



# 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](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

[www.ct.gov/csc](http://www.ct.gov/csc)

### CERTIFIED MAIL

### RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 21, 2017

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1283** – The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to the existing Southington Substation located at 315 Bellevue Avenue, Southington, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting held on February 16, 2017, 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. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. 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;
3. 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 Southington;
4. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
5. 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;

6. 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
7. 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 December 22, 2016 and additional information received on January 18, 2017.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Stein" followed by "MAB" in smaller letters.

Robert Stein  
Chairman

RS/MP/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated February 16, 2017

- c: The Honorable Michael Riccio, Chairman, Town of Southington  
Garry Brumback, Town Manager, Town of Southington  
Robert Phillips, Director of Planning and Community Development, Town of Southington  
Helen Taylor, Project Siting Specialist, Eversource Energy



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### Petition No. 1283

**Eversource**

**Southington Substation, Southington, Connecticut**

**Staff Report**

**February 16, 2017**

### Introduction

On December 22, 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 the proposed modifications to the Southington Substation located at 315 Bellevue Avenue in Southington, Connecticut. Council member Robert Silvestri, Council Executive Director Melanie Bachman, and Michael Perrone of the Council staff conducted a field review of the proposed project on February 6, 2017. Eversource representatives Helen Taylor MBA, Project Siting Specialist; Greg Wilkosz, Substation Engineer; Ian Cole, L&P; Gregory Buonanni, Construction Representative; and Anthony May, Project Manager, Burns & McDonnell also attended the field review.

Notice of the Petition was provided to the Town of Southington and abutting property owners on or about December 21, 2016. Prior to submitting the Petition, Eversource consulted with municipal officials in November 2016. On December 27, 2016, the Council received comments via email from Casey Potthoff, Plant Manager, Saint Thomas Cemetery (STC). Specifically, the comments expressed concerns about expanding the Southington Substation fenceline approximately 50 feet to the west and possible impacts to existing grave sites at STC. To date, the Council has not received any other comments regarding the Petition filing.

### Site

Southington Substation is located to the east of Bellevue Avenue. To the north is a portion of STC property and Berkley Avenue. To the east is existing vegetation, a transmission line right-of-way and wetlands. To the south are wetlands, as well as some residences along Bellevue Avenue. To the west, on the opposite side of Bellevue Avenue is the STC, with some residences located to the north and south of STC.

### Proposed Project

The project is being proposed to eliminate potential transmission system thermal and voltage criteria violations in the Southington area that were identified in the May 2014 Greater Hartford and Central Connecticut Area (GHCC) Needs Assessment performed by ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE) and in subsequent analyses performed by Eversource. The proposed modifications within Eversource's Southington Substation would also improve reliability in the Greater Hartford area. The project is currently identified in the October 2016 ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE) Regional System Plan Project List (2016 RSP Project List).

Specifically, Eversource seeks to perform the following:

- a) Install one new 345-kV sulfur hexafluoride circuit breaker. An existing manual disconnect switch would be located approximately 25 feet to the west to accommodate the circuit breaker;
- b) Replace six single-phase 115-kV three-percent impedance line reactors with six new single-phase 115-kV five-percent impedance line reactors. The existing circuit switchers would be relocated approximately 38 feet to the east of the existing location to accommodate the new reactors;
- c) Relocate one 115-kV disconnect switch approximately 28 feet northwest from its existing location and relocate three 115-kV capacitive coupling voltage transformers (CCVTs) approximately 116 feet to the west of their existing location to accommodate the new reactors;

- d) Relocate an existing circuit breaker approximately 64 feet to the south of its existing location to accommodate the new reactors
- e) Install one new 115-kV SF<sub>6</sub> circuit breaker. The existing disconnect switch would be relocated approximately 13 feet west from the existing location to accommodate the new circuit breaker;
- f) Install three new 115-kV CCVTs;
- g) Remove three 115-kV potential transformers and associated 115-kV disconnect switch;
- h) Install three single-phase 115-kV three-percent impedance ring bus tie reactors;
- i) Install six single-phase 115-kV current transformers;
- j) Install two 115-kV motor-operated disconnect switches;
- k) Install two new H-frame structures that would have a height of approximately 45 feet above ground level to accommodate the current transformers and single-phase 115-kV motor-operated disconnect switches;
- l) Install foundations, lighting masts, bus supports, and bus connections for the equipment structures noted above;
- m) Install one new, ballistic rated, metal-clad (ash gray color) relay and control enclosure (Control House) to house the battery systems and related protection and control equipment. The Control House would have dimensions of approximately 120 feet long by 31 feet wide by 15 feet high and would be installed on a new foundation;
- n) A portion of the existing fence on the west side of Southington Substation would be extended to accommodate the new control enclosure. An approximately 205-foot long section of the substation fence would be extended approximately 47 feet to the west of the existing fence location; and
- o) Install underground conduits and cables, as well as relay/controls to accommodate the new equipment.

The expanded fenced area (around the Control House) would be a crushed stone surface (similar to the existing substation footprint) and would be surrounded by a seven-foot high chain link fence with 1 ¼" mesh and one foot of three-strand barbed wire on top.

Much of the substation work would be performed within the existing fenced substation footprint, except for the fence expansion and related work for the Control House on the west side. The project would not impact the STC because all work would be performed on Eversource's property.

#### **Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures**

Approximately 20 pine trees, approximately 40 to 50 feet tall would be removed to accommodate the expansion of Southington Substation for the new Control House. However, the existing tree buffer located farther to the west along Bellevue Avenue would remain to minimize visual impacts.

The lightning masts associated with the proposed H-frame structures would be the tallest proposed objects with a total height of 41 feet above ground level (agl). This is shorter than the tallest existing lightning mast, which reaches a height of 132 feet agl.

The proposed project is not located within a 100-year or 500-year flood zone. No direct or indirect wetland impacts are anticipated. The nearest wetland is approximately 145 feet to the southeast of any proposed work.

Southington Substation and the proposed project lie within a DEEP-designated Level A Aquifer Protection Area. However, the proposed project is not expected to adversely impact the mapped aquifer. Specifically, the proposed fence expansion would not result in an increase in runoff, and all equipment being added is similar in nature to equipment that is already present at the site and would not pose a risk for a significant discharge of hazardous materials or fluids. Any spills would be appropriately managed by the contractor in accordance with Eversource's Best Management Practices.

According to the DEEP Natural Diversity Database, no listed species are within the project area. No archeological or historic resources would be impacted by the project. Specifically, a cultural resources review of the project was performed by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage). A May 5, 2016 report from Heritage indicates that no adverse impacts to cultural resources are anticipated as a result of the proposed modifications to Southington Substation.

Noise levels associated with construction would be temporary, typical of construction activities, and exempt per DEEP Noise Control Regulations. Post-construction noise levels would continue to comply with DEEP Noise Control Regulations.

Magnetic field levels at the boundaries of Southington Substation are not expected to change as a result of the proposed modifications.

### **Construction Schedule**

Eversource intends to begin construction in March 2017 and complete construction by year-end 2018. In general, work hours would be from 7 AM to 7 PM Monday through Saturday. However, Sunday hours may be necessary due to unforeseen conditions such as inclement weather, outage constraints and/or critical path activities.

### **Staff Recommendations**

Staff recommends the following:

1. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.

**Proposed Project – Aerial View**

