINE