



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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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, modifying the existing North Bloomfield Substation in Bloomfield, 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 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 Official of Bloomfield a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of clearing or construction 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 actual construction cost of the project.
- e) CL&P provide the Council a copy of the Materials Handling Guidelines and/or Soil Management Plan.
- f) CL&P provide the Council a post-construction magnetic field monitoring plan for approval prior to the commencement of operation.
- g) CL&P notify the Council upon receipt of federal and state regulatory permits.
- h) CL&P shall establish a project hotline and dedicated email address for communications with residents during construction.



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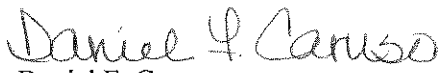

- i) CL&P shall brief landowners and other stakeholders to provide updates on construction progress.
- j) CL&P representatives shall contact adjacent landowners to discuss construction activities and any questions or concerns during construction.
- k) CL&P provide a revised Invasive Species Management Plan 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



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Docket No. 370

The Connecticut Light and Power Company

Development and Management Plan

North Bloomfield Substation

Bloomfield

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 modifying the existing North Bloomfield Substation in Bloomfield. The D&M Plan was submitted consistent with the Council's Decision and Order (D&O) and Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) dated March 16, 2010.

Modifications to the North Bloomfield Substation include construction of a new 345-kV switchyard. The new switchyard will connect the existing 345-kV line (from the south) and the new 345-kV line (from the north) with the one existing and one new 345/115-kV autotransformer. The new switchyard will also have space for potential future 345-kV line connections, and a new relay and control enclosure.

The work required at the existing 115-kV switchyard includes removal of a bus tie and connection of the new autotransformer to a main bus. A 115-kV capacitor bank will be relocated to allow space for the new autotransformer connection to the 115-kV bus. Construction will include the replacement of two 115-kV capacitor bank circuit breakers and one 115-kV circuit breaker. The line disconnect switches for the three 115-kV lines to be de-energized will be left in the open position.

Installation of the new 345-kV switchyard will require the expansion of the substation's perimeter. The fenceline will be relocated to accommodate this expansion but all work will take place on CL&P-owned property. The substation fence will be expanded approximately 32 feet to the northwest, 292 feet to the southeast, and 193 feet to the southwest. The existing substation is approximately seven acres; the new expanded area of the substation will equal approximately 2.3 acres.

In accordance with Condition (8) of the Council D&O, CL&P will retain an independent environmental consultant, who will be subject to approval by the Council. The independent environmental consultant will have the authority to stop construction practices that are inconsistent with the Council's D&O, D&M plans or would cause significant damage or disruption to the environment. The consultant will report to the Council and to the Chief Elected Official (CEO) of each municipality, or their representative on a bi-weekly basis.

Municipal and Other Public 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 Official (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 online version of the comment card.

In mid-June, 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 comment cards 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 be continually 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.

Notices

If any changes to the D&M Plan are necessary, CL&P will request an approval from the Council in accordance with previous CL&P transmission line projects.

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

In accordance with Council D&O Condition (8), the independent environmental consultant to be hired will provide the Council and the CEOs 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.

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.

Schedule

Commencement of construction for the North Bloomfield Substation modifications is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2011 and be completed by the fourth quarter of 2012. In accordance with Condition (3j) of the D&O, CL&P stated construction will generally occur six days a week, 10-hours per day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Some construction might be necessary outside of this window.

Conditions and Permits

CL&P must obtain the following permits:

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
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT 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.

Wetlands and Watercourses

There are four wetlands and one watercourse – Griffin Brook – located near the North Bloomfield Substation. Erosion and sediment controls in compliance with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines*

for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control will be established to protect Griffin Brook and the wetlands. Also, the access road to the substation will be watered as needed to suppress dust, and a crushed stone apron will be installed at the entrance road for further protection.

Wetland impacts associated with the modifications to the substation include approximately 0.72 acres of permanent impacts, 0.25 acres of temporary impacts, and 0.25 acres of secondary impacts. The temporary and secondary impacts will result from construction in the same area that will be permanently cleared and maintained as scrub/shrub.

CL&P submitted permit applications to the USACE and the DEP for permission to conduct activities in regulated areas. Amendments reflecting changes to the design of the project will be submitted for these permit applications in 2010.

Any wetlands planned to be minimally impacted will likely have an adequate stored seed bank that will allow for quick re-vegetation. Wetland areas that are more than minimally disturbed will be restored with an annual rye grass or native wetland seed mix, unless standing water is present.

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.

To mitigate permanent wetland impacts and wetland and upland tree clearing, a mitigation package was prepared that meets or exceeds all of the USACE's ratios for wetland creation, enhancement, and preservation of forested wetlands.

Fill will be used as necessary to achieve slopes no greater than 2:1 in the southern portion of the expanded substation property. A 12-inch gabion mattress will be placed on any portions of a 2:1 slope where surface erosion needs to be prevented.

Wildlife

No state-listed rare species were listed in the CT DEP Natural Diversity Database for the North Bloomfield Substation project area. However, during the planning phase for Docket 370 CL&P's consultants discovered two state-listed Species of Special Concern: the wood turtle, which was observed in 2007; and the Eastern box turtle, which was observed in 2008.

CL&P will comply with CT DEP recommendations regarding mitigation measures to protect the Eastern box turtle and wood turtle.

Cultural Resources

Two areas with archaeological resources eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places cannot be avoided during construction of the proposed project. CL&P consultants have

coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office to develop a plan to recover significant data from these areas. Data recovery at the sites is expected to begin in 2010.

Construction

There are no recreation areas on or adjacent to the substation property. The property is bordered to the north and west by Hoskins Road.

The existing access road that extends from Hoskins Road will be used for access to the site during construction, operation and maintenance. No other road improvements will be necessary.

The staging area will be on the substation property. If any additional staging areas or construction facilities are required, the construction contractor is responsible for providing these locations.

Construction activities at the substation are not expected to substantially affect local noise levels or lighting in the area. Construction would typically take place during daylight hours, which would limit the need for additional lighting. Noise associated with construction equipment is expected to be short-term in duration. Noise emissions during construction are expected to range from 80 to 115 dBA at the source and would diminish with distance and will not exceed the limits mandated by the state.

Herbicides will not be used for clearing associated with construction. However, herbicide application and mechanical clearing are a part of normal maintenance of the substation yard and is performed on a regular basis, which means they may potentially occur during construction.

In accordance with Condition (3c) of the Council's D&O, a Spill Prevention and Countermeasures Plan for the project was provided. The Plan provides detail on preventing spills and responding to a spill. The new 7X transformers will include an emergency oil containment system.

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 re-establishes itself. Permanent wetland impacts will be mitigated off-site.

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 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 as an attachment to the independent environmental consultant's 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.

Recommendations

Council staff recommends approval of the D&M Plan 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 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 Official of Bloomfield a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of clearing or construction and again at such time when construction is complete.

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CL&P notify the Council upon receipt of federal and state regulatory permits.

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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