

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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April 29, 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 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.

**DOCKET 370A-MR** - The Connecticut Light & Power Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Manchester Substation to Meekville Junction Circuit Separation Project in Manchester, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Carberry:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council held on April 28, 2011, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and approved the revised Invasive Species Control Plan dated February 1, 2011.

This approval applies only to the revised Invasive Species Control Plan, dated February 1, 2011. 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.

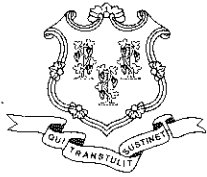
Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Robert Stein  
Chairman

RS/CMW/laf

c: Parties and Intervenors



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Docket No. 370 and Docket No. 370\_MR

The Connecticut Light and Power Company

Invasive Species Control Plan

Staff Report

April 28, 2011

### Introduction

On October 27, 2010, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan for the Connecticut portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project (GSRP) with the Condition that The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) submit a revised Invasive Species Control Plan. On January 24, 2011, the Council approved the D&M Plan for the Manchester to Meekville Junction Circuit Separation Project (MMP) with the same condition. In the decisions for the D&M Plans, the Council found that the Invasive Species Control Plan submitted at the time was inadequate.

On February 24, 2011, CL&P submitted a revised Invasive Species Control Plan to address both the Connecticut portion of the GSRP and the MMP.

The Invasive Species Control Plan is intended to:

1. Create a procedure to control upland invasive plant species following construction and create a procedure to monitor and prevent the potential spread of some upland invasive species along the right-of-way (ROW).
2. Identify undesirable invasive plant species occurring within wetland areas along the ROW.
3. Establish a procedure to monitor invasive species propagation and/or colonization in wetland areas along the ROW.
4. Implement methods to prevent the spread of invasive species in wetland areas along the ROW during construction and following construction.
5. Provide a description for the procedure for initial monitoring and treatment.

CL&P intends to establish a procedure for a five year process that begins in the first year with monitoring of the plant species and treatment of invasive species using control measures. Monitoring will continue over the second, third, fourth and fifth years with use of control measures in years three and five.

### Upland Areas

In upland areas, CL&P has a vegetation management program to limit a certain list of invasive species within the ROW. The program is intended to eliminate certain tree species and some invasive shrub species while encouraging the growth of low-growing native plants.

Vegetative clearing will be necessary for the construction of the new transmission facility. This clearing would increase the susceptibility of the cleared areas to colonization by invasive species. CL&P will begin "year one" of its regularly scheduled maintenance cycle during the growing season that follows tree clearing operations for the project.

### **Baseline Data Collection**

Baseline wetland data for the ROW was evaluated between April 2007 and October 2008. Wetlands were delineated in accordance with the *United States Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*, the *Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act*, and applicable municipal Inland Wetland Rules and Regulations.

Biologists identified areas of monocultures or invasive species, or areas where invasive species formed a dominant component of the existing plant community. These areas were then mapped. The areas of invasive species identified were compared to areas of native plant communities. Invasive species dominating areas greater than 25 percent will be candidates for control methods.

### **Wetland Areas**

CL&P will submit a table summarizing these candidate locations and the proposed control measures to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) and the Council 30 days prior to initiation of construction within jurisdictional areas.

The monitoring program will consist of field investigations of each wetland located along the ROW associated with the GSRP and MMP to determine if invasive species areas are expanding or have colonized wetlands. This monitoring will occur between June 1 and September 30 of each year for five years and then once every four years as part of CL&P's vegetation maintenance.

The results of the field investigations will be compiled into reports and submitted to the CT DEP and Council in the first and fourth year of the program. The report will be submitted to the agencies by December 15 of the monitoring year.

### **Control Methods**

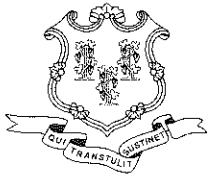
CL&P will implement the invasive species control measures as recommended through the monitoring report.

Invasive species control methods include mechanical, biological and chemical controls. Mechanical control methods include cutting or digging the area of invasive plants and are most effective in areas of small stands of invasive species. Biological controls may be effective in controlling such species as purple loosestrife but are not yet proven for the control of other invasive plant species.

Chemical controls include the use of herbicides and are generally used when invasive plant species have an area of coverage greater than 25 percent. Herbicides must be applied in an environmentally-sound manner in wetland areas. CL&P will carefully evaluate the need for chemical control of invasive species, particularly in areas that CL&P does not own but has an easement across private property.

To prevent the spread of invasive plant species, any construction equipment that comes into direct contact with invasive species and temporary swamp mats will be cleaned prior to being moved into an area without invasive species. Cleaning of equipment will be done immediately upon removal from the invasive species area.

Soils that are excavated from areas containing invasive plants will be stockpiled separately and contained within staked bales to minimize the potential spread of soils into other areas of the ROW. These soils will be disposed of at an appropriate facility.



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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 May 3, 2011.

Dated: May 3, 2011

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Fontaine".

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Lisa Fontaine  
Custodian of Docket No. 370