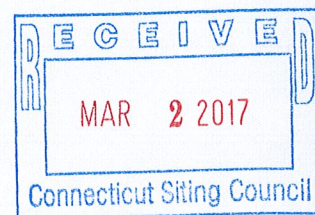


Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager – Transmission Siting
Tel: (860) 728-4527

March 2, 2017

PETITION NO. 1293



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

Re: Asset Condition Improvements to Comply with NESC

ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Stein:

Attached are an original and fifteen (15) copies of a petition on behalf of The Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy requesting a determination that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for all transmission maintenance activities that need to comply with updated National Electric Safety Code clearance requirements.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen M. Shanley", written over a large, stylized blue loop.

Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager – Transmission Siting

Enclosure

THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

doing business as

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

PETITION TO THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
FOR A DECLARATORY RULING CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS PURSUANT TO
TRANSMISSION FACILITY ASSET CONDITION AND ADHERENCE TO THE
NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY CODE

I. Description of this Petition

The Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy ("Eversource") hereby petitions the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") for a determination 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 the maintenance improvements to address compromised transmission facility asset condition and comply with current clearance requirements. Based on the discussion below, Eversource respectfully submits that the proposed improvements will have no "substantial adverse environmental effect," and therefore would not require a Certificate pursuant to Section 16-50k.

II. Background

The one for one replacement of a structure due to asset condition (cracking, splitting, rot, woodpecker holes, etc.) requires that Eversource evaluate the specific installation to ensure compliance with all applicable codes and Company standards at the time of installation. Standards that govern the design for these transmission structures have changed over the years since many of the transmission lines were constructed. These changes frequently result in the need to increase the height of replacement structures to meet the new standards, including accommodating National Electric Safety Code clearance requirements.

III. Planned Improvements

As a result of recent surveys, the Company has targeted wood transmission structures in several locations in Connecticut that are in need of replacement due to compromised asset condition. Improvements may include replacing wood structures with similar in appearance weathering steel structures, a slight increase in structure height, installation of foundations, and

relocation of existing lines to the new structures. No line upgrades or reconductoring work is proposed.

IV. Conduct of Improvements

Because the improvements will directly enhance the resiliency and reliability of bulk power system, the Company plans to undertake such improvements as quickly as possible. Given the limited nature of the improvements as outlined above, and the likelihood that the subject sites will be located throughout Connecticut, the Company requests that the Council provide a determination that a Certificate is not required because the Company's improvements on a project-wide basis will have no "substantial adverse environmental effect" and therefore would not require a Certificate pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 16-50k.

V. No Substantial Adverse Environmental Effect

The Company's proposed improvements would have no substantial adverse environmental effect because:

1. All work would occur on Eversource property or within Eversource existing rights-of-way.
2. Environmental effects would be limited and temporary. No tree clearing would be required, even for access. Eversource would minimize vegetation removal within the right of way to the extent practicable and restore temporarily disturbed areas in accordance with Eversource's Best Management Practices Manual for Massachusetts and Connecticut (September 2016)("BMPs").

There would be no permanent impacts to wetlands other than for new foundations to replace structures already located in wetland areas. Eversource would endeavor, to the extent possible, to locate replacement structures out of wetland areas. Any required environmental permits would be secured prior to construction.

3. There would be no impacts to cultural resources.
4. Structures would be one-for-one replacements located within 15 feet of the existing structures.
5. Increased heights of replacement structures would be less than 10 feet.

6. Visual impacts would be limited to slight differences in the appearance of the replacement weathering steel monopole structures which would be similar in appearance to the existing wood structures.
7. Sound levels at all points along properties lines would continue to meet state regulations set out in Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §§ 22a-69-3.3, -3.5(a), -3.7, -4(g).
8. No substantial changes to electric and magnetic field levels are anticipated.

