



56 Prospect Street,
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06103

July 18, 2016

Robert Stein, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Gales Ferry Reconfiguration

Dear Chairman Stein:

Attached are an original and fifteen (15) copies of a petition from Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or the "Company") requesting a Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for proposed modifications to two 69-kV transmission lines, the 100 Line and the 400 Line, in Ledyard, Connecticut.

Prior to submitting this petition, written notice was provided to the abutting property owners and to Michael Finkelstein, Mayor of the Town of Ledyard. A map and line list identifying the abutting property owners who were notified of the Project are provided in Attachment A: Lines 100 & 400 Structure 7020 Replacement.

A check in the amount of \$625 for the required filing fee is also attached.

Sincerely,


Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager – Transmission Siting

Attachment: Petition

cc: Mayor Michael Finkelstein

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

**PETITION TO THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
FOR A DECLARATORY RULING OF
NO SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT
FOR THE PROPOSED RECONFIGURATION
OF THE 69-kV 100 and 400 TRANSMISSION LINES IN THE
GALES FERRY VILLAGE IN THE TOWN OF LEDYARD, CONNECTICUT**

1. Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or the "Company") hereby petitions the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") for a Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Certificate") is required, pursuant to Section 16-50g et seq. of the Connecticut General Statutes, for proposed modifications to existing 69-kV transmission lines on Eversource's property in Ledyard (the "Project") that are described herein. Eversource submits that no such Certificate is required because the proposed modifications would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect.
2. The purpose of the Project is to improve reliability and the safety of workers during inspections and maintenance of the two 115-kV transmission lines (1280 and 1410) and two 69-kV lines (100 and 400) that connect into an Eversource substation in Ledyard. The 1280 and 1410 lines currently run over the 100 and 400 line taps that supply the Gales Ferry Substation ("Substation"), which is located at 301 Whalehead Road in Ledyard on Eversource property.
3. The Project consists of modifications to the line structures that carry the 100 Line and 400 Line into Gales Ferry Substation changing them from underbuilt "flying" taps to direct entry deadend structures, as shown on Attachment A.
4. The Project modifications would include the following:
 - a) Removal of one 69-kV dead-end wood structure (structure 7020) on the 100 and 400 lines.
 - b) Replacement of both the 100 Line wood H-Frame tap angle structure (structure 7020 1/2) and the 400 Line wood H-Frame tap angle structure (structure 7020 1/2A), each with three-pole weathering steel angle structures on new foundations to loop the 100 Line and 400 Line into the Substation. The replacement structure for 7020 1/2 is new structure 7020-1. The replacement structure for 7020 1/2A is new structure 7020-2. The new structures would be located approximately 5 feet west

(7020-1) and 30 feet east (7020-2) from the existing structure 7020 location (see Attachment A: Lines 100 & 400 Structure 7020 Replacements).

The height of the existing structures to be replaced is approximately 20 and 50 feet above ground level, respectively. The height of each of the new proposed structures would both be approximately 60 feet above ground level.

- c) Relocation of the existing 556 244/7 ACSR (aluminum conductor steel reinforced) conductor on the existing tap structures to the new proposed structures.

Eversource would utilize the existing access from Whalehead Road to reach the existing and proposed new structure locations.

A cross section of the proposed modifications is shown on Attachment B: ROW Cross Section.

- 5. The Project would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, or cause a significant adverse change or alteration in the physical or environmental characteristics of the facility, because:
 - The Project would be constructed entirely on Eversource's property and no expansion of the existing, maintained area would be required.
 - Eversource's review of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's ("CT DEEP") Natural Diversity Data Base has not identified any state-listed endangered, threatened, or special concern species in the vicinity of the Project. No portions of the Project fall within a CT DEEP mapped critical habitat area.
 - No clearing would be required to accommodate the Project. Some selective vegetation removal would be required, as necessary, from the base of the existing structures and at the work pad to provide unobstructed access for the safe operation of construction equipment.
 - Eversource would minimize vegetation removal activities and restore temporarily disturbed areas in accordance with the Company's December 2011 *Best Management Practices Manual: Connecticut* ("BMPs"). Preparation of the work would also include installation of erosion and sediment ("E&S") controls and work pad installation.
 - Eversource contracted with the firm Tighe & Bond to identify and delineate water resources in the work area (see Attachment C). One wetland was identified.

The federal and state jurisdictional wetland boundary was delineated in accordance with applicable federal and state methodologies, and is depicted in Attachment B.

