



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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www.ct.gov/csc

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 15, 2012

John R. Morissette
Manager - Transmission Siting and Permitting
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

RE: **PETITION NO. 1029** - The Connecticut Light and 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 CL&P switching station located at 108 Carpenter Lane, Wallingford, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Morissette:

At a public meeting held on August 9, 2012, 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 with the following conditions:

- CL&P shall screen the expanded fenced area with landscaping that is consistent with the existing landscaping; and
- CL&P shall avoid the use of High Hill Road during construction, to the extent practical.

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 June 15, 2012.

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

Very truly yours,

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/MP/jbw

Enclosure: Staff Report dated August 9, 2012

c: The Honorable William W. Dickinson, Jr., Mayor, Town of Wallingford
Kacie Costello, Assistant Town Planner, Town of Wallingford



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Petition No. 1029

The Connecticut Light and Power Company

108 Carpenter Lane, Wallingford

Staff Report

August 9, 2012

On June 15, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required to modify the existing Beseck Switching Station at 108 Carpenter Lane, Wallingford. This Petition was field reviewed by Council member Phil Ashton and Michael Perrone of the Council staff on June 29, 2012. The following representatives from CL&P also attended the field review: John Morissette, Manager – Siting and Permitting; Paul Melzen, Project Engineer – Substation Engineering and Design; Jerry Fortier, Lead Project Manager – Transmission Project Management; and Jon Norton, Project Manager – Transmission.

Specifically, CL&P seeks to install a new 345-kV 75 to 150 MVAR variable shunt reactor with a sound enclosure. The shunt reactor is a transformer-like device. CL&P would also install a 65-foot lightning mast to shield the shunt reactor area. This installation would also include a 345-kV circuit breaker, disconnect switch, one set of surge arresters, concrete foundations, and underground conduits. To accommodate the new installation, a portion of the fence would be extended by 75 feet by 235 feet on the eastern side of the switching station.

Fill material would be placed in the new section of the switching station to bring the grade up to the elevation of the existing switching station. The fill material would be covered with traprock. The access road would be relocated from the west side of the station to the east side. Existing landscape plantings would be relocated to screen the expanded station. If any plantings do not survive after being transplanted, they would be replaced by CL&P.

The new equipment and structures would be similar in appearance to those existing in the station and would be shorter than the tallest existing structure in the station. The station would remain within the applicable sound limits at the property boundaries. No trees with a diameter at breast height of six inches or greater would be removed. No wetland vegetation would be disturbed or cleared. The proposed modifications are not within the 100-year or 500-year flood plain. The Natural Diversity Database did not identify any state-listed endangered, threatened, or special concern species in the vicinity of the project. The nearest home is located on High Hill Road over 500 feet southeast of the existing corner of the station. The visibility of the equipment is not expected to be significant given the distance and existing trees east/southeast of the substation. If approved, construction would begin during fall 2012 and would be completed by December 2013.

CL&P has offered to avoid using High Hill Road (a largely residential area) for trucks during the construction period to minimize the impact on neighbors. CL&P would use Research Parkway and Carpenter Lane instead, both of which are commercial/industrial areas.

Staff recommends including the following conditions:

- CL&P shall screen the expanded fenced area with landscaping that is consistent with the existing landscaping; and
- CL&P shall avoid the use of High Hill Road during construction, to the extent practical.