The Company will mitigate such effects as follows:

1. Use of Erosion and Sediment Controls

- Erosion and sedimentation controls will be employed in accordance with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*.
- The Company's contractors will install, inspect and maintain erosion-control measures in accordance with Eversource's established BMPs and applicable permits. Accumulated sediments will be removed to upland areas and spread such so that there is no potential to encroach into any regulated areas.
- The Company's contractors will perform construction sequencing such that earth materials are exposed for a minimum of time before they are covered, seeded, or otherwise stabilized to prevent erosion.

2. Access and Work Pads

- The Company plans to use existing access, where possible. After the improvements are completed, any new access roads, including turning areas, will be pulled back to a maximum 16 foot width.
- Work pads in upland areas will remain unless the property owner requests that they be removed. Matting would be used in wetland resource areas and removed after construction.

3. Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas

- Upon completion of the construction activities, disturbed/exposed areas will be restored (dressed with topsoil, landscaped or seeded).
- Erosion control measures will remain in place until final site stabilization has been achieved.

VI. Notices and Reports to the Council

To provide the Council with notice of the proposed improvements on a site-specific basis, the Company proposes to file a sub-petition for each of the asset condition maintenance projects (See Appendix A). The Company will provide notice to the applicable municipality and property owners of record.

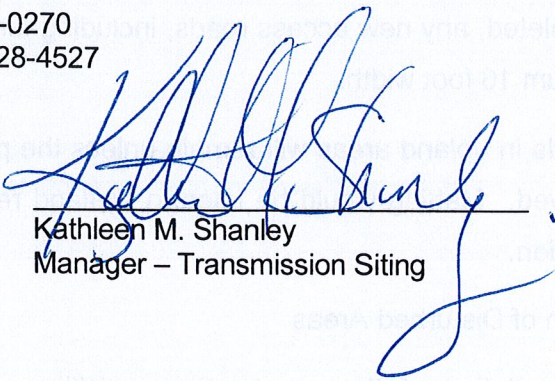
VII. Conclusion

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 improvements 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.

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

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**List of Attachments**

Appendix A: Sub-Petition Outline

Appendix A

[Form of Sub-Petition to the Connecticut Siting Council for Eversource]

THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY DOING BUSINESS AS EVERSOURCE ENERGY

Sub-Petition

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL – PETITION NO. _____ ASSET CONDITION RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY CODE CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

Town: _____ Sub-Petition No. _____

I. Introduction:

In accordance with a ruling of the Connecticut Siting Council (the “Council”) (as set forth in the Council’s _____ letter) regarding Petition No. _____ (“CSC Ruling”), The Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) submits this Sub-Petition.

II. Description of Reliability Improvements:

Eversource plans to conduct the following asset condition reliability improvements (“Improvements”):

III. No Substantial Adverse Environmental Effect:

Eversource respectfully submits that the proposed Improvements would have no “substantial adverse environmental effect” pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-50k, based on the following factors:

[EXPLAIN]

IV. Mitigation

To the extent that any temporary environmental effects would occur, those effects would be mitigated as follows:

1. Erosion and sediment controls ("E&S") would be employed in accordance with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*.
2. Eversource's contractor would perform construction sequencing such that earth materials are exposed for minimum of time before they are covered, seeded, or otherwise stabilized to prevent erosion.
3. During construction, where necessary, anti-tracking pads would be installed at construction entrances onto roads to prevent tracking of soil onto local streets.
4. Upon completion of construction and establishment of permanent ground cover, Eversource's contractor would remove and dispose of all E&S measures, and remove sediment and debris from areas where such measures were used.
5. Upon completion of the Improvements, all disturbed/exposed areas would be stabilized and re-vegetated. These areas would be dressed with top soil, landscaped and/or seeded.

V. Access

[EXPLAIN]

THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND
POWER COMPANY DOING
BUSINESS AS EVERSOURCE ENERGY

By: _____
Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager-Transmission Siting

Possible Attachments in support of the Sub-petition:

Key map or segment maps
Structure details
Affidavit and Abutter Notifications
Agency Correspondence