No potential vernal pools were identified and the work area is not located within 100- or 500-year flood zones. Approximately 59 square feet permanent wetland effects would result from the installation of structure 7020-2.

Approximately 0.24 acre of temporary effects to wetlands would be required for the installation of a construction mat (approximately 175 feet by 100 feet) to facilitate a safe working platform for the removal of structures 7020, 7020-½A and installation of structure 7020-2. The existing wood structures to be removed would be cut at the base and the pole butts would remain in place in order to minimize ground disturbance. The work pad would be removed after the Project is complete.

Work within this water resource area would be conducted in accordance with the appropriate Eversource BMPs and in accordance with applicable regulatory authorization or permit terms and conditions.

- There will be no increase in radio or television interference resulting from the proposed modifications.
- There would be no changes to the sound levels after completion of the Project.
- Electric and magnetic field changes associated with this Project will be limited to the transmission line ROW. Fields at the nearest residences to the north and to the south of the Substation will be unchanged.
- After removal, the existing structures, associated equipment and any construction debris or excess materials would be disposed of in accordance with Eversource's BMPs.

6. Eversource proposes to begin construction during October 2016 and expects that the construction would be completed by the end of December.

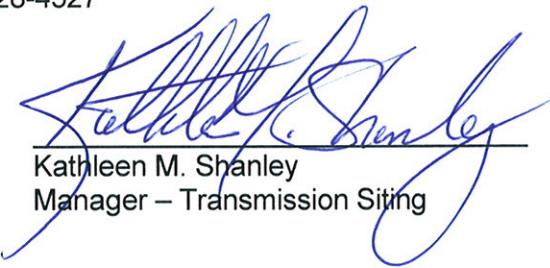
7. Section 16-50k(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is needed for proposed modifications of a facility that the Council determines would have a "substantial adverse environmental effect." Eversource respectfully submits that the proposed modifications would not result in a substantial adverse effect on the environment or ecology, nor would they damage existing scenic, historical or recreational values. Accordingly, Eversource requests that the

Council issue a declaratory ruling that the proposed modifications would have no substantial adverse environmental effect and, therefore, no Certificate is required.

8. Communications regarding this Petition for a Declaratory Ruling should be directed to:

Ms. Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager – Transmission Siting
Eversource Energy
PO Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270
Telephone: (860) 728-4527

By:


Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager – Transmission Siting

Attachments:

