



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

November 22, 2019

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1384** – The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed replacement of electric transmission line structures along approximately 18 miles of its existing No. 1505/1607 115-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit electric transmission line within existing Eversource electric transmission line right-of-way between the existing Tunnel Substation in Preston, the existing Fry Brook Substation in Plainfield and the existing Brooklyn Substation in Brooklyn, Connecticut, traversing Preston, Canterbury, Plainfield and Brooklyn, and related electric transmission structure improvements.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting held on November 21, 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 Towns of Preston, Canterbury, Plainfield and Brooklyn.
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.

Additionally, the Council recommends the width of the access roads be minimized, where feasible.

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 September 27, 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 November 21, 2019

c: The Honorable Sandra L. Allyn-Gauthier, First Selectwoman, Town of Preston
Kathy Warzecha, Town Planner, Town of Preston
The Honorable Richard Ives, First Selectman, Town of Brooklyn
Jana Roberson, Town Planner and Director of Community Development, Town of Brooklyn
Margaret Washburn, M.S., Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Town of Brooklyn
The Honorable Christopher Lippke, First Selectman, Town of Canterbury
Melissa Gil, Land Use Director, Town of Canterbury
The Honorable Kevin Cunningham, First Selectman, Town of Plainfield
Ryan Brais, Zoning Officer, Town of Plainfield



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**Petition No. 1384
Eversource Energy
1505/1607 Line Upgrade Project
Preston, Canterbury, Plainfield, Brooklyn
Staff Report
November 21, 2019**

Introduction

On September 27, 2019, 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, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed modifications to a portion of its existing 1505/1607 double circuit 115-kV Transmission Line (1505/1607 Line) in the Towns of Preston, Canterbury, Plainfield, and Brooklyn (Towns).

The 1505/1607 Line, in its entirety, extends for approximately 25 miles and is located between the Tunnel Substation in Preston, Fry Brook Substation in Plainfield and Killingly Substation in Killingly. The 1505/1607 Line was originally constructed in 1971 using mostly wood transmission structures.

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace 9 wood transmission structures that exhibit damage caused by woodpecker activity or structural deficiencies due to age and weathering. The project is identified in the ISO-New England Regional System Plan, June 2019 Asset Condition Update (ID #82).

On September 30, 2019, the Council sent correspondence to the Towns stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the Towns to contact the Council with any questions or comments by October 27, 2019. The Council has not received any comments to date.

On October 24, 2019, pursuant to CGS §4-176(e) of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act which requires an administrative agency to take action on a petition within 60 days of receipt, the Council voted to set the date by which to render a decision on this petition by March 25, 2020. This date is the statutorily-mandated 180-day decision deadline for this petition under CGS §4-176(i).

Municipal and Abutter Notice

Eversource consulted with the Towns regarding the Project in early Summer 2019. Eversource conducted outreach to property owners located along the transmission line right-of-way (ROW) in August 2019. On September 26, 2019, Eversource provided the Towns and abutting property owners with written notice of the Petition filing. The letter sent to the abutters included a statement indicating that any comments regarding the Project should be directed to the Council. The Council has not received any comments from the abutters.

Proposed Project

The Project entails the replacement of 9 existing structures within the ROW, as follow:

- a) Replace three double-circuit wood monopole structures with weathering steel monopole structures - Structures 7194, 7215 in Canterbury and Structure 7272 in Brooklyn;
- b) Replace six single-circuit wood monopole guyed angle structures with weathering steel monopole guyed angle structures - Structures: 7123, 7123A in Preston, and 7508, 7508A, 7512, 7512A in Plainfield; and
- c) Install new hardware, insulators, counterpoise and lightning arresters.

The heights of the existing structures range from 74.5 to 88 feet above ground level and some of the replacement structures must be taller to meet current National Electrical Safety Code clearance requirements. The replacement structures would range in height from 88.5 feet to 107.5 feet above ground level. The new structures would be directly embedded with 6 structures also being guyed.

The proposed replacement structures would be located in-line with and as close as possible to existing structures, except for Structure 7215 in Canterbury where the replacement structure would be installed approximately 130 feet north of the existing structure due to terrain challenges.

Project Construction and Work Procedures

All work would occur within the existing ROW or on Eversource property. The existing Eversource ROW in the Project area is 125 feet wide with a maintained, cleared width of 60 to 70 feet. Land use adjacent to the ROW consists of a mix of rural, residential, industrial, recreational, agricultural and undeveloped lands.

Access to the ROW would be from existing access roads extending from off-ROW areas or where the ROW intersects with a public road. Specific work areas within the ROW would be accessed via existing roads that extend along the ROW corridor. Some of the existing access roads may need to be graded, widened, and/or reinforced with additional material in order to accommodate the safe passage of construction vehicles and equipment. A minimum travel surface of 12 to 16 feet is required although some road turning locations will be wider. Where access roads traverse streams and wetlands, temporary construction matting would be used to avoid significant disturbance to underlying surfaces and soils.

