



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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### CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 1, 2015

Richard J. Reed, PMP  
Vice President-Engineering and Project Excellence  
The United Illuminating Company  
180 Marsh Hill Road  
Orange, CT 06477

RE: **PETITION NO. 1151** – The United Illuminating Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed removal and replacement of the existing 115-kV transmission line structures in the Connecticut Department of Transportation right-of-way outside of Milvon substation located at 772 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Reed:

At a public meeting held on May 28, 2015, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the above-referenced proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50k, would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, with the following conditions:

- The facility owner/operator shall file a joint Development and Management Plan for Petition No. 1110 and Petition No. 1151 that includes but is not be limited to erosion and sedimentation controls, eastern box turtle protection plans, and swamp mat design, placement and cleaning;
- The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v;
- This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided the facility owner/operator/transferor is current with payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v and the transferee provides written confirmation that the transferee agrees to comply with the terms, limitations and conditions contained in the Declaratory Ruling, including timely payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v; and
- If the facility owner/operator is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation or other entity and is sold/transferred to another corporation or other entity, the Council shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer.

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 April 7, 2015.

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

Very truly yours,



Robert Stein  
Chairman

RS/MP/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated May 28, 2015

- c: The Honorable Benjamin G. Blake, Mayor, City of Milford
- David Sulkis, City Planner, City of Milford
- Amy Hicks, The United Illuminating Company
- Julie Thomas, State of CT Department of Transportation



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Petition No. 1151

The United Illuminating Company

Milford, Connecticut

Staff Report

May 28, 2015

On July 7, 2014, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition No. 1110) from The United Illuminating Company (UI) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for its Milford 115-kV Transmission Line Project. Specifically, in Petition No. 1110, UI sought to replace transmission structures on two 115-kV line sections from Milvon Substation to Devon Tie Switching Station in Milford and re-conductor the lines. These lines are currently supported on bonnets that are attached on the top of Metro-North Railroad's lattice catenary structures. Originally built in the early 1900s, some of these catenary structures are over one hundred years old, and UI attached its transmission lines to the structures in the 1940s. The structure replacements included galvanized steel monopoles. The re-conductoring was proposed to address a possible thermal overload issue and increase electric reliability. The Council approved Petition No. 1110 on August 21, 2014 with the condition that UI file a Development and Management Plan (D&M Plan). The D&M Plan has not yet been received.

On April 7, 2015, UI filed another petition (Petition No. 1151) to replace additional aging infrastructure in the railroad right-of-way (ROW). Specifically, UI notes that two existing H-frame transmission structures located in the ROW directly outside of UI's Milvon Substation do not currently meet the National Electrical Safety Code Standards. UI seeks to remedy these deficiencies, and replace the existing transmission structures with six tubular steel monopole structures. On April 7, 2015, UI filed a motion for a protective order relative to Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII). On April 30, 2015, the Council approved UI's motion for a protective order relative to CEII.

The proposed structures would be galvanized steel, consistent with the approved structures in Petition No. 1110. These structures would be approximately 90 feet tall and would be used to connect Milvon Substation to the existing 115-kV transmission lines in the ROW. The existing structures are on the order of 60 feet tall. The proposed structure replacements, though taller than existing, would accommodate the line configuration already approved in Petition No. 1110. This project will be constructed entirely within the Connecticut Department of Transportation railroad ROW.

This Petition was field reviewed by Council member Michael Caron and Michael Perrone of the Council staff on May 7, 2015. Three representatives from UI also attended the field review: Christopher Hughes, Transmission & Substation Project Manager; Samantha Marone, Public Outreach & Permitting; and Shawn Crosbie, Environmental Analyst. Abutting property owner Stephen Courtney also attended the field review. Mr. Courtney had some questions and concerns regarding electric and magnetic fields which were addressed by UI at the field review.

In the vicinity of the proposed project, the magnetic fields will increase on both sides of the ROW as a result of the project described in Petition 1110. The magnetic fields under the peak load case increase from 20.3 mG to 40 mG on the south and 14.1 mG to 42.3 mG on the north.



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Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

The incremental visual impact associated with this project is not expected to be significant due to the commercial/industrial nature of the surrounding area on Bridgeport Avenue and its consistency with the already approved project. UI would utilize existing access on both sides of the ROW. UI would have to cross one wetland located between Milvon Substation and the ROW. UI would utilize swamp mats (approximately 1,300 square feet in area) to cross the wetland. No new transmission structures would be located within the wetland.

During construction, erosion and sediment controls would be installed based on UI's Stormwater Pollution Control Plan approved on February 3, 2015 by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Any excess soils would be managed in accordance with necessary State guidelines and requirements.

The Eastern box turtle (EBT), a State-designated Species of Special Concern, may be found in the vicinity of the proposed project. UI would comply with the EBT protective measures recommended by DEEP in its letter dated February 13, 2015. Furthermore, UI would perform turtle sweeps prior to and during construction.

Normal work hours for construction would be between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Proposed work hours may include evenings and weekends on a temporary and case-by-case basis in order to complete critical milestones. The project is anticipated to commence in September 2015 and be completed by December 2016.

Notice was provided to abutting property owners and the City of Milford on April 7, 2015. No comments were received from the City. No additional comments were received from abutters.

UI would submit a joint D&M Plan to include Petition No. 1110 and Petition No. 1151. Staff suggests that the D&M Plan include but not be limited to erosion and sedimentation controls, EBT protection plans, and swamp mat design, placement and cleaning.