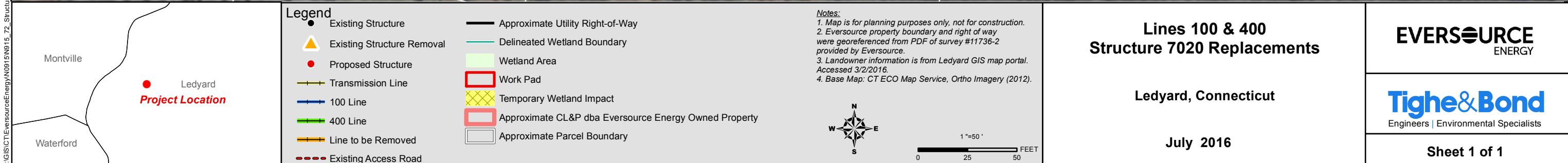
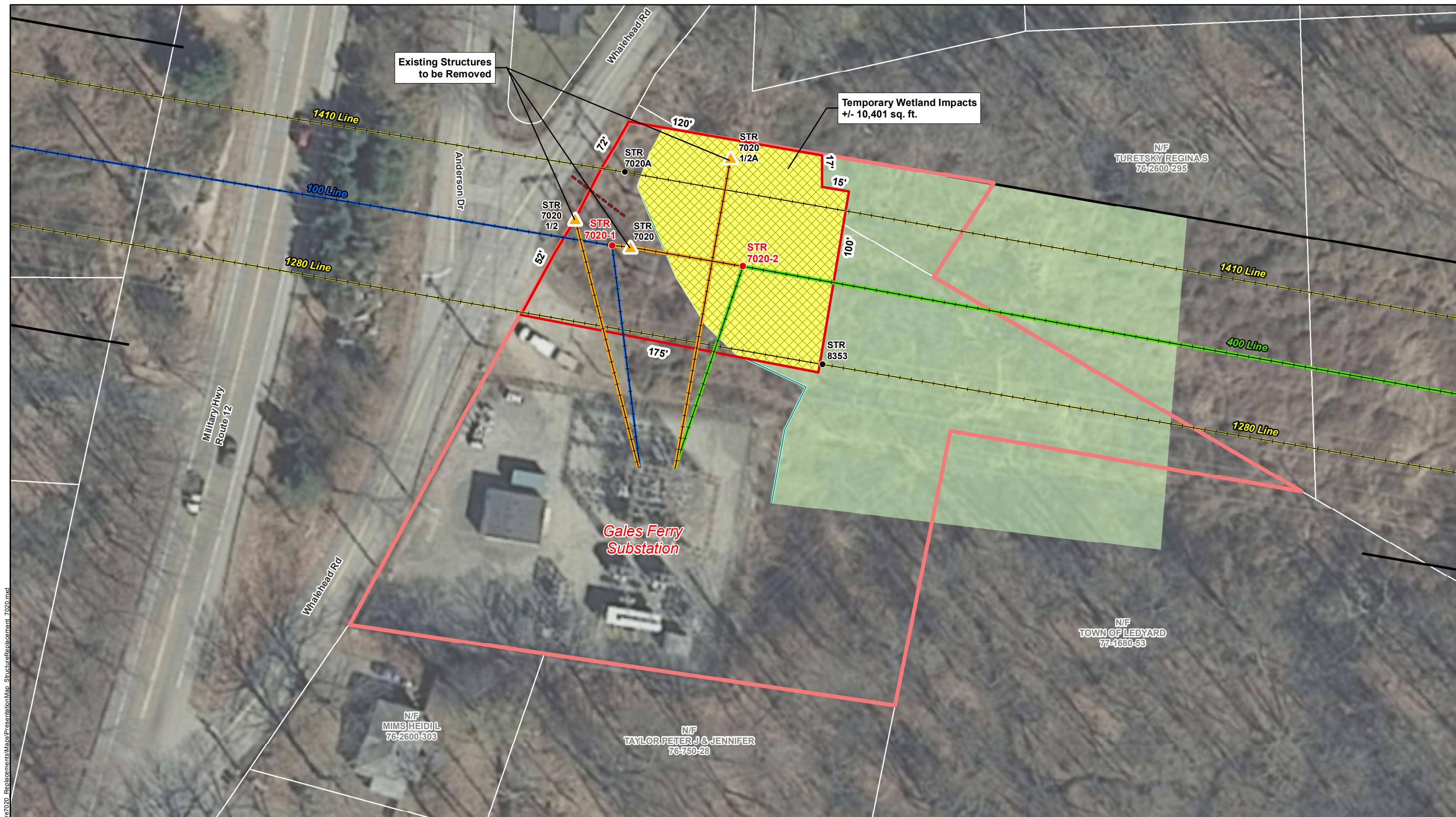
Attachment A: Lines 100 & 400 Structure 7020 Replacements

Attachment B: ROW Cross Section.

