



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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### CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 13, 2019

Kathleen M. Shanley  
Manager-Transmission Siting  
Eversource Energy  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

RE: **PETITION NO. 1226** – Eversource Energy declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of the new 115-kV Towantic Switching Station to be located adjacent to the Towantic Generating Station on Woodruff Hill Road, Oxford, Connecticut and the proposed modifications within existing right-of-way to its existing 1575 and 1585 115-kV electric transmission line extending 6.1 miles from Bunker Hill Substation, located at Clough Road, Waterbury, south through Middlebury to the proposed Towantic Switching station and reconductoring of its existing 1575 115-kV electric transmission line extending one mile from the proposed new switching station south to Structure 1446 (Oxford Tap) located near the Oxford Substation, Commerce Drive, Oxford.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting held on September 12, 2019, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and approved the request to amend the above referenced project, dated August 15, 2019 to comply with the Connecticut Airport Authority requirement to lower structure No. 1444 and related modifications.

All work is to be implemented as specified in the request submitted on August 15, 2019 and is subject to the condition that approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council Staff.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie Bachman".

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director

Enclosure: Staff Report dated September 12, 2019

MAB/MP/lm

c: The Honorable George R. Temple, First Selectman, Town of Oxford  
Steven S. Macary, Zoning Enforcement Official, Town of Oxford



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### Petition No. 1226

### Eversource Energy

### Towantic Switching Station and Line Modification Project – Amendment

### Oxford, Connecticut

### Staff Report

September 12, 2019

### Introduction

On May 27, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a declaratory ruling in Petition No. 1226 to The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) approving the construction of a new switching station (Towantic Switching Station) for the approved Towantic Generating Station<sup>1</sup> in Oxford and for the associated modifications/reconductoring to existing 115-kV transmission facilities located within the existing right-of-way (ROW) in the Towns of Middlebury and Oxford and the City of Waterbury. Specifically, the 115-kV transmission modifications were related to the existing #1575 and #1585 lines extending 6.1 miles from Bunker Hill Substation in Waterbury and south through Middlebury to the Towantic Switching Station. The reconductoring portion of the project was related to the existing #1575 Line extending one mile south from Towantic Switching Station to Oxford Tap (located near Oxford Substation). Construction of this project was completed on October 12, 2018.

On August 15, 2019, Eversource submitted an amendment to the declaratory ruling in Petition No. 1226. The purpose of the amendment is to perform modifications needed to comply with the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) requirement to lower Structure No. 1444 (located directly east of Oxford Substation) to accommodate CAA's plan to reduce the runway approach surface slope for Waterbury-Oxford Airport. This requirement was established by CAA after the Council's declaratory ruling in Petition No. 1226, and it applies to existing Structure No. 1444 and the attached wires because they penetrate the Waterbury-Oxford Airport revised approach surface airspace at their current heights. Besides lowering the height of Structure No. 1444, two new structures would be needed to support lowering the conductor and shield wire.

### Proposed Amendment Project

The proposed modifications would be made to the existing #1142 Line (formerly the #1585 Line), the existing #1319 Line (formerly a portion of the #1575 Line) and the existing #1575 Line.

The project entails the following:

- a. Replacement of the existing 82-foot tall double-circuit (#1142 Line and #1575 Line) steel lattice Structure No. 1444 with a new 65-foot single-circuit (#1142 Line) galvanized steel H-frame Structure No. 1444 with a concrete foundation, located approximately 15 feet north of the existing structure;
- b. Installation of a new 55-foot single-circuit (#1142 Line) galvanized steel H-frame Structure No. 1444B with a concrete foundation to be located approximately 80 feet south of the existing Structure No. 1445;
- c. Installation of a new 70-foot single-circuit (#1319 Line) direct-embed guyed galvanized steel monopole Structure No. 1444W located approximately 140 feet north of the existing Structure No. 1443;
- d. Relocation of the existing conductors on the #1319 Line to the new Structure No. 1444W;

<sup>1</sup> CPV Towantic LLC electric generating facility commenced commercial operation on June 1, 2018.

