



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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*Daniel F. Caruso*  
Chairman

October 27, 2010

Robert E. Carberry, Project Manager  
NEEWS Siting and Permitting  
Northeast Utilities Service Company  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

RE: **DOCKET NO. 370** - The Connecticut Light & Power Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Bloomfield, East Granby, and Suffield, terminating at the North Bloomfield Substation.

Dear Mr. Carberry:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council held on October 21, 2010, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on July 30, 2010, for the construction of the Connecticut portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project (GSRP) transmission line, which extends from the North Bloomfield Substation in Bloomfield through northern Bloomfield, East Granby and Suffield to the Connecticut/Massachusetts state border, including the removal of the existing 115-kV transmission lines between North Bloomfield Substation and Granby Junction with the following conditions:

- a) CL&P immediately notify the Council in any case when an environmental permit is issued to CL&P by a federal and/or state regulatory agency that contains a provision inconsistent with the record in Docket No. 370.
- b) CL&P provide written notice to the Council and adjacent landowners a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of clearing or construction.
- c) CL&P provide written notification to the Chief Elected Officials of Bloomfield, East Granby, and Suffield a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of clearing or construction of the GSRP, and again at such time when construction is complete.
- d) CL&P provide the Council with a final report containing all agreements with abutters or other property owners regarding special maintenance precautions; significant changes to the D&M Plan that have been approved by the Council; locations of special planting and seeding; and the actual construction cost of the project.
- e) CL&P provide the Council a post-construction magnetic field monitoring plan for approval prior to the commencement of operation.
- f) CL&P notify the Council upon receipt of Federal and Connecticut regulatory permits are provided to the Council.

- g) CL&P establish a project hotline and dedicated email address for communications with residents during construction.
- h) CL&P brief landowners and other stakeholders to provide updates on construction progress.
- i) CL&P representatives contact adjacent landowners to discuss construction activities and any questions or concerns during construction.
- j) CL&P provide a revised Invasive Species Management Plan to the Council for approval within 90 days.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on July 30, 2010. Any changes to the D&M Plan require advance Council notification and approval.

Please be advised that deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated October 21, 2010.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman

DFC/CMW/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated October 21, 2010

c: Parties and Intervenors



*Daniel F. Caruso*  
*Chairman*

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Docket No. 370

The Connecticut Light and Power Company

Development and Management Plan

Connecticut Portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project

Bloomfield, East Granby, Suffield

Staff Report

October 21, 2010

### Introduction

On July 30, 2010, The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for the construction of the Connecticut portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project (GSRP) transmission line, which extends from the North Bloomfield Substation in Bloomfield through northern Bloomfield, East Granby and Suffield to the Connecticut/Massachusetts state border. The Connecticut portion of the GSRP consists of 12 miles of new 345-kV transmission line following an existing CL&P transmission line right-of-way (ROW). The D&M Plan was submitted consistent with the Council's Decision and Order (D&O) and dated March 16, 2010.

CL&P will install two single-pole vertical deadends (near North Bloomfield Substation), 88 H-frames, seven 3-pole deadends, eight split-phase structures, and two 2-pole vertical deadends (at the transition between H-frame structures and split-phase structures).

CL&P proposes to remove existing 115-kV lines and associated structures between North Bloomfield Substation and Granby Junction following the construction and operation of the new 345-kV lines along this area. Although this removal was not part of the Council's D&O and was not proposed as part of the original docket, CL&P previously said it would be contemplated if the 115-kV lines were not found to be necessary, and that determination has now been made. CL&P requests that the Council approve the removal of the existing 115-kV lines as part of this D&M plan. The existing wood pole distribution line would remain in the right-of-way (ROW).

The existing 115-kV line north of Granby Junction will be reconfigured as a bundled single circuit, which requires installing conductors between the east-side and west-side line conductors at a few locations along the line.

In accordance with Condition (1) of the Council's D&O, the new 345-kV transmission line will be constructed in a split-phase configuration between structures 3191 and 3201 in East Granby. At each end of the split-phase configuration, short lengths of conductors will be installed to make necessary transitional connections.