Attachment C: Wetland Report

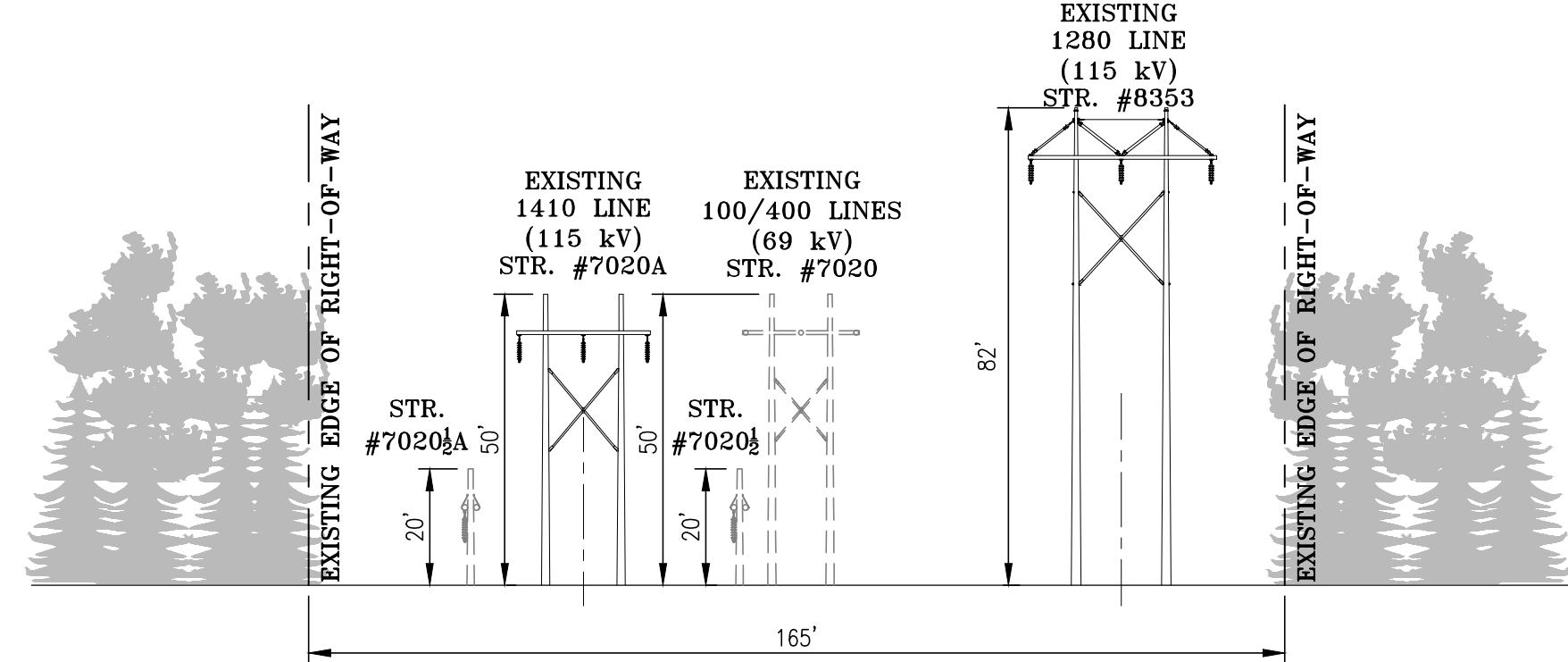
Attachment D: Letter to the Abutters and Affidavit

