



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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www.ct.gov/csc

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 14, 2016

James R. Morrissey, Esq.
UIL Holdings Corporation
157 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: **PETITION NO. 1250** – The United Illuminating Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed replacement of existing fence sections and the installation of grounding conductor within and outside the fence line at its existing New Congress Substation located at 55 Congress Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Morrissey:

At a public meeting held on October 13, 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. UI shall ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect disturbed soils at the site in case of a flood event during active construction;
2. Use of off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board standards, or in the alternative, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions, including, but not limited to, retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts, particulate filters and use of ultra-low sulfur fuel;
3. Compliance with the provisions of Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that limit the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes;
4. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
5. 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;
6. 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 City of Bridgeport;



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7. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
8. 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;
9. 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
10. 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 August 30, 2016.

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

Very truly yours,



Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/CMW/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated October 13, 2016

c: The Honorable Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor, City of Bridgeport
Thomas F. Gill, Director of Planning & Economic Development, City of Bridgeport
Lynn Haig, Director of Planning, City of Bridgeport
S. MeeNa Cullen-Corson, The United Illuminating Company



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Petition No. 1250

The United Illuminating Company

New Congress Substation, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Staff Report

October 13, 2016

Introduction

On August 31, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from The United Illuminating Company (UI) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to UI's New Congress Substation located at 55 Congress Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Council Chairman Robert Stein and Council staff member Christina Walsh conducted a field review of the proposed project on September 26, 2016 with UI representatives James Morrissey, Esq., Amy Hicks, Samantha Marone, Syed Rahman and Meena Cullen-Corson. No members of the public or the City of Bridgeport were in attendance.

Notice of the Petition was provided to the City and abutting property owners prior to submission to the Council. To date, the Council has not received any comments regarding the Petition filing.

Proposed Project

The site is bordered by the Pequonnock River to the north; a State of Connecticut courthouse and detention center to the west; and a City of Bridgeport transportation and bus depot to the south-southwest. Also, nearby is the Connecticut Department of Transportation's elevated railroad bridge. Portions of the proposed work would occur on the adjacent State of Connecticut property. The State of Connecticut has consented to this work.

In order to meet current industry standards, UI proposes to install grounding conductor, crushed rock and an isolation fence at New Congress Substation. The grounding conductor would include approximately 2,500 feet of 4/0 copper grounding conductor within the substation and around its perimeter. Most of the grounding conductor will be installed below grade using standard trenching techniques. Approximately 3,000 square feet of crushed rock would be installed along the substation fence line and, in some locations, up to four feet beyond the fence. An existing fence currently separates the adjacent property of the State of Connecticut's parking area from the paved access road of the substation. UI proposes to install 80 feet of new fence in the same location as the existing fence; however, the new fence would contain two isolation panels on both ends and the fence posts would be capped with polyvinyl chloride sleeves in the foundation for electrical isolation.

The proposed project is necessary to protect UI's hard assets, the electrical system, and the public by eliminating the risk of hazardous electric shock potentials that exist during certain ground fault conditions.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

If contaminated soil were discovered during excavation, UI would categorize and dispose of the contaminated soil according to applicable statutes and regulations. The proposed increase of crushed stone surface is expected to have a positive effect on stormwater runoff due to the increase of pervious surface. Construction is not expected to reach the depth of groundwater at the site, which is 10 to 12 feet below ground.

No Connecticut listed species are known to occur within the proposed project footprint. The project would not impact any historic or cultural resources.

Erosion control measures including silt fences, hay-bales, compost filter socks, and an anti-tracking pad would be used to mitigate any erosion during construction. No tree clearing is necessary.

There are no wetlands located on the site. The coastal jurisdiction line runs along the eastern border of the substation but no work is proposed within the coastal jurisdiction boundary. The substation is within the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated 100-year flood zone.

The project would not interfere with radio or television signals and would have no impact on electric and magnetic fields.

The project would comply with state and local noise ordinances and construction activities would typically occur from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, unless additional work hours are needed in exceptional or emergency circumstances.

The proposed project would not change the aesthetics of the existing substation as most of the work would be below-grade or at grade. The replacement fencing would be nearly identical to the existing fence.