In accordance with Condition (2) of the Council's D&O, the transmission line will be constructed 25 feet closer to the existing double-circuit 115-kV line. The existing 115-kV line and structures between North Bloomfield Substation and Granby Junction will be removed following completion of the project.

Construction of the GSRP is expected to begin with mobilization and ROW clearing in the fourth quarter of 2011 and end in the fourth quarter of 2013. In accordance with Condition (3j) of the

D&O, CL&P stated construction is expected to occur for 10 hours a day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. six days a week. Some construction outside of this construction window might be necessary.

In accordance with Condition (8) of the Council's D&O, CL&P will hire an independent environmental consultant, subject to approval by the council. The independent environmental consultant will monitor the construction of the project in accordance with Council approved D&M Plans and act as a liaison between the Council and Owner Representatives.

### **Municipal and Other Consultations**

Consistent with the Council's D&O, Condition (3), on June 2, 2010, CL&P provided draft D&M Plans to the Chief Elected Officials (CEO) of Bloomfield, East Granby and Suffield, as well as all parties and intervenors. CL&P posted the draft D&M Plans on its website and included an opportunity to submit comments online.

In mid-June 2010, CL&P announced public review sessions in the Hartford Courant, Journal Inquirer, and Granby News. Approximately two weeks prior to the events, CL&P also mailed invitations to nearby landowners, residences, businesses and other stakeholders to notify them of dates and locations of the public review sessions. Also, At least two weeks prior to the public review sessions, CL&P provided the draft D&M Plans and public comments to each town hall and public library in the affected municipalities. CL&P held public review sessions on June 22, and June 23, 2010 to provide residents of the three municipalities and other project stakeholders an opportunity to review and comment on the draft D&M Plan.

Following the public review sessions, CL&P allowed two weeks for additional public comment on the D&M Plans. Once those comments were in, CL&P sent copies of them to the CEOs of the three municipalities, then reviewed all the public input it had received. The company made whatever changes it could reasonably make consistent with the record and with the Council's decision, incorporating these into a final draft of the D&M Plans, which were submitted to the Council.

### **Community Outreach During the Construction Process**

CL&P has prepared a community outreach plan that lists procedures for providing notification of construction activities to affected residents and municipalities. Prior to the commencement of construction, CL&P will review the final D&M Plans and community outreach plan with the three municipalities.

CL&P has established a project hotline (1-866-99-NEEWS) and a dedicated email address for communications with residents throughout construction. CL&P's project website will also continually be updated during construction and will be accessible by the public.

CL&P will hold briefings with landowners most affected by construction of the project and other stakeholders to provide updates on the construction progress, milestones and timelines. Project representatives will also contact adjacent landowners to discuss construction activities and questions or concerns. Residents and businesses may also request briefings at a CL&P Construction Open House or call the hotline, email via the link on the dedicated project website, or contact a Project representative.

CL&P will also initiate construction briefings with property owners that will be directly affected by construction. CL&P will have community relations representatives present in the field during construction to provide notification to abutters and answer questions.

**Conditions and Permits**

In accordance with Condition (7) of the D&O, CL&P must obtain permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, prior to construction of the project. The following is a list of all permits required for the Connecticut portion of the project and the status of each permit:

Type of Permit	Status
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Clean Water Act (CWA Section 404 Permit – including associated consultations)	Submitted June 2009 Amendment to be submitted October 2010 Expect permit December 2010
USACE Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 Permit	Submitted June 2009 Amendment to be submitted October 2010 Expect permit December 2010
Federal Aviation Administration Notice of Construction	Received Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation January 2008
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Stream Channel Encroachment Line Permit	Submitted June 2009 Amendment Submitted August 2010 Expect permit November 2010
DEP Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Submitted August 2010
DEP General Permit for Storm Water Management	To be submitted in December 2010
Connecticut Historic Commission, consistency with National Historic Preservation Act	Phase 2 testing completed Spring 2010. Any Phase 3 testing to be completed by mid-2011.
Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control, Approval of Method and Manner of Construction and to Energize New Lines	To be submitted in early 2011

CL&P received its permit from the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board for Approval of Construction for the Massachusetts portion of the GSRP on September 23, 2010.