ATTACHMENT A

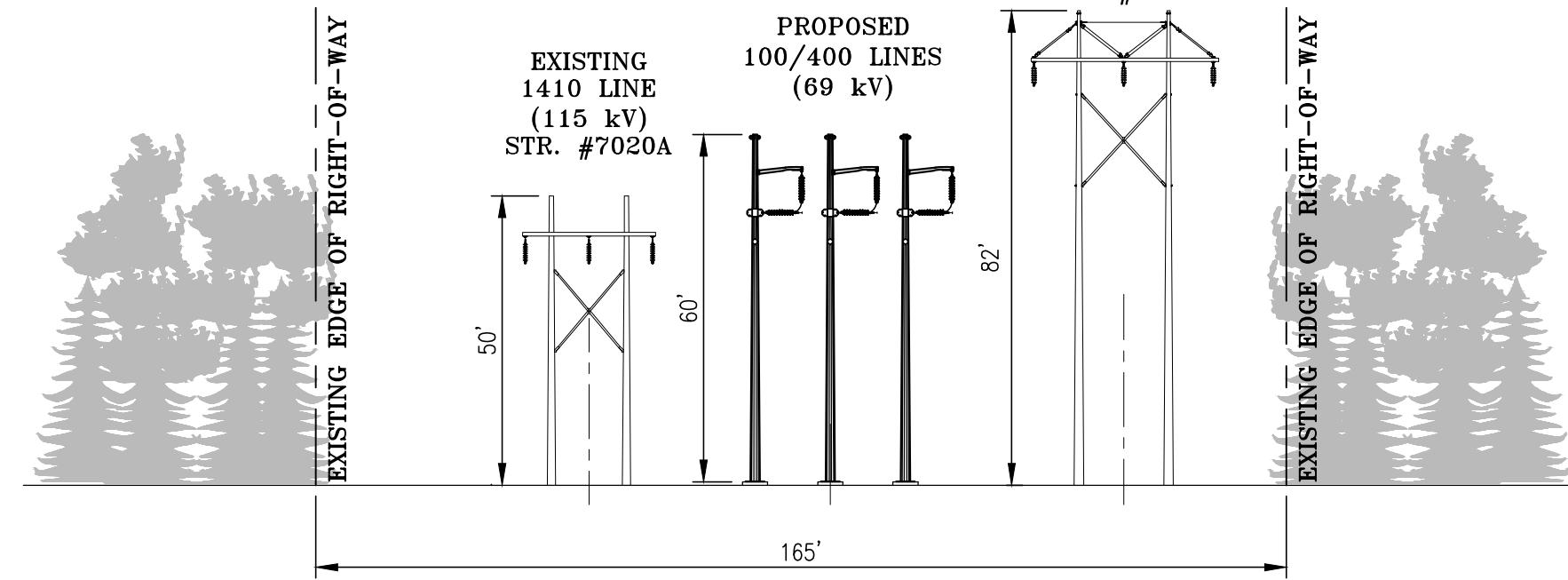


Town Map/Lot	Property Owner Name	Site Address	City	Zip
72-76-2600-295	TURETSKY REGINA S, NIEDERMAN ROBERT A + CHARLES S	295 WHALEHEAD RD	GALES FERRY	06335
72-76-2600-303	MIMS HEIDI L	303 WHALEHEAD RD	GALES FERRY	06335
72-77-1680-53	1 TOWN OF LEDYARD	53 NORMAN DR	GALES FERRY	06335
72-76-750-28	TAYLOR PETER J + JENNIFER M	28 FERRY VIEW DR	GALES FERRY	06335

ATTACHMENT B



EXISTING R.O.W.
LOOKING EAST FROM GALES FERRY JUNCTION IN THE TOWN OF LEDYARD (STRUCTURE #7020)



PROPOSED R.O.W.
LOOKING EAST FROM GALES FERRY JUNCTION IN THE TOWN OF LEDYARD (STRUCTURE #7020-1 & #7020-2)

EVERSOURCE ENERGY				
TITLE GALES FERRY JCT. RECONFIGURED 69-kV TRANSMISSION LINE ROW CROSS SECTION LEDYARD, CT				
BY	RRH	CHKD	JM	APP
DATE	4/6/16	DATE	7/12/16	DATE
H-SCALE	NTS	SIZE	B	FIELD BOOK & PAGES
V-SCALE	NTS	V.S.		R.E. DWG
R.E. PROJ. NUMBER			DWG NO.	
			01062-85002	

ATTACHMENT C

WETLAND AND WATERCOURSE DELINEATION REPORT

Project: Gales Ferry Structure Replacements
Whalehead Road
Ledyard, Connecticut

Project No. 23-0915-71
Site Inspection Date 3/1/2016

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: *Inland wetland & watercourse identification and delineation*

METHOD FOR IDENTIFICATION OF MAP UNITS

Wetlands

- Field marking (flagging) by Soil Scientist for Trimble survey*
- Field plotting on*
- Field plotting on aerial photography*

Non Wetland Soils

- High intensity field identification by Soil Scientist*
- Medium intensity identification from USDA, Soil Conservation Service Soil Maps*

METHOD OF SOIL IDENTIFICATION

- Spade and Auger*
- Deep test pits (backhoe)*
- Other _____*

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Dry *Moist* *Wet*
Frost Depth 0 *in.*
Snow Depth 0 *in.*

The classification system of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, USDA, Soil Conservation Service and the County Identification Legend were used in this investigation. The investigation was conducted by the undersigned Professional Soil Scientist.

All wetland boundary lines established by the undersigned Soil Scientist are subject to change until officially adopted by local, state or federal regulatory agencies.

Respectively submitted by,

TIGHE & BOND, INC.



Matthew Davison, PSS, PWS, CT Forester
Senior Environmental Scientist



MAPS/PLANS GENERATED

- GIS map with wetland flags located by Trimble survey
- Sketch location of wetlands
- None

WETLAND DESCRIPTION

A single wetland was identified in the project area. The delineated wetland area is generally characterized as a seasonally saturated common reed (*Phragmites australis*) monoculture. Remnant fill associated with the existing transmission line structures is present within the wetland interior. The wetland boundary is a fill slope associated with the adjacent substation and transmission line facilities. No potential vernal pool habitat was identified during the delineation, the wetland lacks suitable vernal pool hydrology and morphology in proximity to the proposed structure replacements (seasonally flooded wetland depression).

