



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

www.ct.gov/csc

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 24, 2016

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1231** – Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed removal and replacement of existing double-circuit lattice Structure 6-101 with two proposed single-circuit monopole structures to separate the existing 115-kilovolt (kV) 1572 and 1620 electric transmission lines located at NRG Energy, Inc.'s existing Middletown Power, LLC electric generating facility located at 1866 River Road, Middletown, Connecticut and related transmission line structure improvements.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting held on June 23, 2016, 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:

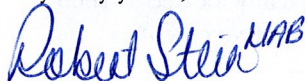
1. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment 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;
2. 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 Middletown;
3. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
4. 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;

5. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided the facility owner/operator/transferor 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
6. 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 May 5, 2016.

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

Very truly yours,



Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/MP/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated June 23, 2016

- c: The Honorable Daniel T. Drew, Mayor, City of Middletown
Michiel Wackers, AICP, Director of Planning, City of Middletown
Don Guzzetta, NRG Middletown Power, 1866 River Road, Middletown, CT



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Petition No. 1231

The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

Middletown, Connecticut

Staff Report

June 23, 2016

Introduction

On May 5, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (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 structure 6-101 which currently supports the 115-kilovolt (kV) #1572 line and #1620 line at the NRG-owned and operated Middletown Power LLC facility in the City of Middletown. Council member Michael Harder and Council staff members Fred Cunliffe and Michael Perrone conducted a field review of the proposed project on June 2, 2016. Farah Omokaro, Senior Engineer, Eversource; Ian Cole, Environmental Supervisor, Eversource; Ervin Qyra, Transmission Line Engineer, Eversource; Nicholas Forzono, Assistant Engineer – Transmission Line, Eversource; Chris Runde, Project Manager, Evesource; and Tish Dwyer, Technical Services Manager, NRG Middletown also attended the field review.

The proposed project is to eliminate potential transmission system thermal criteria violations based on the results of the May 2014 Greater Hartford and Central Connecticut Area (GHCC) Needs Assessment performed by ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE). In accordance with the February 2015 GHCC Solutions Study performed by ISO-NE, the violations would be eliminated by separating the #1572 line from the #1620 line at an NRG generation site where they currently share a common double-circuit lattice tower (DCLT). Each line would be placed on a separate single-circuit monopole structure, for a total of two new structures. This proposed project is currently identified in the March 2016 ISO-NE Regional System Plan Project List (2016 RSP Project List).

Specifically, the project consists of three components as noted below:

- a) Removal of DCLT number 6-101 that currently supports the #1572 line and #1620 line;
- b) Installation of two new galvanized steel single-circuit monopoles on caisson foundations; and
- c) Installation of a wood pole to support a fiber optic cable.

The site contains the existing NRG Middletown power station with a total of eight generating units on site. Middletown Station was originally put into service in the 1950s. Units 2 and 3 are dual-fueled (oil/natural gas) steam generators with summer capacities of approximately 117 megawatts (MW) and 234 MW, respectively. Unit 4 is an oil-fueled steam generator facility with a summer capacity of 400 MW. Unit 10 is a combustion turbine unit operating on jet fuel with a summer capacity of 15.5 MW. On December 4, 2008, the Council approved Petition No. 875 for GenConn Energy LLC's proposed installation and operation of four new 50 MW dual-fueled (kerosene/natural gas) combustion turbine peaking units known as Units 12 through 15. These four units went into service in June 2011, according to the ISO-NE 2016-2025 Forecast Report of Capacity, Energy, Loads, and Transmission (2016 CELT Report).

The proposed project would be located immediately to the southwest of Units 12 through 15 and on the same subject property. To the north of the power plant site is the Connecticut River. To the south are railroad tracks, existing vegetation and River Road. West of the site is largely wooded. To the east is largely cleared but undeveloped.

Construction Methods

The project would be constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with established industry practices and in accordance with Eversource's December 2011 Best Management Practices Manual for Connecticut (Eversource BMPs).

