



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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January 24, 2011

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 application for Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut Valley Electric Transmission Reliability Projects which consist of the Manchester Substation to Meekville Junction Circuit Separation Project in Manchester, Connecticut. Development and Management Plan.

Dear Mr. Carberry:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council held on January 20, 2011, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on December 10, 2010, for the construction of the Manchester to Meekville Junction Project (MMP), which extends from Manchester Substation to Meekville Junction in Manchester 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 and Docket No. 370A_MR.
- 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 Manchester a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of clearing or construction of the MMP, 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. Copies of such permits should be provided to the Council.
- g. CL&P establish a project hotline and dedicated email address for communications with residents during construction.



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- 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.
- k. CL&P submit a plan for vegetative clearing to be approved by Council staff.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on December 10, 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 January 20, 2011.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman



DFC/CMW/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated January 20, 2011

c: Parties and Intervenors



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Docket No. 370A_MR

The Connecticut Light and Power Company

Development and Management Plan

Manchester to Meekville Junction Project

Manchester

Staff Report

January 20, 2010

Introduction

On December 10, 2010, The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for the construction of the Manchester to Meekville Junction Project (MMP), which extends from Manchester Substation to Meekville Junction in Manchester. The MMP consists of approximately 2.7 miles of a new 345-kV transmission line within an existing CL&P transmission line right-of-way (ROW) as well as additions at Manchester Substation. The D&M Plan was submitted consistent with the Council's Decision and Order (D&O) and dated July 20, 2010.

In accordance with Condition (1) of the D&O, an existing 3-terminal 345-kV transmission line from Manchester Substation to North Bloomfield Substation and Barbour Hill Substation will become two 2-terminal transmission lines, one from Manchester Substation to North Bloomfield Substation and one from Manchester Substation to Barbour Hill Substation.

The existing ROW consists of two double-circuit lines on the ROW. Along the western portion of the ROW is one line of lattice-steel towers, typically 105 feet tall, supporting two 115-kV circuits. Toward the eastern side of the ROW is another line of similar towers supporting 115-kV and 345-kV circuits. A portion of the ROW between the existing transmission structures contains 40-foot wood poles supporting a 23-kV distribution circuit. The new 345-kV line will be located generally in the space now occupied by the distribution lines. It will be installed on steel monopoles with a typical height of 155 feet. In certain locations, the existing 115-kV line structures on the ROW will have to be relocated to allow for adequate spacing between the new 345-kV line and the existing 115-kV line. Also, the existing distribution lines will typically be relocated westward between the existing double-circuit 115-kV line and the new 345-kV line.

At the western end of Meekville Junction, the existing (#395) line segment from North Bloomfield Substation will be disconnected at structure #20022 and reconnected to the new 345-kV line from Manchester Substation. The #395 line from structure #20020 to #20022, which is currently on both sides of these structures, will be bundled to operate as a single, split-phase section of the existing 345-kV Manchester Substation to Barbour Hill Line. At Manchester Substation, the new 345-kV line will connect to the existing #395 line position and the existing #395 line will be relocated to a new bay position.

Other modifications at Manchester Substation include a new 345-kV line position, which will require the installation of a circuit breaker in the existing third bay, and associated line position equipment including switches, capacitance coupled-voltage transformers, line trap and surge arresters. All modifications will be made within the existing fenced area of the substation.

Construction of the MMP transmission line is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2011 and be completed in 2013. Modifications to Manchester Substation are expected to begin in the second quarter of 2012 and be completed in 2013. In accordance with Condition (2j) of the D&O, CL&P stated construction is expected to occur for a 10 hour period per 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 (7) 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 this Council-approved D&M Plan.

Municipal and Other Consultations

Consistent with the Council's D&O, Condition (2), on September 3, 2010, CL&P provided the draft D&M Plan to the Chief Elected Official (CEO) and the General Manager of Manchester, as well as all parties and intervenors. CL&P posted the draft D&M Plan on its website and included an opportunity to submit comments online.

