

UIL Holdings Corporation
157 Church Street
P.O. Box 1564
New Haven, CT 06506



Via Hand Delivery and Electronic Mail

April 29, 2015

Robert Stein
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

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 Chairman Stein:

Please find enclosed the original and fifteen (15) copies of The United Illuminating Company's ("UI") responses to the Connecticut Siting Council's First Set of Interrogatories, dated April 17, 2015 in connection with the above-referenced Petition. Additionally, UI will electronically file all responses and attachments via siting.council@ct.gov.

If you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce L. McDermott', written over a horizontal line.

Bruce L. McDermott
Managing Counsel – Operations
UIL Holdings Corporation
As Agent for The United Illuminating Company

Enclosures

Interrogatory CSC-1

The United Illuminating Company
Petition 1151

Witness: Christopher Hughes
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Q-CSC-1: Is The United Illuminating Company's (UI) Petition No. 1151 project (Proposed Project) related to the already approved Petition No. 1110 project (P1110 Project)?

A-CSC-1: These projects are only related in the sense that the 'H' frame structures currently support the transmission lines that are to be upgraded as described in Petition No. 1110. The needs for the two projects are different; Petition No. 1110 is for capacity while Petition No. 1151 is for aging infrastructure.

Interrogatory CSC-2

The United Illuminating Company
Petition 1151

Witness: Christopher Hughes
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Q-CSC-2: If the Proposed Project is approved and such approval is granted before a Development and Management Plan is filed for P1110 Project, could UI file one comprehensive D&M Plan that includes both projects?

A-CSC-2: Yes. UI plans on filing one comprehensive D&M Plan for both projects.

Interrogatory CSC-3

The United Illuminating Company
Petition 1151

Witness: Shawn Crosbie
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Q-CSC-3: Reference Drawing No. 14219-0806 of the P1110 Project. Is the Proposed Project located within the shaded area for the Natural Diversity Database for the Peregrine Falcon and the Eastern box turtle? If yes, could UI extend the same protective measures to the Proposed Project as was included in the P1110 Project as a precaution?

A-CSC-3: The only NDDDB shaded area the "Proposed Project" is located in is representative of the Eastern Box Turtle. During construction UI will observe both the protective measures outlined in CT DEEP's letter dated February 13, 2015 (see attached) and all protective measures included in Petition No. 1110.

Interrogatory CSC-4

The United Illuminating Company
Petition 1151

Witness: Christopher Hughes
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Q-CSC-4: Would the proposed steel monopoles have a galvanized gray finish?

A-CSC-4: Yes. These will match the steel monopoles to be used in Petition No. 1110.

Interrogatory CSC-5

The United Illuminating Company
Petition 1151

Witness: Christopher Hughes
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Q-CSC-5: How would UI access the north side of the railroad right-of-way (i.e. adjacent to Beaver Brook Trails)? For example, would existing access to north of the railroad tracks meet UI's needs?

A-CSC-5: Yes the existing access road from West Avenue in Milford is adequate. Please reference drawing No. 14219-0807 of Petition No. 1110.

Interrogatory CSC-II-6

The United Illuminating Company
Petition 1151

Witness: Shawn Crosbie
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Q-CSC-6: Could the swamp mats be designed to minimize the risk of turtles being trapped in the gaps between the wooden planks?

A-CSC-6: When UI designed the work pad it took into account all sensitive receptors such as the turtle's habitat. Therefore, prior to and during work activities UI will inspect the construction area for turtles. If a turtle is identified UI will follow the conditions outlined in CT DEEP's letter dated February 13, 2015.

Interrogatory CSC-7

The United Illuminating Company
Petition 1151

Witness: Shawn Crosbie
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Q-CSC-7: Identify the wetland impacts and estimate the impact area(s) (in square feet) associated with the Proposed Project.

A-CSC-7: The wetland impact associated with Petition No. 1151 will be 1,300 square feet of swamp mats, used for the development of a work pad. The total construction footprint or impact area associated with Petition No. 1151 will be 19,500 square feet. This includes work pads, access roads and vegetation clearing.



February 13, 2015

Mr. Shawn Crosbie
The United Illuminating Company
180 Marsh Hill Road
Orange, CT 06477
shawn.crosbie@uinet.com

Project: Installation of 115 kva Towers (Steel Monopole) within Existing Right-of-Way at Milvon-Devon Located at 772 Bridgeport Ave. in Milford, Connecticut
NDDB Determination No.: 201500689

Dear Shawn,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map provided for the proposed installation of 115 kva towers (steel monopole) within an existing right-of-way at Milvon-Devon located at 772 Bridgeport Avenue in Milford, Connecticut. According to our information there are extant populations of State Special Concern *Terrapene carolina carolina* (eastern box turtle) in the area where this work will occur.

If possible, conduct project activities when these turtles are active (April 1st to September 30th) to avoid impacting hibernating turtles.

I would also recommend the following protection strategies to protect these turtles when work is done while the turtles are active (April 1 through September 30):

- Silt fencing should be installed around the work area prior to construction;
- After silt fencing is installed and prior to construction, a sweep of the work area should be conducted to look for turtles;
- Workers should be apprised of the possible presence of turtles, and provided a description of the species
(http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=473472&depNav_GID=1655);
- Any turtles that are discovered should be moved, unharmed, to an area immediately outside of the fenced area, and position in the same direction that it was walking;
- No vehicles or heavy machinery should be parked in any turtle habitat;
- Work conducted during early morning and evening hours should occur with special care not to harm basking or foraging individuals; and

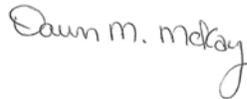
- All silt fencing should be removed after work is completed and soils are stable so that reptile and amphibian movement between uplands and wetlands is not restricted.

Thank you for implementing these protection measures for these turtles. I have attached “Box Turtle” fact sheet for your files. This determination is good for one year. Please re-submit an NDDDB Request for Review if the scope of work changes or if work has not begun on this project by February 13, 2016.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available. The result of this review does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site and that additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits.

Please contact me if you have further questions at (860) 424-3592, or dawn.mckay@ct.gov . Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base.

Sincerely,



Dawn M. McKay
Environmental Analyst 3