After removal of the existing DCLT, the tower foundations (which do not extend above grade) would remain. The existing steel lattice tower (that would be replaced), associated hardware, etc. would be disposed of and/or recycled in accordance with applicable regulations and Eversource BMPs.

Construction hours would typically occur Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. However, non-standard work hours including but not limited to Sunday hours might be necessary due to outage-related time constraints. Construction is expected to begin during fall 2016 and be completed by year-end 2016.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database, there are no state-listed endangered, threatened, or special concern species or critical habitat located within the Project area. In addition, this is a developed power plant site that is not expected to provide suitable wildlife habitat.

No wetlands are located at the site.

While the existing NRG generating facility is located within a 500-year flood zone, the proposed project is located outside of the both the 100-year and 500-year flood zones.

The site is not located within an aquifer protection area per the DEEP Aquifer Protection Areas map of Middletown dated December 28, 2015. Any groundwater encountered during the foundation excavation process would be pumped out and properly taken off-site.

The project would utilize the existing access to the power plant site. No new access would have to be constructed to complete the project.

Erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control measures would be installed in accordance with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* and Eversource BMPs. Temporary E&S controls would remain in place until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.

Magnetic field levels at the generating facility site boundaries would not be affected by the proposed modifications.

There would be no changes to the existing sound levels at the boundaries of the subject property as a result of the proposed project. Any noise related to construction is exempt from DEEP regulations.

The visual impacts associated with replacing the DCLT with two single-circuit monopole structures are not expected to be significant because of the modest height increase. Specifically, the existing double-circuit lattice structure is approximately 85 feet tall. The proposed monopole structures would be about six feet taller or approximately 91 feet tall. The dominant visual features in the eastern portion of the power plant site are the two pairs of approximately 213-foot power plant stacks for Units 12 through 15. (See photo below.) To the west of the proposed project is the Middletown Unit 4 stack approximately 475 feet high.

The galvanized gray steel color of the proposed monopole structures would be reasonably close to the faded green-gray color of the existing DCLT that they would replace.

The proposed wood pole to support a fiber optic cable would be 48 feet high and would be one of the shorter structures at the site. This pole is needed to support a fiber optic cable in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code for crossing a railroad right-of-way. In addition, its wood design would fit in visually with the existing wooded area to the south of the site.

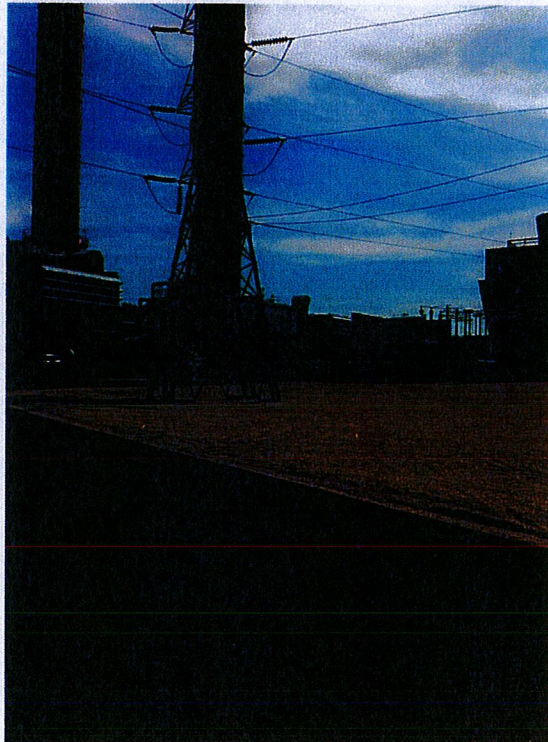
No trees would be removed to construct the project.

Municipal and abutter notice

Notice of the Petition was provided to the City of Middletown and the subject property owner on or about May 5, 2016. There are no additional abutters to the generating facility. The Council has not received any comments to date.

Conclusion

Staff has no recommended conditions.



Existing double-circuit lattice structure to be replaced with two single-circuit monopole structures

The existing power plant stacks for Units 12 through 15 are in the background.