Eversource would consult with representatives from the Towns and/or the Connecticut Department of Transportation to develop and implement traffic management procedures, if necessary. Construction warning signs would be installed along public roads near work sites and flaggers or police personnel would be used to direct traffic, as necessary.

At each structure an approximate 100-foot by 100-foot work pad would be established to create a safe/level work area. Upon completion of the Project, access roads and work pads located in uplands would be left in place to facilitate future transmission line maintenance, unless the underlying property owner requests their removal. Access roads and work pads located within improved areas would typically be removed and the areas restored, unless the underlying property owner requests that they remain. No new permanent access roads or work pads are proposed in water resource areas.

Project laydown areas include a six-acre lot off Chapel Road in South Windsor, near the construction contractor's office, and a four-acre lot on Butlertown Road in Montville, which is near the Preston work area. Both laydown areas have been previously disturbed and consist of open lots. Other staging/laydown areas may be established by the contract and these locations would be subject to Council approval.

Eversource would begin work in late 2019 and anticipates all work, including restoration, to be completed by Spring 2020. Multiple work crews would be deployed. Normal work hours would be Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunday work hours or hours beyond normal work hours may be required for time sensitive work, delays caused by weather, and line outages.

Environmental Considerations

Construction areas would be isolated by establishing erosion and sedimentation controls (E&S controls) in accordance with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* and Eversource's *2016 Construction & Maintenance Environmental Requirements, Best Management Practices Manual for Massachusetts and Connecticut* (BMPs). Typical E&S controls include, but are not limited to, the use of hay bales and silt fence, straw blankets, check dams, berms, swales, water bars, and sediment basins. The Project is not anticipated to require significant tree clearing; however, minor tree clearing and side trimming would be conducted in select areas to improve work site access.

Foundation installation would require the use of equipment such as augers, drill rigs, and dump trucks. Excavated soils for foundation installation would not be stored within or adjacent to wetlands or watercourses. Materials that cannot be utilized as backfill would be disposed of in accordance with DEEP regulations. If groundwater is encountered, and when working within wetlands, vacuum trucks or other suitable equipment would be used to pump water from the excavated areas as the shaft is being drilled or as the structure is being set. The collected water would then be discharged in accordance with applicable requirements.

Following the completion of construction, topsoil would be replaced and disturbed areas seeded or mulched to provide stabilization until new vegetation can grow. Temporary E&S controls would remain in place until all disturbed areas are stabilized. Any remaining soil stockpiles would be spread in surrounding upland areas.

Although a total of 3 wetlands were identified proximate to the specific Project work areas, there would be no temporary or permanent effects to these wetlands. There are no vernal pools proximate to the work areas. None of the work areas impact a watercourse or are located within a FEMA designated 100-year flood zone. None of the project work areas require protective measures for Natural Diversity Database-listed species.

No Aquifer Protection Areas are within the Project area. Area residences are generally served by private wells. To protect water quality within the project area, Eversource would adhere to its BMPs related to the proper storage, containment, and handling of diesel fuel, motor oil, grease and other lubricants/materials.

The Project ROW is not near any state or local scenic roads. There are no designated public recreational use areas or trails within the ROW. The new structures would not change the existing visual character of the Project area as the weathering steel replacement structures would appear similar to the wood structures that would be removed.

No National or State Register of Historic Places resources would be impacted by the Project. Based on a review of historic maps, aerial photographs, and soil profiles, 9 work areas were identified as possessing a potential for moderate to high archaeological sensitivity. A subsequent field evaluation found no evidence of archaeological significance at these locations.

Construction-related noise would be short-term and localized in the to the work site areas and is exempt per DEEP noise regulations. There would be no permanent change to the existing sound levels along the transmission ROW after completion of the Project.

Magnetic Fields

In the United States, no state or federal exposure standards for 60-hertz magnetic field (MF), based on demonstrated health effects, have been established, nor are there any such standards established worldwide. However, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) has established a level of 2,000 milliGauss (mG), based on extrapolation from scientific experimentation, and the International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety (ICES) has calculated a guideline of 9,040 mG for exposure to workers and the general public, and recognized in the Council's *Electric and Magnetic Field Best Management Practices for the Construction of Electric Transmission Lines in Connecticut*.

The Project would slightly increase MF values along the edge of the ROW in the segment from Plainfield Junction to Fry Brook Substation but the values are far below the recommended ICNIRP and ICES exposure values. A table demonstrating changes in MF levels as a result of the Project is presented in the table below.

Line Section	<i>Magnetic Field Calculation Summary</i>					
	South Edge of ROW		Max in ROW		North Edge of ROW	
	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
Tunnel Substation to Plainfield Junction	9.3	9.3	43.8	46.9	26.3	26.6
Plainfield Junction to Fry Brook Substation	7.6	7.7	36.1	38.7	21.7	22.0
Plainfield Junction to Brooklyn Substation	7.6	7.7	36.1	38.7	21.7	22.0

Recommended Condition

If approved, Staff recommends including the following condition:

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

Project Route Overview

