



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

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### 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. 1308** - 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 replacement of two existing radio telecommunications facilities with a new 63.6-foot telecommunications facility on the roof of its existing Danielson Work Center used as a service center and maintenance yard located on property owned by Eversource Energy at 173 Mechanic Street, Killingly, 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:

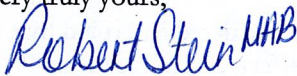
1. A copy of any required notices to the Federal Aviation Administration shall be provided to the Council;
2. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
3. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years 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.
4. 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 Killingly.
5. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, the existing steel communication pole shall be removed within 180 days of the installation of the new roof-mounted steel monopole;

6. The Council shall be notified in writing within 45 days of when the existing radio communications pole is removed and the new roof-mounted steel monopole is operational unless a written request for an extension is submitted to the Council within that timeframe;
7. Any nonfunctioning antenna and associated antenna mounting equipment on this facility owned and operated by the Petitioner shall be removed within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function;
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 June 12, 2017.

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

Very truly yours,



Robert Stein  
Chairman

RS/MAB/MP/bm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated July 20, 2017

- c: The Honorable David Griffiths, Chairman, Town of Killingly  
Sean Hendricks, Town Manager, Town of Killingly  
Ann-Marie L. Aubrey, Director of Planning and Development, Town of Killingly



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### **Petition No. 1308**

#### **Eversource - Tower Replacement**

**173 Mechanic Street, Killingly**

**Staff Report**

**July 20, 2017**

On June 12, 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 replacement of two existing telecommunications towers with one steel roof-mounted monopole at 173 Mechanic Street in the Town of Killingly.

The subject property is an Eversource work center and maintenance yard located on a 3.8-acre parcel in the Danielson section of Killingly. Land use within the immediate vicinity is primarily a mix of light to medium density, rural commercial and residential development with Killingly Memorial School and Interstate 395 to the east, Main Street (Route 12) to the south, the Quinebaug River and Five Mile Pond to the west, and residential development to the north.

Eversource currently owns and operates two telecommunications towers on the subject property. One is a 77-foot steel communications pole with a 15-foot omnidirectional antenna mounted at the top. The total height with appurtenances is 92 feet above ground level (agl). The other tower is a 55-foot wooden communications pole with a 20-foot omnidirectional antenna mounted on top, resulting in a total height with appurtenances of 75 feet agl. Both poles are located near the northwest corner of Eversource's building.

Eversource is in the process of consolidating its work centers throughout the State of Connecticut, which requires the reconfiguration of its internal communications system. However, the ages, heights and structural conditions of the existing towers make it unfeasible to support the proposed reconfiguration and required equipment upgrades. In order to address the limitations of the existing towers and allow for system reconfiguration and expansion, Eversource proposes to install one steel monopole mounted on a 14-foot by 16-foot steel dunnage frame on top of the existing work center building. The monopole itself would reach a height of about 79 feet agl or approximately 64 feet higher than the existing building height of 15 feet agl. Eversource would attach three omnidirectional antennas to a collar mount at the 77-foot agl level of the tower. The antennas would extend a maximum of 18.5 feet above the top of the monopole, for a maximum height with appurtenances of 97 feet agl. Eversource would remove the existing steel pole and its antenna. Eversource would remove the antenna from the existing wood pole, but leave the wood pole in place to accommodate new fiber and telephone lines.

An equipment compound is not proposed. Eversource would install a cable tray along the roof of the building and run its cables to a radio room in the basement of the building. Eversource would utilize existing utility connections at the building. No new underground connections would be required. Eversource has an existing diesel generator on-site for backup power.

The proposed replacement facility would provide critical radio communications for Eversource field crews that operate in Killingly and the surrounding area, paging services for area employees, and load management. The load management feature includes system control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems for both electric and gas distribution operations to allow control and monitoring of switching devices from a remote location.



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Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that building is structurally adequate to support the proposed loading associated with the replacement tower. The proposed replacement tower would be designed in accordance with the 2012 International Building Code and TIA-222 Version G.

The maximum worst-case power density would be 3.94 percent of the applicable limit. This includes a 10-dB reduction to account for the antenna pattern.

The proposed replacement tower would be visible year-round above the tree canopy from about 75 acres within a two-mile radius. Generally, the year-round views of the facility would occur from areas within the immediate vicinity of the subject property, extending about 0.6 miles to the north and approximately 0.4 miles to the east and west. Beyond these areas, year-round visibility is restricted due to sloping topography, dense forest cover and existing structures. The tower would be seasonally visible through intervening tree trunks and branches from about 127 acres within the two-mile visual study area. During leaf-off conditions, views would extend approximately 0.5 miles or less in all directions from the site. However, the proposed tower would result in only a modest increase in total height with appurtenances of about five feet versus the existing steel pole to the removed.

No school or commercial child day care facilities are located within 250 feet of the subject property. The nearest school (Killingly Memorial School) is located at 339 Main Street, Killingly, with its building located approximately 0.22 miles to the east. The nearest commercial child day care facility (Carelot Children's Center) is located at 155 North Street, Killingly, approximately 0.3 miles to the north.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) notes that the project would not have an adverse effect on resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

No wetlands or watercourses are located on the subject property. The closest (off-site) wetland resource is the east bank of the Fivemile Pond, located approximately 850 feet to the southwest.

The site is located just outside of the limits of the shaded area of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database. Furthermore, a letter from DEEP notes that negative impacts to State-listed species are not expected to result from the proposed project.

The northern long-eared bat (NLEB), a federally-listed Threatened Species and State-listed Endangered Species, may occur in the vicinity of the proposed site. However, the site is not located within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree, and it is not within 0.25 miles of a known NLEB hibernaculum. Also, no tree removal is proposed. Furthermore, Eversource submitted a consultation form to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). USFWS did not respond within 30 days and, as such, it is presumed that the proposed project would not have an adverse impact to the NLEB in accordance with the Endangered Species Act.

The nearest Important Bird Area is the Bafflin Sanctuary Complex in Pomfret, approximately 3.5 miles to the northwest. The design of the tower would comply with the USFWS Guidelines for Minimizing Impacts to Migratory Birds.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued a Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation, dated August 3, 2016. No lighting or marking are required for aviation safety. However, notice of construction to the FAA is required within five days after the construction reaches its greatest height.

Notice was provided to the Town of Killingly and abutting property owners on or about June 9, 2017. No comments have been received.

If approved, work is scheduled to commence in July 2017, with completion by the end of 2017.

Staff recommends approval with the following conditions:

1. A copy of any required notices to the Federal Aviation Administration shall be provided to the Council; and
2. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.

**Site with Existing and Proposed Tower Locations**



**Existing Towers (as viewed from the host property)**



**Proposed Replacement Tower (as viewed from the host property)**

