



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

July 21, 2017

Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager-Transmission Siting
Eversource Energy
56 Prospect Street
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: **PETITION NO. 1302** - 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 West Side Substation located at 52 Columbus Avenue, Middletown, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting held on July 20, 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 City of Middletown;
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,



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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 May 25, 2017.

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

Very truly yours,

 MAB

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/MAB/MP/bm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated, July 20, 2017

c: The Honorable Daniel T. Drew, Mayor, City of Middletown
Michiel Wackers, AICP, Director of Planning, City of Middletown
Helen Taylor, Eversource Energy



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Petition No. 1302

Eversource

West Side Substation, Middletown, Connecticut

Staff Report

July 20, 2017

Introduction

On May 25, 2017, 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 West Side Substation located at 52 Columbus Avenue in Middletown, Connecticut.

Council member Robert Hannon and Council staff member Michael Perrone conducted a field review of the proposed project on June 19, 2017. Helen Taylor, MBA, Project Siting Specialist; Rick Randall, Construction Representative; Ali Karimi, Senior Engineer; and Mark Pappalardo, Environmental Scientist also attended the field review representing Eversource.

Proposed Project

The project is being proposed to eliminate potential transmission low voltage violations resulting from contingencies, based on the results of the May 2014 Greater Hartford and Central Connecticut (GHCC) Needs Assessment performed by ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE). This project, in combination with other necessary system improvements identified in the February 2015 GHCC Solutions Study, eliminates the identified potential transmission voltage criteria violations in the GHCC area. The project is currently identified in the June 2017 ISO-NE Regional System Plan Project List.

Eversource proposes to install one new 25.2-MVAR capacitor bank on a new support structure. Eversource would also install one 115-kV manually-operated disconnect switch, one 115-kV circuit breaker, one 115-kV potential transformer, three series reactors, and two lightning masts. Eversource would also install underground conduits and cable, lightning arrestors, mounting and support structures, and relay/controls to accommodate the new equipment. Foundations would also be installed for the equipment and lightning masts. Additional manual lighting is proposed on the lightning masts.

Eversource's installation of the capacitor bank and other equipment would necessitate the expansion of the substation fenced area by approximately 11,475 square feet. Specifically, Eversource would install a new rectangular 85-foot by 135-foot fenced section at the southwestern corner of the existing substation. The new fence would be seven feet high with a 1 1/4-inch mesh (for anti-climb security purposes) with one foot of three-strand barbed wire mounted at the top of the fence. It would be similar in height and appearance to the existing fence. The base of the substation expansion area would be crushed stone (e.g. traprock).

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

The existing substation is located at the end of Columbus Avenue. Eversource-owned property and railroad tracks are located to the east (or opposite side of Columbus Avenue). To the north of the site is residential. To the south is City of Middletown Water Pollution Control Authority property. To the west of the site are wooded areas and Eversource's transmission right-of-way.

The installation of the proposed fencing would require the removal of 10 cedar trees on Eversource's property. The site is fairly level with minimal grading required. The project is located in an upland area and would not impact wetlands. The proposed project is not located within a 100-year or 500-year flood zone.

According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database, no State-listed species are known to occur in the vicinity of the project.

Noise related to construction would be exempt per DEEP Noise Control Regulations. Post-construction noise levels along the property boundaries would continue to comply with DEEP Noise Control Regulations.

Electric and magnetic field levels at the property boundaries would not change as a result of the proposed project.

The height of the new equipment (excluding the proposed lightning masts) would be less than the height of the tallest existing terminal structure height of 54 feet. The proposed lightning masts would reach a height of 60 feet, but would have a narrow visual profile.

The incremental visual impact of the projected substation expansion is not expected to be significant because the site is already largely developed with substation equipment; most of the existing tree buffer adjacent to the substation would remain; and the substation (to be expanded) is generally at a lower elevation than the nearby homes on Columbus Avenue and Berlin Street.

Construction Schedule

Eversource intends to begin construction during the summer of 2017 and expects that construction would be completed by December 2017.

Municipal and abutter notice

Formal notice was provided to the City of Middletown and abutting property owners on or about May 25, 2017. The Council has not received any comments to date.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the following:

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

Aerial Drawing

