



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 3, 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 March 2, 2017, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and approved the request for modification of the above referenced project, dated February 21, 2017, to install temporary battery-powered obstruction lighting and later permanent solar-powered obstruction lighting on Structure Nos. 1453 through 1456 and for the use of temporary wood structures at Structure Nos. 1460 and 1468 to relocate the existing conductors while new permanent structure Nos. 1460 and 1468 are being installed with the following conditions:

- 1. Eversource shall submit to the Council a copy of the final FAA determination that no lighting is required for Structure Nos. 1452A through 1452D; and
2. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.

All work is to be implemented as specified in the request and associated revision dated February 21, 2017 and February 27, 2017, respectively.

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 MAB

Robert Stein
Chairman

Enclosure: Staff Report dated March 2, 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 Middlebury
Steven S. Macary, Zoning Enforcement Official, Town of Middlebury



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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

March 2, 2017

Introduction

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 the 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. 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.

In January 2017, Eversource received No Hazard Determinations for 3 of the remaining 11 permanent structures. 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 proposed to install steady-state red obstruction lighting on the tops of Structure Nos. 11166 and 11166A as well as Utility Pole A. On February 16, 2017, the Council approved the Petition Modification for such obstruction lighting installation.

Additional FAA Modifications

Concurrently, Eversource has received No Hazard Determinations dated January 20, 2017 for the remaining eight structures, known as Structure Nos. 1452A through 1452D (located in Oxford), 1453 and 1454 (located in Oxford), and 1455 and 1456 (located in Middlebury). Accordingly, on February 21, 2017, Eversource filed another modification to Petition No. 1226 (Supplemental Petition Modification) to address proposed additional FAA obstruction lighting and proposed temporary wood structures.

Specifically, Eversource would install temporary battery powered obstruction lights on the tops of Structure Nos. 1453 through 1456 at approximately 93.5 feet above ground level (agl) and would replace such lights with permanent solar powered lights by the end of June 2017. The temporary installations are being



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proposed due to the long lead time to receive the permanent lights and the need to construct these structures during the scheduled line outage and prior to the receipt of the permanent lights.

Eversource initially proposed temporary solar lighting installations at 95-foot agl on Structure Nos. 1452A through 1452D, pending the results of an additional study with the FAA as to whether a modified No Hazard Determination can be issued. By letter dated February 27, 2017, Eversource informed the Council that, per FAA's final determination, lighting is not required for Structure Nos. 1452A through 1452D, and thus, Eversource would not install lighting on such structures. Accordingly, staff recommends that Eversource file with the Council a copy of the FAA's final determination that no lighting is required for Structure Nos. 1452A through 1452D.

All proposed lighting (both temporary and permanent) for Structure Nos. 1453 through 1456 would be steady-state (i.e. non-blinking) red lighting. There are no residences located in the vicinity of Structure Nos. 1453 through 1456. Thus, the visual impact is not expected to be significant.

Structure Modifications

Eversource also seeks to install temporary wood pole structures at Structure Nos. 1460 and 1468. The temporary wood structures would be 75 feet in height. The purpose of these temporary structures is to relocate the existing conductors while new Structure Nos. 1460 and 1468 are being installed. The temporary structures would be installed in March 2017 and would be removed in June 2017.

There are no residences located in the vicinity of Structure Nos. 1460 and 1468. The temporary structures would also not be located in wetlands or a flood zone.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Council staff recommends approval of the Supplemental Petition Modification with the following conditions:

1. Eversource shall submit to the Council a copy of the final FAA determination that no lighting is required for Structure Nos. 1452A through 1452D; and
2. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.