**Rights-of-way Issues**

CL&P will obtain additional property easements for expansion of the transmission line ROW approximately 1,000 feet between Phelps Road and Mountain Road in Suffield, approximately 400 feet east of Ratley Road in Suffield and approximately 150 feet north of Tarrifville Road in Bloomfield.

CL&P may also need to acquire agreements with property owners for the potential use of property for off-ROW access road rights on portions of nine properties.

The transmission line will traverse five recreational areas, including the Farmington Valley Greenway/Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Newgate Wildlife Management Area, Metacomet Trail, Suffield Land Conservancy, and Suffield Sportsman's Association. The GSRP will cross 13 public roads, 4 of which are state roads: Route 189, Route 540 (Hatchett Hill Road), Route 20 (Turkey Hills Road), and Route 168 (Mountain Road).

## **Construction**

### *Wetlands*

Several wetlands and watercourses will be impacted by construction. Major watercourses impacted include Griffin Brook and the Farmington River. Sediment and erosion controls will be installed to protect wetlands during construction. If a construction contractor identifies areas where additional impacts may occur, or alternative solutions are identified that could reduce impacts, the CL&P contracted Environmental Inspector will be notified immediately.

Some foundations will be located in wetland areas. Foundation design is not complete, however, based on initial soil testing, the soil does not appear to be corrosive to concrete, eliminating the need for any special concrete mix design.

CL&P expects that approximately 0.48 acres of permanent impacts, 6.01 acres of temporary impacts, and 24.6 acres of secondary impacts to wetlands and watercourses will occur during construction of the proposed project. CL&P has created a mitigation plan to meet or exceed all U.S. Army Corps of Engineer ratios for wetland creation, enhancement, and preservation of forested wetlands. CL&P is currently in the process of finalizing its plan.

### *Rare and Endangered Species*

There are nine state-listed rare species and/or their habitats along the transmission line ROW. State-listed rare species include the Eastern box turtle, wood turtle, Jefferson salamander, Eastern pearlshell mussel, arrow clubtail dragonfly, dwarf wedge mussel, Eastern pond mussel, Bush's sedge, and Eastern hognose snake. In accordance with Condition (4) of the Council's D&O, CL&P will comply with DEP requirements identified in the Section 401 Water Quality Certificate to mitigate potential impacts to these species.

### *Cultural Resources*

CL&P has been coordinating with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to ensure avoidance or protection of cultural resources during construction of the GSRP. Three cultural resource areas along the ROW cannot be avoided. In these cases, cultural resources could be removed prior to construction or all significant data pertaining to them could be developed and recovered. CL&P and SHPO will work out a detailed plan as to these measures prior to the commencement of clearing or construction.

In accordance with Condition (2) of the Council's D&O, the new 345-kV line will be constructed 25 feet west of where it was originally proposed. CL&P will examine this area for potential areas of cultural significance. CL&P will also examine areas of off-ROW access roads.

### *Vegetative Clearing*

Existing vegetation in maintained portions of the existing ROW that are not used for agricultural land or maintained lawns are typically dominated by shrubs (less than 20 feet tall), grasses and forbs. Existing vegetation outside of the maintained portions of the ROW are dominated by mixed hardwood forests typically ranging from 50 to 85 feet tall.

Vegetative clearing will be done in accordance with CL&P's guidelines. A vegetation buffer will be retained along wetlands and watercourses, including a 50-foot buffer near intermittent streams and wetlands and a 100-foot buffer near perennial streams. Clearing will be restricted in some areas to certain times of the year to minimize impact to rare species.

