



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 7, 2019

Nicholas J. Cicale, Esq.
UIL Holdings Corporation
180 Marsh Hill Road
Orange, CT 06477

RE: **PETITION NO. 1370** – The United Illuminating Company (UI) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for replacement of its existing No. 1720 Line Relay in order to comply with the Northeast Power Coordinating Council's Implementation Plan on the ISO New England, Inc. Bulk Power System between Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut and UI's Hawthorne Substation located at 180 Hawthorne Drive, Fairfield, Connecticut and related substation improvements.

Dear Attorney Cicale:

At a public meeting held on June 6, 2019, 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 Fairfield;
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 April 26, 2019, and additional information dated May 21, 2019.

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

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/emr

Enclosure: Staff Report dated June 6, 2019

c: Parties and Intervenors



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Petition No. 1370

The United Illuminating Company

Hawthorne Substation - Fairfield, Connecticut

Staff Report

June 6, 2019

Introduction

On April 29, 2019, The United Illuminating Company (UI) submitted a Petition for a Declaratory Ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k for proposed modifications to the existing Hawthorne Substation located at 180 Hawthorne Drive, Fairfield, Connecticut.

The purpose of the Project is to replace the existing secondary line scheme on the 1720 Line Relay (Line Relay) between The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's (Eversource) Norwalk Substation and UI's Hawthorne Substation with a high speed protection scheme in order to comply with the Northeast Power Coordinating Council Inc.'s (NPCC) Implementation Plan for revised NPCC Directory #1 on the ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE) bulk power system, which was approved by the NPCC's Reliability Coordinating Committee on September 10, 2015. Additionally, obsolete control equipment would be replaced within the substation compound.

The NPCC is a non-profit corporation responsible for promoting and enhancing the reliability of the international, interconnected bulk power system in Northeastern North America. It operates under a delegation agreement with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), an international regulatory authority whose mission is to assure the reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid. The NPCC geographic region consists of the state of New York, the six New England states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The NPCC develops and enforces regional reliability standards, establishes and monitors compliance with regionally-specific criteria, and coordinates system planning, design and operations.

The objective of NPCC Directory #1 (Design and Operation of the Bulk Power System) is to design and operate the bulk power system to a level of reliability that will not result in the loss or unintentional separation of a major portion of the system from contingencies to avoid instability, voltage collapse and widespread cascading outages. Revised NPCC Directory #1 requires the installation of dual high speed protection systems on all bulk power system elements and an implementation schedule that prioritizes facilities associated with critical interface transfer paths.

Notice of the Petition was provided in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-39. The Town of Fairfield requested party status on May 7, 2019. The Council approved the Town's request on May 23, 2019. The Council issued interrogatories to UI on May 8, 2019. On May 23, 2019, UI submitted responses to the Council interrogatories.

Proposed Project

The proposed Line Relay upgrade consists of the installation of new underground and overhead fiber line between the existing substation control building and an adjacent Eversource Transmission Line structure located in an existing right-of-way south of the substation property. A new relay and a new switch would be installed within the compound. A new panel would be installed within the control enclosure. The new fiber line would be installed underground from the substation control building, through the gravel compound area and through the

substation property beyond the substation fence. The underground line would transition to an overhead line near the southeast corner of the substation property.

The overhead portion of the fiber line would extend for approximately 92 feet from a new 40-foot tall wood utility pole to an existing Eversource transmission structure within an existing Eversource right-of-way. It would connect to the transmission structure at an approximate height of 20 feet above grade. Fiber line improvements that may be necessary along the right-of-way to connect to Eversource's Norwalk Substation are not UI's responsibility or the subject of this petition.

The proposed control equipment consists of a new LTC controller equipment cabinet mounted on new concrete slab foundation adjacent to the west side of each transformer. The new cabinets would connect to existing substation equipment via new underground conduits. The existing control equipment is of 1960's vintage and is obsolete.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

Proposed-related work outside of the fenced substation compound consists of an 18-inch wide, 24-inch deep trench that extends through a maintained lawn area and low herbaceous plant area to the new pole location. The proposed trench is near several existing large pine trees on the substation property, and to ensure the mature tree root systems are not adversely impacted, a State-licensed arborist would be on-site during trench excavation to recommend slight adjustments in the trench alignment, if necessary to avoid trees roots. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures would be installed to isolate the trench work area and would remain in place until disturbed areas are stabilized. All trench work, including site restoration, would occur within 30 days.

The new wood pole installation would require the removal of one approximately 25-foot tall tree along the southeast edge of the substation property, adjacent to the Eversource right-of-way. Branches from other nearby trees may be trimmed for the new fiber line and pole installation.

The proposed modifications would not affect any wetlands or waterways or occur within a 500-year or 100- year flood zone.

