



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

June 29, 2015

John R. Morissette
Manager, Transmission Siting & Permitting
Eversource Energy
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

RE: **PETITION NO. 1153** – Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to the existing Sandy Hook Substation and associated transmission lines located at 13 Farmery Road, Newtown, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Morissette:

At a public meeting held on June 25, 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:

- Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;
- Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the Town of Newtown;
- 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/transferee 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 16, 2015.

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

Very truly yours,



Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated June 25, 2015

- c: The Honorable E. Patricia Llodra, First Selectman, Town of Newtown
George Benson, Director of Planning and Land Use, Town of Newtown
Rob Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use, Town of Newtown



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Petition No. 1153

Eversource Energy – Sandy Hook Substation

Newtown, Connecticut

Staff Report

June 25, 2015

On April 21, 2015, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for proposed modifications to the existing Sandy Hook Substation located off Farmery Road in Newtown, Connecticut. Notice of the petition was provided to the Town of Newtown and property abutters.

Council member Dr. Barbara Bell and staff member Robert Mercier visited the site on May 20, 2015 to review the proposal. John Morissette, Branden Reid, and Vincenzo Pagliuca, represented Eversource at the field review. The Newtown Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use, Rob Sibley, and abutter Barbara Sibley also attended the field review. During the field review, Rob Sibley had comments regarding noise and landscaping, referring to town land-use maps and research he had done on the Council's original certification of the substation. His wife, Barbara Sibley, had questions regarding magnetic field levels.

As an outgrowth of the Two Storm Panel recommendations, Eversource has been studying their transmission system and identifying locations that could be subject to single contingency outages. One of these is the Sandy Hook Substation. It is a non-bulk substation with one 115-kV transformer, two 115-kV transmission lines and three distribution circuits serving 4,500 customers. Currently, the substation is supplied by a single 115-kV transmission line (1876 Line) that extends along the south side of the substation. To increase reliability to the electric supply in this area in the event of an outage of the 1876 Line, Eversource proposes to install a loop configuration that would allow a second transmission supply to the substation.

The existing Sandy Hook substation was approved by the Council in 1993 under Docket 153. It is located on the southern end of a 6.1 acre parcel that contains a 174-foot by 147-foot substation yard. Current equipment is generally located on the east side of the substation and includes one 115-kV transformer, a 55-foot tall terminal structure and associated buswork, and a control house. A staff report dated December 17, 1996 indicates the substation was constructed in accordance with the Council's Decision and Order and subsequent Development and Management Plan.

Proposed substation modifications include the installation of a new 58-foot tall terminal structure, one circuit breaker, two disconnect switches, two 115-kV coupling capacitor voltage transformers, associated buswork, and a new control enclosure. Improvements in the adjacent right-of-way include a 70-foot tall weathering steel dead-end structure near the southwest end of the substation to support the new loop. A 60-foot section of southwest substation fence line would be reconfigured to accommodate a new swing gate to access the right-of-way. Once the planned loop is constructed, the 1876 Line extending from the Newtown Substation would be renamed the 1043 Line and the 1876 Line extending from the Stevenson Substation would be renamed the 1232 Line.

The reconfiguration of the existing transmission line would increase magnetic field levels underneath the transmission line loop from 18.6 milliGauss (mG) to 24.4 mG under the average annual load conditions modeled for year 2018. While there are no state or federal magnetic field health exposure standards, the projected magnetic fields are well below the recommended exposure standards established by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (9,040 mG), and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (2,000 mG).

With the exception of the new dead-end structure in the right-of-way and the proposed fence realignment, all work would be within the fenced substation yard. The substation and associated right-of-way is not within a mapped Natural Diversity Database area.

The proposed modifications should not significantly alter the substation's appearance as all proposed equipment is similar in height and form to that of existing equipment. The substation is adequately screened from adjacent residences by deciduous woodland with some pine trees on the west and northwest sides that were planted as part of the original landscaping. One pine tree adjacent to the access gate has died, but replacement is not recommended as 300 feet of woodland is present between the substation gate area and the nearest public area.

The proposed right-of-way dead-end structure is approximately 127 feet from the nearest property line, a residential lot fronting Great Ring Road and owned by the Sibleys. Portions of the structure would be visible during leaf-off conditions through existing intervening woodland on the substation property.

The new equipment would not contribute additional noise beyond the property boundaries. Noise levels were previously modeled when the substation was constructed in 1994 and were in compliance with State Noise Control Regulations. Field noise measurements taken on March 31, 2015 indicate continued compliance. Current sound pressure levels around the property lines ranged from 37.5 dBA to 39.6 dBA.

Eversource contends the proposed modifications to the substation would not have any substantial adverse environmental effect.