SUMMARY SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

Digitally available updated soil survey information was obtained from the Natural Resources Conservation Service as depicted on the attached soil map. The following soil types were identified during the delineation:

Wetland Soils

Aquents (Map Unit Not Shown)

The Aquents map unit is a miscellaneous land type used to denote man-made or man-disturbed areas that are wet. These soils have an aquic soil moisture regime and can be expected to support hydrophytic vegetation. Typically, these soils occur in places where less than 2 feet of earthen material have been placed over poorly or very poorly drained soils; areas where the natural soils have been mixed so that the natural soil layers are not identifiable; or where the soil materials have been excavated to the watertable.

Catden and Freetown soils (Map Unit 18)

The Catden series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils formed in woody and herbaceous organic materials in depressions on lake plains, outwash plains, moraines, and flood plains. These soils have moderate or moderately rapid permeability. Slope ranges from 0 to 2 percent.

The Freetown series consists of very deep, very poorly drained organic soils formed in more than 51 inches of highly decomposed organic material. They are in depressions or on level areas on uplands and outwash plains. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid.

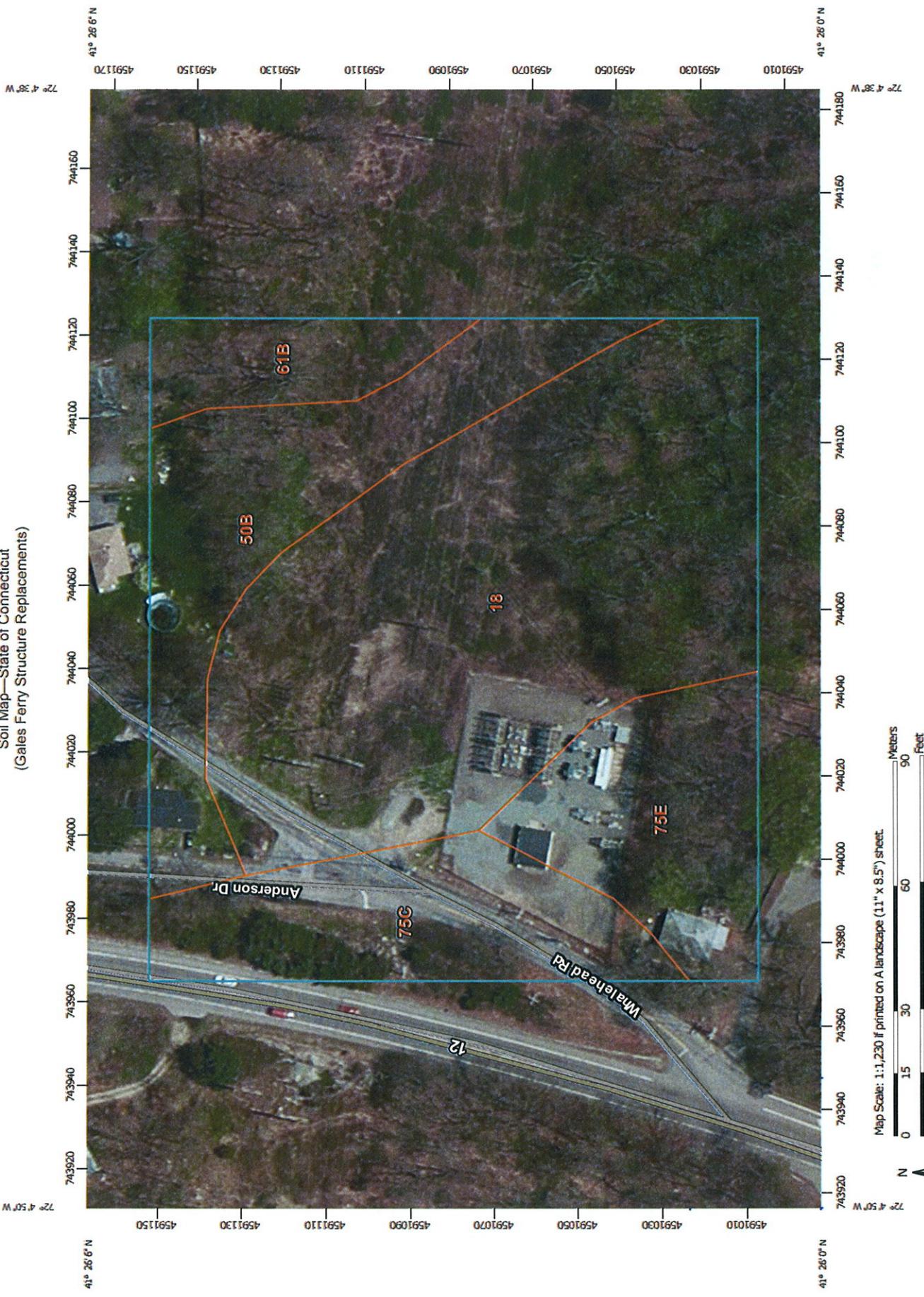
Nonwetland Soils

Udorthents (Map Unit 306-not shown)

Udorthents is a miscellaneous land type used to denote moderately well to excessively drained earthen material which has been so disturbed by cutting, filling, or grading that the original soil profile can no longer be discerned.