According to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database, the work area is in proximity to known records of the eastern box turtle, a State species of special concern. To reduce the likelihood of project-related impacts to box turtles which may be within the project area, UI would provide training to all on-site personnel and would conduct daily inspections of the work area for box turtles prior to and at the end of daily work activities.

Visual impacts associated with the project would not be expected to be significant. The new cabinets within the compound would be located in a recessed area of each transformer and, if visible, would blend in with existing substation equipment. The new fiber construction pole would be visible from off-property vantage points but is composed of wood, blending in with the surrounding mature trees, and is significantly shorter than the existing right-of-way transmission structures.

Noise levels associated with construction would be temporary and typical of construction activities. Construction noise is exempt per DEEP noise control standards. Noise from operation of the new equipment would comply with DEEP noise control standards.

The proposed project would not affect existing electric or magnetic fields, or create television or radio service interference.

Construction Schedule

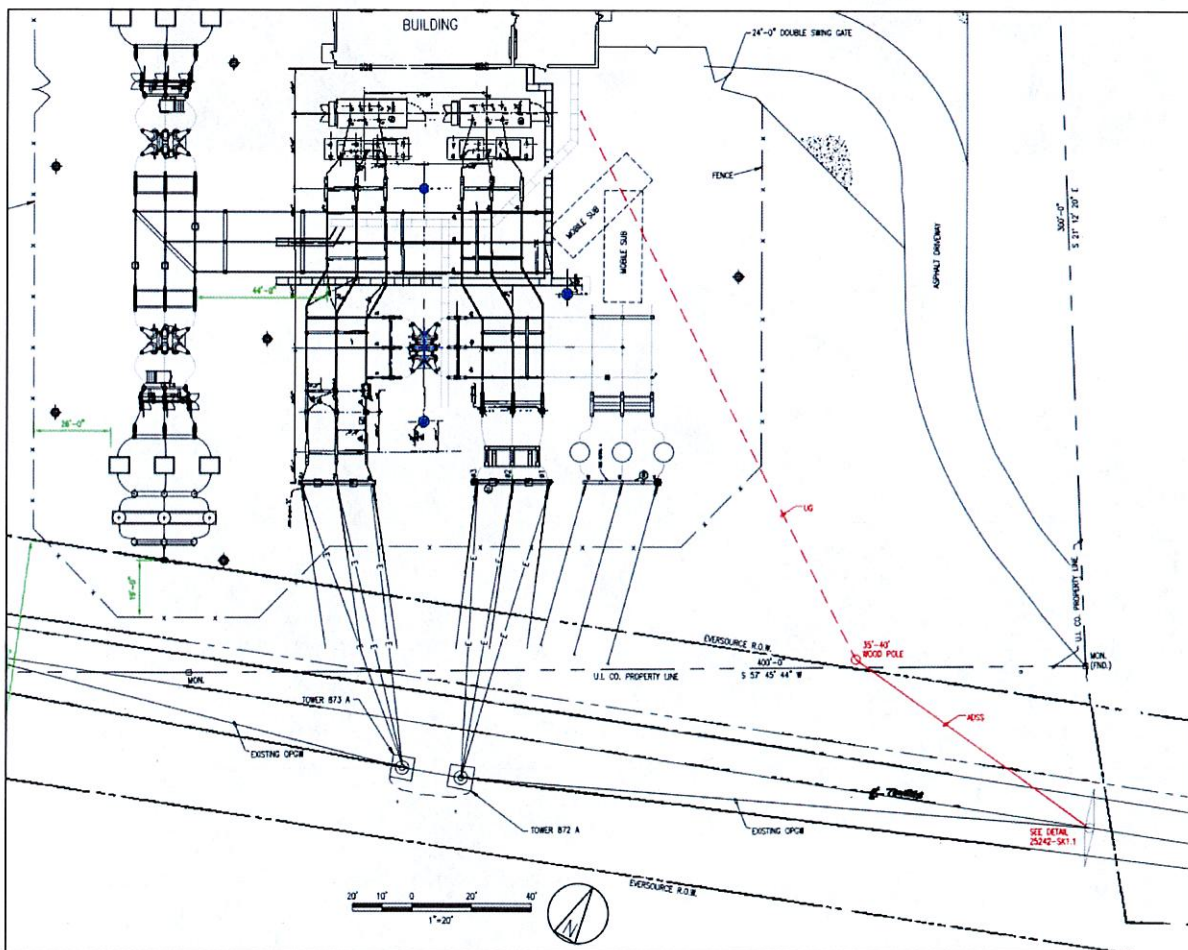
In general, work hours would be from 7 AM to 3:30 PM Monday through Friday, although additional hours may be scheduled on an as needed basis. UI proposes to begin construction during Fall of 2019 and expects construction to be completed by January of 2020.

Staff Recommendation

If approved, staff recommends the following condition:

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

New Fiber Line Route (in red)



Existing Conditions – Proposed Underground Fiber Line Route



Existing Conditions – Wood Pole Location