The project would be constructed in accordance with UI's health and safety requirements.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the following:

1. Use of off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board standards, or in the alternative, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions, including, but not limited to, retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts, particulate filters and use of ultra-low sulfur fuel;
2. Compliance with the provisions of Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that limit the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes; and
3. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.

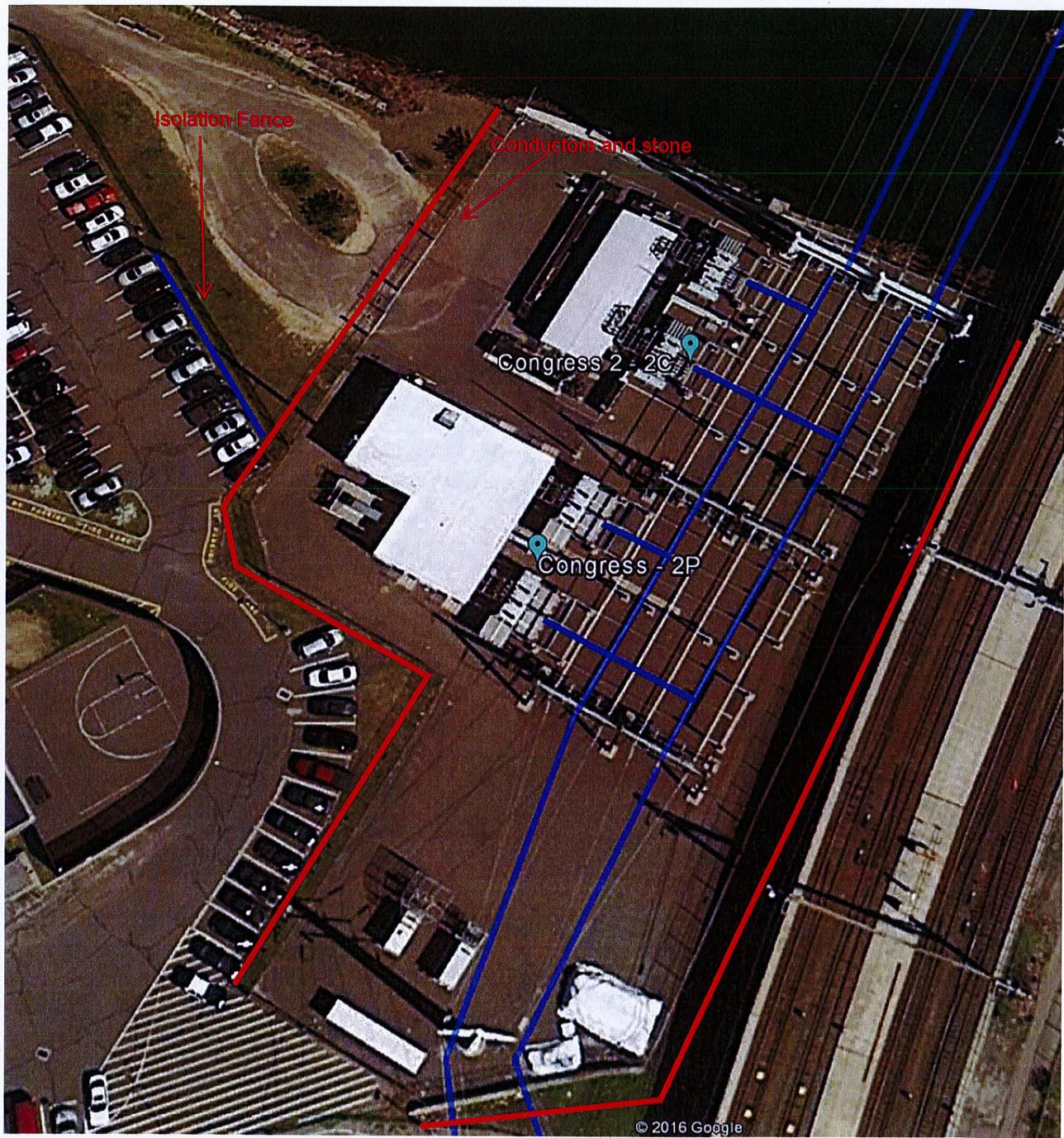


Figure 1. Aerial photograph of New Congress Substation and Isolation fence.