On September 7, 2010, CL&P provided notice of the D&M Plan review process to nearby property owners. CL&P posted the draft D&M Plan online and provided copies to the local public library. Comment cards were available online and at the public library to allow the public to submit comments on the draft D&M Plan. CL&P also placed an advertisement in the local newspaper during the week of September 7, 2010 to announce the availability of the draft D&M Plan and the opportunity to provide comments.

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 Town of Manchester.

CL&P has established a project hotline (1-866-996-3397) 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 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 (6) of the D&O, CL&P must obtain certain permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. The following is a list of all permits required for 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 Amended August 2010
USACE Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 Permit	Submitted June 2009 Amended August 2010
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Stream Channel Encroachment Line Permit	Received December 2010
DEP Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Received December 2010
DEP General Permit for Storm Water Management	To be submitted by April 2011

Rights-of-way Issues

CL&P will acquire 0.1 acres of additional property easement at 1445 Tolland Turnpike in Manchester. CL&P may also need to enter into agreements with certain property-owners in connection with the use of some access roads.

The transmission line will traverse two recreational areas, including the James M. Leber Memorial Field and Laurel Marsh Trail. The Leber Field is located east of the ROW and consists of a baseball field and associated facilities. The Laurel Marsh Trail, which is part of the Hockanum River Trail System, is associated with the Hockanum River and passes through various vegetation types and wildlife species.

The MMP will cross several roads, including Olcott Street, Thrall Road, Route 6, Interstate 84 and Meekville Road.

Some grading may be necessary along access roads or at stream crossings. Sediment and erosion controls will be installed in these areas.

Construction

Wetlands and watercourses

Several wetlands and watercourses will be impacted by construction of the MMP. Impacts to the Hockanum River and tributaries of Hop Brook have been minimized because the project will span the watercourses.

Potential water-crossing methods include flume pipe with crushed rock ramp, temporary bridge, construction mats, stone fords, and filter fabric underlying crushed stone with a gravel surface.

Any access roads located in wetland areas will be removed upon completion of construction, unless requested by landowners and permitted by the USACE and CT DEP.

To minimize watercourse disturbance, construction of crossings will occur during periods of low flow, typically during the summer months of June through September and the winter months of January through March.

Permanent wetland impacts are expected to be less than 0.1 acres, approximately 5.5 acres of temporary wetland impacts are expected, and approximately 2.1 acres of secondary impacts are expected. Erosion and sediment controls will be installed to protect wetland areas during construction. Temporary impacts will be mitigated onsite.

CL&P has developed a mitigation package meeting or exceeding all of the USACE's ratios for wetland creation, enhancement, and preservation of forested wetlands.

The installation and removal of temporary access roads, crane pads, and watercourse crossing structures, as well as other construction-related activities may cause temporary changes to hydrologic features along the project ROW. These areas will be restored to pre-existing conditions to the extent practicable.

Rare and Endangered Species

The state-listed endangered barn owl may occur in the vicinity of the MMP. Aware of historic records of the barn owl in this area, CL&P conducted surveys to determine the species presence. No active barn owl nest sites or individuals were encountered; however, a potential foraging area was identified along the ROW.

Prior to the removal of any mature trees along the ROW, CL&P will perform a nesting tree cavity survey. If an active barn owl nest site is observed in a tree cavity, the nest site will be periodically monitored and will not be disturbed until the owlets have fledged and left the area.

Cultural Resources

No sites along the ROW have archaeological resources eligible for the State and National registers of historic places. CL&P is still performing Phase 1b and Phase 2 surveys to determine if there are sensitive areas along off-ROW access roads and along the 0.4 mile segment from structure #10089 to the west end of Meekville Junction.

CL&P is also coordinating with Native American Tribes under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to survey for Native American Resources along the project route. Surveys will be completed during the fall and winter of 2010 and 2011.