Soil Map—State of Connecticut
(Gales Ferry Structure Replacements)



Map Scale: 1:12,200 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.
0 15 30 60 90 Meters
0 50 100 200 300 Feet
Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge ticks: UTM Zone 18N WGS84



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey

6/20/2016
Page 1 of 3

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)		Soil Area	Soil Spot	Stony Spot	Very Stony Spot	Wet Spot	Other	Special Line Features
	Area of Interest (AOI)							
	Soil Map Unit Polygons							
	Soil Map Unit Lines							
	Soil Map Unit Points							
Special Point Features		Water Features	Streams and Canals					
	Blowout							
	Borrow Pit							
	Clay Spot							
	Closed Depression							
	Gravel Pit							
	Gravelly Spot							
	Landfill							
	Lava Flow							
Background		Aerial Photography						
	Marsh or swamp							
	Mine or Quarry							
	Miscellaneous Water							
	Perennial Water							
	Rock Outcrop							
	Saline Spot							
	Sandy Spot							
	Severely Eroded Spot							
	Sinkhole							
	Slide or Slip							
	Sodic Spot							

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:12,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://WebSoilSurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: State of Connecticut
Survey Area Data: Version 14, Sep 22, 2015

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Mar 28, 2011—May 12, 2011

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

State of Connecticut (CT800)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
18	Cadden and Freetown soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes	2.8	48.4%
508	Sutton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	1.0	18.3%
618	Canton and Charlton soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	0.3	6.0%
75C	Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	0.8	14.4%
75E	Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes	0.7	13.0%
Totals for Area of Interest		5.7	100.0%



ATTACHMENT D

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF NOTICE

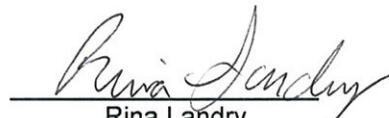
STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
) ss. Berlin
COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

Sec. 16-50j-40 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies ("RCSA") provides that proof of notice to the affected municipalities, property owners and abutters shall be submitted with a petition for declaratory ruling to the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council"). In accordance with that RCSA section, I hereby certify that I caused notice of proposed modifications of The Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy to be served by mail or courier upon the following municipal officials:

Municipal Official:

The Honorable Michael Finkelstein
Town of Ledyard
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

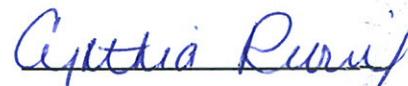
I also certify that I caused notice of the proposed modifications to be served by mail or courier upon four owners of abutting properties shown on the maps in Attachment A to the Petition.



Rina Landry
Project Manager

On this the 15 day of July, 2016, before me, the undersigned representative, personally appeared, Rina Landry, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.



Notary Public
My Commission expires:

6/30/2021

July 14, 2016

Dear Neighbor,

As part of our everyday effort to deliver reliable energy and superior customer service, Eversource is proposing to make reliability improvements to our Gales Ferry Substation located on 301 Whalehead Road, Gales Ferry, CT.

These improvements, called the Gales Ferry Substation Reconfiguration (Project) include; the reconfiguration of existing transmission lines to minimize the potential for power disruption to customers, the removal of one wood structure located outside of the substation fence, and the replacement of two wood structures with two taller weathering steel structures. These configuration changes will improve safety and reliability.

Eversource is submitting a petition to the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) in July 2016 for the Project. If the work is approved by the CSC, construction is planned to begin in October of 2016. Construction of the Project and site restoration is anticipated to be completed by end of 2016.

If you would like to send comments or concerns regarding Eversource's petition to the CSC, please send them via e-mail to siting.council@ct.gov or by letter to the following address:

Melanie Bachman, Acting Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

For more information about this Project, please call the Eversource Transmission Information Line at 1-800-793-2202, or send an email to TransmissionInfo@eversource.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Rina Landry
Eversource Project Manager

