



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 15, 2016

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1226** – Eversource Energy declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of the new 115-kV Towantic Switching Station to be located adjacent to the Towantic Generating Station on Woodruff Hill Road, Oxford, Connecticut and the proposed modifications within existing right-of-way to its existing 1575 and 1585 115-kV electric transmission line extending 6.1 miles from Bunker Hill Substation, located at Clough Road, Waterbury, south through Middlebury to the proposed Towantic Switching station and reconductoring of its existing 1575 115-kV electric transmission line extending one mile from the proposed new switching station south to Structure 1446 (Oxford Tap) located near the Oxford Substation, Commerce Drive, Oxford.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting held on November 10, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and approved the proposed request dated October 28, 2016, to relocate structure 1496A approximately 60 feet to the north to comply with Condition No. 10 of the Council's declaratory ruling to minimize impact to the Western Hills Golf Course.

All work is to be implemented as specified in the request and associated site plan submitted on October 28, 2016 and is subject to the following conditions;

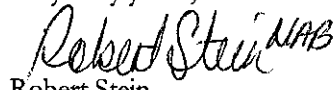
1. Use of off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board standards, or in the alternative, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions, including, but not limited to, retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts, particulate filters and use of ultra-low sulfur fuel;
2. Compliance with the provisions of Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that limit the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes;
3. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff; and
4. A wetland restoration plan and invasive species control plan shall be submitted to the Council.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction.

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



Very truly yours,



Robert Stein
Chairman

Enclosure: Staff Report dated November 10, 2016

RS/MP/lm

- c: Susan Bellion, Eversource Energy
- Helen Taylor, Eversource Energy
- The Honorable Neil M. O'Leary, Mayor, City of Waterbury
- Joseph A. Geary, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Waterbury
- James A. Sequin, AICP, City Planner, City of Waterbury
- The Honorable Edward B. St. John, First Selectman, Town of Middlebury
- Curtis S. Bosco, Planning and Zoning Chairman, Town of Middlebury
- The Honorable George R. Temple, First Selectman, Town of Oxford
- Steven S. Macary, Zoning Enforcement Official, Town of Oxford



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Petition No. 1226

The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Structure 1296A Relocation Oxford, Middlebury, and Waterbury, Connecticut Staff Report November 10, 2016

On May 26, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) approved a 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 115-kilovolt (kV) Towantic Switching Station and related modifications to the existing 1575 and 1585 115-kV transmission lines. A Development and Management Plan was not required by the Council.

Condition No. 10 of the Council's Declaratory Ruling requires Eversource to coordinate work to minimize the impact on the Western Hills Golf Course (WHGC), located at Park Road in Waterbury. Accordingly, Eversource met with the Supervisor of Parks & Golf Course on May 24, 2016 to review the impact of the project on WHGC, specifically with regard to structure 1496A. This is the only new structure to be located within the boundaries of the WHGC. The location of this structure (as approved on May 26, 2016) is within close proximity to the fairway and within the area of play.

WHGC has requested that this structure be moved, to the extent possible. Eversource and WHGC have agreed that moving it 60 feet to the north would minimize the impact on the WHGC. The currently approved location is located in wetlands, near the southern limits of Wetland NN. The proposed location would be about 60 feet farther north into Wetland NN. However, the permanent footprint area of the structure would remain the same because it would have the same foundation footprint. Thus, the direct, permanent wetland impact area would remain the same at 64 square feet. Since the proposed location is located farther into Wetland NN, temporary wetland impacts would increase from 5,788 square feet to 9,900 square feet. However, Eversource would utilize temporary construction mats to protect the wetlands and a stream that crosses the right-of-way in a northeast-southwest direction.

The Vernal Pool Assessment Report (VPAR) dated May 2016 was provided in Petition No. 1226. The VPAR confirms that there are no vernal pools in the vicinity of the structure to be relocated.

The height of the relocated structure would remain unchanged. The visual impact of the structure is expected to be reduced as the new location is farther away from the active areas of the golf course and closer to an undeveloped wooded area. The proposed structure location is not located within a 100-year or 500-year flood zone.

Staff recommends including the following conditions:

1. Use of off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board standards, or in the alternative, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions, including, but not limited to, retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts, particulate filters and use of ultra-low sulfur fuel;
2. Compliance with the provisions of Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that limit the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes; and
3. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.



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