If necessary, CL&P will coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to develop strategies to protect or avoid cultural resource sites. If a cultural resource site cannot be avoided or protected, data recovery will be completed as necessary.

The independent environmental consultant 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.

In accordance with Condition (2h) of the D&O, if an undocumented cultural resource or rare species is encountered during construction, work will immediately stop and the CL&P-contracted Environmental Inspector will be notified. The Environmental Inspector will contact the appropriate party to investigate the discovery.

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 with tree heights typically ranging from 50 to 85 feet tall.

Vegetative clearing will be done in accordance with CL&P's guidelines for "Right-of-Way Vegetation Initial Clearing Standard for 115- and 345-kV Transmission Lines" and "Vegetation Clearing Procedures and Practices for Transmission Line Sections." 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.

In consultation with the Hockanum River Park Committee, CL&P has agreed to allow some white pine trees to remain within the ROW for preservation. CL&P will identify any need for maintenance of these trees during routine patrols. Maintenance may include the trimming or topping of these trees if they have grown too close to the conductors. CL&P will notify the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee prior to performing such maintenance.

CL&P will retain a firm as a construction management agent for the project. This firm will be responsible for supplying two positions to oversee clearing activities during construction: a forestry professional and a supervising arborist. The 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 supervising arborist will ensure that the specified clearing limits are met without unnecessary clearing, and that all danger trees are removed, to ensure safe operation and maintenance of the new transmission facilities. A third position, 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.

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 Practices

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.

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.

Some recreational trails will need to be temporarily closed or re-routed during construction. CL&P will provide detour or trail-closed signage at the trailheads and parking areas to notify the public during construction periods. CL&P is currently working with the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee to identify specific mitigation measures.

In accordance with D&O Condition (2k), CL&P will prepare a blasting plan and provide it to the Council prior to blasting, if necessary. A licensed blasting contractor will prepare the plan pursuant to the State and Local Fire Marshal regulations

In accordance with Condition (2c) of the Council’s D&O, CL&P submitted a Spill Prevention and Countermeasures Plan for the project. It provides information on preventing spills and responding to a spill so that it is contained before reaching a resource area.

In accordance with Condition (2b) of the Council’s D&O, construction practices will comply with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*.

In accordance with Condition (2m) 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 gates;
- 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; and
- reporting ATV use on the ROW to local police whenever it is witnessed.

In accordance with Condition (2g) of the D&O, CL&P is currently in the process of developing an Invasive Species Management Plan to be submitted to the Council.

In accordance with Condition (2f) of the D&O, CL&P proposes to stabilize disturbed wetland areas by seeding with a perennial rye seed until indigenous hydrophilic vegetation can naturally become reestablished.

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.

Notices

In accordance with Condition (2l) 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 construction begins.

CL&P will provide written notification to the Council: 1.) upon completion of construction of the overhead transmission line; and 2.) upon rehabilitation of the construction impacts.

In accordance with Council D&O Condition (7), 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 (8), within three months of the conclusion of the first year of operation, CL&P will issue an operating report. Such report will be provided annually for two years following the first year report.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

In accordance with Condition (2i) 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 Independent Environmental Contractor's biweekly report.

Notifications and Reporting

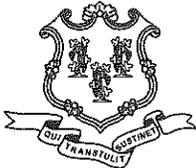
CL&P will notify the Council and adjacent landowners directly along the route not less than two weeks prior to construction. A web site and toll-free number, checked during working hours and voicemail other hours, will be available specific to the project. All calls will be documented, so as to facilitate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

Recommendations

Council staff recommends approval of the MMP 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 No. 370 and Docket No. 370A_MR.
- 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 Manchester a minimum of two weeks prior to the commencement of clearing or construction of the MMP, 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. Copies of such permits should be 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.
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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 January 25, 2011.

Dated: January 25, 2011

Lisa Fontaine
Custodian of Docket No. 370