A forestry professional will oversee tree clearing operations; access development; wetland/watercourse crossings; wetland, rare species and archaeological site protection; and wood removal for contract compliance. The forestry professional will be retained by CL&P. A supervising arborist will also be needed to manage the clearing effort. A contractor arborist, or clearing contractor, must use the appropriate arboricultural practices but will not fill the position of supervising arborist.

The supervising arborist is the single point of contact for the clearing contractor, the line construction contractor and the second forestry professional. The supervising arborist must ensure that the specified clearing limits are met without unnecessary clearing and that all danger trees are removed.

The independent environmental contractor will be provided with the Connecticut SHPO avoidance and protection measures, once the SHPO approves the measures. Following SHPO approval, CL&P will provide the avoidance and protective measures to the Council as an amendment to the D&M Plan. The independent environmental contractor will review the measures and report compliance and noncompliance observations, as well as other matters, including requirements associated with the Metacomet Trail detour.

CL&P will incorporate low-impact tree clearing to minimize disturbance and protect wetlands, watercourses, soils, rare species and their habitats, and cultural resources.

Trees to be removed will be analyzed for potential uses such as lumber, firewood, mulch, or biomass chips. Wood will be left for landowners within the transmission line corridor who indicate they wish to use it. It will be up to the contractor to determine what to do with wood not wanted by landowners.

Large snag trees (dead or dying trees) that are tall enough to contact transmission facilities, if they fall towards them, are considered "Danger Trees" and will be removed. Snag trees that do not pose a risk to transmission facilities may be left in place to serve as wildlife habitat.

### *General Construction Impacts*

The removal of the existing 115-kV transmission line from North Bloomfield Substation to Granby Junction will result in some environmental impacts. Structure removals will require the use of additional construction pads and access roads, and improvements to some existing access roads, which will increase temporary wetland impacts. However, removal of the structures at the same time as construction of the GSRP would have less environmental impact than removal at a later date because, in general, access road improvements associated with the GSRP could be used. Following the removal of the 115-kV transmission line, the area occupied by this line will be allowed to re-vegetate, eventually resulting in an increase in upland and wetland forested habitat.

Existing access roads will be improved and new access roads and spurs will be constructed to access transmission structures during construction. Signage will be installed to notify the public that the access roads are restricted from public vehicular traffic.

Water-crossing techniques that may be used during construction include flume pipes with crushed rock ramp, temporary bridges, construction mats, stone fords, and filter fabric underlying crushed stone with a gravel surface. Water crossings will be established during low-flow periods to minimize disturbance. Low-flow periods typically occur from June through September and January through March.

In accordance with Condition (3b) of the Council's D&O, construction practices will comply with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*.

Some residents in the vicinity of Newgate/Phelps Road (in East Granby and Suffield) and Hatchett Hill Road (in East Granby) currently have issues with drainage/surface water runoff on their properties. CL&P has completed a Drainage Analysis Report of the area to determine area characteristics and has planned the specific construction steps it will take to minimize sedimentation and erosion and surface water runoff. At another location where drainage is problematic, near Adams Road in East Granby, CL&P has included additional permanent surface water controls. These permanent controls will work with the temporary construction measures to control any increase in surface water runoff that results from construction of the GSRP. The temporary controls will be removed once site stabilization has been achieved.

Typical construction hours will be mostly during daylight hours. Noise associated with construction ranges from 80 to 115 dBA at the location of the source. Sound levels will decrease with distance from the source, and will not exceed the limits mandated by the state.

Where possible, material storage, staging and laydown areas will be on property owned by Northeast Utilities (NU). Where NU property is not available, parking lots or unused land will be considered.

Herbicides will not be used during construction. However, herbicide application and mechanical clearing are a part of the normal ROW maintenance that is performed on a regular basis.

CL&P will consult with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, which manages the Metacomet Trail, to create a temporary detour off the Metacomet Blue-Blazed hiking trail where the trail crosses the project area off Hatchett Hill Road in East Granby. The detour will include a



new cleared trail with detour signage. Signs will be removed and the original trail will be re-established following construction of the project.

