



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 21, 2017

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 February 16, 2017, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and approved the request for modification of the above referenced project, dated January 23, 2017, to install steady-state red obstruction lighting on the tops of structure Nos-11166 and 11166A, as well as Utility Pole A.

All work is to be implemented as specified in the request and associated site plans submitted on January 23, 2017.

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.

Very truly yours,

Robert Stein
Chairman

Enclosure: Staff Report dated February 16, 2017

RS/MP/lm

c: Parties and Intervenors

The Honorable Neil M. O'Leary, Mayor, City of Waterbury
Joseph A. Geary, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Waterbury
James A. Sequin, AICP, City Planner, City of Waterbury
The Honorable Edward B. St. John, First Selectman, Town of Middlebury
Curtis S. Bosco, Planning and Zoning Chairman, Town of Middlebury
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

The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Waterbury, Middlebury and Oxford, Connecticut

Staff Report

February 16, 2017

On May 26, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a declaratory ruling (Declaratory Ruling) that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction of a new switching station (Towantic SS) for the approved Towantic Generating Station in Oxford and for the associated modifications to existing 115-kV transmission facilities located within the existing right-of-way in the Towns of Middlebury and Oxford and the City of Waterbury. The project is currently identified in the October 2016 ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE) Regional System Plan Project List (2016 RSP Project List) with an estimated in-service date of June 2018.

Given the proximity of the Towantic SS and associated transmission to the Waterbury-Oxford Airport, Eversource is required to consult with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the permanent transmission structures and temporary construction equipment (e.g. cranes) associated with Petition No. 1226. On or about July 6, 2016, Eversource submitted 56 Notices of Proposed Construction (Form 7460-1) related to permanent structures to the FAA. Copies were provided to the Council on or about August 18, 2016 in accordance with Condition No. 5 of the Declaratory Ruling. Subsequently, Eversource received 45 Determinations of No Hazard to Air Navigation (No Hazard Determinations) dated August 24, 2016. On December 16, 2016, Eversource submitted these No Hazard Determinations to the Council in accordance with Condition No. 6 of the Declaratory Ruling. As of December 16, 2016, Eversource was still working with the FAA to address the remaining 11 permanent structures.

In January 2017, Eversource received No Hazard Determinations for 3 of the remaining 11 permanent structures. The remaining eight structures are still being evaluated. However, such No Hazard Determinations are subject to marking/lighting the structures. Specifically, page 5 of the No Hazard Determinations recommends that, "the proposed structure be lit with a red light to make it more conspicuous to airmen should circumnavigation be required." Condition No. 7 of the Council's May 26, 2016 Declaratory Ruling states, "If FAA hazard lighting and/or marking or modifications are required, Eversource shall file a Petition Amendment/Modification for Council review and approval for such modifications."

Accordingly, on January 23, 2017, Eversource filed a modification to Petition No. 1226 (Petition Modification). In the Petition Modification, Eversource seeks to install steady-state red obstruction lighting on the tops of Structure Nos. 11166 and 11166A as well as Utility Pole A. Structure Nos. 11166 and 11166A are monopole transmission structures approximately 96 feet tall above ground level (agl) and are associated with the interconnection of Towantic SS to transmission lines in Eversource's right-of-way. Utility Pole A is considered one obstruction for FAA purposes, but physically consists of two adjacent A-frames located inside the fenced Towantic SS. FAA lighting would be installed on the top of the lightning masts for Utility Pole A at a height of approximately 81 feet agl.

There are no residences located in the vicinity of the Towantic SS or Structure Nos. 11166 and 11166A that will interconnect Towantic SS. Thus, the visual impact is not expected to be significant.

Council staff recommends approval of the Petition Modification.