- e. Replacement of the existing conductors with new 556-kcmil aluminum conductor steel supported (ACSS) conductors and replacement of the existing shield wire with new alumoweld shield wire on the #1142 Line between Structure Nos. 1443 and 1444B;
- f. Replacement of the existing conductors with new 556-kcmil ACSS conductors and transfer of the existing shield wire (originally located between Structure Nos. 1444 to 1445) to between Structure Nos. 1444B and 1445 for #1142 Line;
- g. Relocation of existing optical ground wire (OPGW) from existing Structure No. 1444 to the new Structure No. 1444 and attachment of the OPGW to the new Structure No. 1444B;
- h. Relocation (or replacement in kind) of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) light currently installed on the existing Structure No. 1444 to the new Structure No. 1444;
- i. Relocation of the existing FAA marker balls that are currently located between Structure Nos. 1443 and 1445 to the new shield wire between Structure Nos. 1443 and 1444B; and
- j. Removal of the de-energized conductors of the #1575 Line from Structure Nos. 1444 to 1445A (formerly labeled as Structure No. 1446A in Petition No. 1226).

### **Project Construction and Work Procedures**

The proposed work would occur in an area containing existing gravel access roads that were constructed and/or improved as part of Petition No. 1226 and Petition No. 1058 (#1990 Line Structure Replacement Project).<sup>2</sup> These existing access roads would require minor vegetation removal to facilitate ease of access but are otherwise well established.

Within the ROW, work pads would be required to create a safe and level work surface at each of the proposed structure locations. Such work pads would be approximately 200 to 250 feet long by about 75 feet wide. In addition, two pull pads (i.e. one at each end of the proposed work area) approximately 150 to 250 feet long by about 75 feet wide would be utilized to facilitate conductor/wire work and staging. In upland areas work/pull pads would be comprised of gravel. In the two areas where portions of the pads would be located in wetlands, construction mats would be used to limit effects of temporary disturbance to the wetlands.

Eversource would adhere to the soil erosion and sedimentation control practices as described in the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control*. Typical soil erosion and sediment control measures include hay bales and filter-fabric sediment control barriers. Soil erosion and sedimentation controls would be inspected regularly and maintained to ensure integrity and effectiveness.

### **Environmental Considerations**

Existing land uses adjacent to Oxford Substation include the existing Eversource ROW to the east and undeveloped areas containing wetlands to the north and west. Commerce Drive and some industrial uses are located farther to the south.

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<sup>2</sup> **PETITION NO. 1058** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed 1990 line structure replacement project consisting of modifications of two sections of an existing 115-kV transmission line from Stevenson Substation to Frost Bridge Substation and from Baldwin Junction to Baldwin Substation traversing the municipalities of Monroe, Oxford, Middlebury, Waterbury and Watertown, Connecticut.

Approximately 0.4 acres of temporary impacts to wetlands would result from the placement of temporary construction mats used for the work pad for Structure No. 1444W and the pull pad south of Commerce Drive. Existing structures to be removed and new/replacement structures to be installed would all be located in upland areas; thus, no permanent impacts to wetlands would be expected.

No new or replacement structures would be installed within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 100-year flood zone.

There are no known Aquifer Protection Areas designated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) in the vicinity of the project.

The DEEP Natural Diversity Database does not identify any state-listed (or federally-listed) species in the vicinity of the modifications.

The visual impact of the project would not be expected to be significant because Structure No. 1444 would be lowered by approximately 17 feet, and other structure installations would support this lowering of the conductor and shield wires on and near this structure location. Additionally, the galvanized steel (rather than weathering steel) finish of the replacement Structure No. 1444 would be roughly comparable in color to the existing lattice Structure No. 1444.

Construction-related noise is exempt per DEEP noise regulations. Notwithstanding, any construction-related noise would be short-term and localized in the vicinity of work sites.

#### **Magnetic Fields**

There would be no change in electric and magnetic fields beyond the ROW and the Oxford Substation property.

#### **Notice**

Eversource has notified representatives of the Town of Oxford about the proposed modifications. The Council has not received any comments to date.

#### **Recommended Condition**

If approved, staff recommends including the following condition:

1. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.



**Site Plan – south of Oxford Substation**