Excess soil or groundwater that is contaminated will be disposed of offsite at a permitted facility or treated and discharged in accordance with discharge permits. Any waste materials that are not soil or groundwater will be stored in secure containers and removed from the site.

In accordance with Condition (3c) of the Council's D&O, CL&P submitted a Spill Prevention and Countermeasures Plan for the project, which provides information on preventing spills and responding to a spill so that it is contained before reaching a resource area.

In accordance with Condition (3g) of the D&O, CL&P submitted an Invasive Species Management Plan. The Council finds that the Plan is inadequate at this time as it lacks such information as the basic plant survey methods used to characterize plant communities, dominant species, percent coverage, locations of survey transects, the credentials of scientists performing the analyses. CL&P is still consulting with the DEP to finalize components of the Plan. The Council will require that CL&P submit a revised Invasive Species Management Plan within 90 days. The Plan should also include an expanded list of invasive species in upland and wetland areas, criteria that would be used to determine when control measures are warranted, baseline date for upland areas.

In accordance with Condition (3h) of the D&O, if an undocumented cultural resource or rare species is encountered during construction, work will immediately stop and a CL&P contracted Environmental Inspector will be notified. The Environmental Inspector will contact the appropriate party to investigate the discovery.

In accordance with Condition (3k) of the D&O, if blasting is required during construction CL&P will submit a blasting plan. A licensed blasting contractor will prepare the plan pursuant to the State and Local Fire Marshal regulations.

In accordance with Condition (3m) of the Council's D&O, CL&P will deter all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other motorized vehicles from using the ROW by:

- Installing gates to control access to the ROW, especially in areas where the ROW is easily accessible to the public.
- Installing signs prohibiting the use of ATVs on the ROWs.
- Placing permanent barriers on the sides of the gates to deter navigation around the gate.
- Sending a letter to police departments in each municipality reiterating CL&P's position on ATV use in the ROW and asking police to enforce against illegal ATV use on the ROW.
- Reporting ATV use on the ROW to local police whenever it is witnessed.

Following completion of construction, all construction debris will be removed from the project area. Upland disturbed areas will be seeded with a conservation grass seed mix. Wetland areas will be stabilized with an annual rye grass until hydrophilic vegetation is naturally reestablished. Permanent wetland impacts will be mitigated off-site.

## **Notices**

In accordance with Condition (31) of the Council's D&O, CL&P will request approval from the Council in the future for the location of staging and material laydown areas.

CL&P will provide the Council with written notification at least two weeks prior to the beginning of clearing and access work. CL&P will also provide notice when commencement of construction begins.

CL&P will provide written notification to the Council upon completion of construction of the overhead transmission line and rehabilitation of the construction impacts.

In accordance with Council D&O Condition (8), the independent environmental consultant to be hired will provide the Council and the CEO's of each affected municipality with a bi-weekly report describing all significant construction activities and associated environmental effects.

CL&P will provide the Council with monthly progress reports on construction, which will include a record of any minor changes to the project.

In accordance with Council D&O Condition (9), within three months of the conclusion of the first year of operation, CL&P will issue an operating report. Such report will also be provided annually for three years.

## **Electric and Magnetic Fields**

The Council ordered that the new 345-kV transmission line between North Bloomfield substation and Granby Junction in East Granby be installed 25 feet closer to the western edge of the ROW than the location originally proposed. As a result, the projected 2017 magnetic field at average annual load was recalculated. It will increase by 2.3 mG to 12.5 mG along the western edge of the ROW, and decrease by 3.1 mG to 10.3 mG along the eastern edge.

From Granby Junction to the Connecticut/Massachusetts border, the conductors on the existing 115-kV lattice towers are currently configured to carry two circuits; after the new 345-kV line is constructed, only a single 115-kV circuit will be needed, so the two circuits will be bundled into one. In the first Field Management Design Plan, this bundled circuit was described as reducing electric and magnetic fields optimally by reverse phasing. However, the model used to calculate optimal field reductions actually assumed like phasing. This discrepancy became evident as the D&M plan was being drawn up, and the final Field Management Design Plan shows like phasing for the bundled 115-kV circuit, consistent with the calculated optimal field reductions.

In accordance with Condition (3i) of the D&O, CL&P will submit a post-construction electric and magnetic field monitoring plan for Council approval prior to commencement of operation.

## **D&M Plan Changes**

The D&M Plan Change and Approval Process has been used in other CL&P projects including Bethel to Norwalk (Docket No. 217) and Middletown to Norwalk (Docket No. 272). If a change to the D&M Plan is required, CL&P will first determine if it is a "significant change." A

significant change is one that would reduce the amount of environmental protection or significantly increase potential public concern.

If the significant change is urgent, and it cannot wait until the next Council meeting for consideration, CL&P will contact Council staff to determine whether or not the Council Chairman will grant oral permission for the change. If oral permission is granted, then CL&P will continue construction as stated in the approved change and file documentation regarding the change within 24 hours. If oral permission is not granted or if the change is not urgent, CL&P will file documentation regarding the change and hold construction on that portion of the project until the Council reviews the change.

For non-significant changes to the D&M Plan, CL&P will categorize the change as either a non-significant change (a change that would result in a minor reduction in the amount of environmental protection or increase in potential public concern); a positive change (a change that would increase the amount of environmental protection or decrease public concern); or a minor change (change to the design of a drawing that has no bearing on the environment or potential public concerns). CL&P would inform the Council of non-significant or positive changes and there would be no hold on construction. CL&P would notify the Council of minor changes within the biweekly report.

Council staff recommends that requested changes be authorized by the Chairman, and that the Certificate Holder submit written specifications within one 24-hour business day after the request. All changes pursued without advance notification and approval shall be subject to a penalty, enforceable by the Attorney General.

### **Notifications and Reporting**

CL&P will notify the Council and adjacent landowners directly along the route not less than two weeks prior to construction. A web site and toll-free number, checked during working hours and voicemail other hours, will be available specific to the project. All calls will be documented, so as to facilitate appropriate responses. Council staff recommends that CL&P notify residents and businesses abutting the rights-of way in vicinity of construction segments not less than 48 hours prior to the initiation of clearing or construction.

### **Recommendations**

Council staff recommends approval of the GSRP D&M Plan, including the proposed removal of the existing 115-kV transmission lines between North Bloomfield Substation and Granby Junction, with the following conditions:

CL&P immediately notify the Council in any case when an environmental permit is issued to CL&P by a federal and/or state regulatory agency that contains a provision inconsistent with the record in Docket No. 370.

CL&P provide written notice to the Council and adjacent landowners a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of clearing or construction.

CL&P provide written notification to the Chief Elected Officials of Bloomfield, East Granby, and Suffield a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of clearing or construction of the GSRP, and again at such time when construction is complete.

CL&P provide the Council with a final report containing all agreements with abutters or other property owners regarding special maintenance precautions; significant changes to the D&M Plan that have been approved by the Council; locations of special planting and seeding; and the actual construction cost of the project.

CL&P provide the Council a post-construction magnetic field monitoring plan for approval prior to the commencement of operation.

CL&P notify the Council upon receipt of Federal and Connecticut regulatory permits are provided to the Council.

CL&P establish a project hotline and dedicated email address for communications with residents during construction.

CL&P brief landowners and other stakeholders to provide updates on construction progress.

CL&P representatives contact adjacent landowners to discuss construction activities and any questions or concerns during construction.

CL&P provide a revised Invasive Species Management Plan to the Council for approval within 90 days.



*Daniel F. Caruso*  
Chairman

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### NOTICE OF SERVICE

I hereby affirm that a photocopy of this document was sent to each Party and Intervenor on the service list dated August 25, 2010 with method of service to each party and intervenor listed via either e-mail or hard-copy on October 27, 2010.

Dated: October 27, 2010

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Fontaine  
Custodian of Docket No. 370