

DOCKET No. 370 – Consolidated proceeding pursuant to the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) Request for Proposal (RFP) process under C.G.S. §16a-7c.	}	Connecticut
Original application: The Connecticut Light & Power Company application for Certificates of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut Valley Electric Transmission Reliability Projects which consist of (1) The Connecticut portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Bloomfield, East Granby, and Suffield, or potentially including an alternate portion that traverses the municipalities of Suffield and Enfield, terminating at the North Bloomfield Substation; and (2) the Manchester Substation to Meekville Junction Circuit Separation Project in Manchester, Connecticut. Competing application: NRG Energy, Inc. application pursuant to C.G.S. §16-50l(a)(3) for consideration of a 530 MW combined cycle generating plant in Meriden, Connecticut.	}	Siting
	}	Council
	}	March 16, 2010

Decision and Order – Greater Springfield Reliability Project

Pursuant to the foregoing Findings of Fact and Opinion for the Greater Springfield Reliability Project (GSRP) portion of Docket 370, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) finds that the effects associated with the construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities between North Bloomfield Substation in Bloomfield, Connecticut and the Connecticut/Massachusetts border along the Northern Route and modifications to the North Bloomfield Substation, including effects on the natural environment; ecological integrity and balance; forests and parks; scenic, historic, and recreational values; air and water purity; fish and wildlife; and public health and safety are not disproportionate either alone or cumulatively with other effects compared to need, are not in conflict with the policies of the State concerning such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny the application. Therefore, the Council directs that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, as provided by Connecticut General Statutes §16-50k, be issued to The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P), for the construction, operation and maintenance of such facilities along the Northern Route.

Unless otherwise approved by the Council, the facilities shall be constructed, operated, and maintained substantially as specified in the Council’s record in this matter, and as subject to the following conditions:

1. The Certificate Holder shall construct the proposed transmission line overhead along the Northern Route of the GSRP. The new transmission line shall be placed on H-frame structures except along the 1.1-mile section of the right-of-way between proposed structure number 3191 to proposed structure number 3201 in East Granby, Connecticut where the new transmission line shall be constructed on split-phase structures.
2. The Certificate Holder shall construct the new transmission line between the North Bloomfield Substation and Granby Junction in East Granby 25 feet west of the proposed line location to reduce vegetative clearing along that section of the right-of-way.

3. The Certificate Holder shall prepare a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this site in compliance with Sections 16-50j-60 through 16-50j-62 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The D&M Plan shall be served on the Towns of Bloomfield, East Granby and Suffield for comment, and all parties and intervenors as listed in the service list, and submitted to and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of facility construction and shall include:
 - a. A detailed site plan showing the placement of the access roads, structure foundations, equipment and material staging area for the overhead route;
 - b. An erosion and sediment control plan, consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control as amended;
 - c. A spill prevention and countermeasures plan;
 - d. Provisions for crossing inland wetland and watercourses for the route;
 - e. Vegetative clearing plan;
 - f. A wetland restoration plan;
 - g. Invasive species management plan;
 - h. Provisions to manage the discovery of undocumented Native American Archaeological resources;
 - i. A post-construction electric and magnetic field monitoring plan;
 - j. A schedule of construction hours during nights and/or weekends and mitigation of lighting and noise;
 - k. A blasting plan;
 - l. Identification of developed areas for staging and equipment lay down, field office trailers, sanitary facilities and parking before establishing a new area; and
 - m. Plans and strategies to prevent the use of the right-of-way by all-terrain vehicles.
4. The Certificate Holder shall comply with the Department of Environmental Protection recommendations, or coordinate with the Department of Environmental Protection, for construction of the route in the area of the eastern box turtle, Jefferson salamander, arrow clubtail dragonfly, eastern pearlshell mussel, dwarf wedge mussel, eastern pond mussel, eastern hognose snake, wood turtle and Bush's sedge.
5. The Certificate Holder shall conform to the Council's Best Management Practices for Electric and Magnetic Fields.
6. The Certificate Holder shall comply with all future electric and magnetic field standards promulgated by State or federal regulatory agencies. Upon the establishment of any new standards, the facilities granted in this Decision and Order shall be brought into compliance with such standards.
7. The Certificate Holder shall obtain necessary permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection prior to the commencement of construction.
8. The Certificate Holder shall hire an independent environmental consultant, subject to Council approval, to monitor and report on the installation of the overhead transmission system and provide a bi-weekly report to the Council.
9. The Certificate Holder shall provide to the Council an operating report within three months after the conclusion of the first year of operation of all facilities herein, and annually thereafter for a period of three years, with information relevant to the overall condition, safety, reliability, and operation of the transmission systems.
10. This Decision and Order shall be void if all construction authorized herein is not completed within four years of the effective date of the Decision and Order, or within four years after all appeals to this Decision and Order have been resolved.

We hereby direct that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order be served on each person listed below, and notice of the Decision published in the Hartford Courant, and The Granby News.

By this Decision and Order, the Council disposes of the legal rights, duties, and privileges of each party named or admitted to the proceeding in accordance with Section 16-50j-17 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

The Parties and Intervenors in this proceeding are:

Applicant	The Connecticut Light and Power Company	Anthony M. Fitzgerald, Esq. Brian T. Henebry, Esq. Carmody & Torrance LLP P.O. Box 1950 New Haven, CT 06509
Competing Applicant	NRG Energy Inc.	Andrew W. Lord, Esq. Diana Kleefeld, Esq. Murtha Cullina LLP CityPlace I, 185 Asylum Street Hartford, CT 06103-3469
Party	Richard Blumenthal Connecticut Attorney General	Michael C. Wertheimer Assistant Attorney General Attorney General's Office 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051
Party	Town of East Granby	Donald R. Holtman, Esq. Katz & Seligman, LLC 130 Washington Street Hartford, CT 06106
Party	Town of Suffield	Edward G. McAnaney, Esq. McAnaney & McAnaney Suffield Village 68 Bridge Street Suffield, CT 06078
Intervenor	ISO-New England, Inc.	Anthony M. Macleod Whitman Breed Abbott & Morgan LLC 500 West Putnam Avenue, P.O. Box 2250 Greenwich, CT 06830-2250

Party	Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel	Mary J. Healey Bruce C. Johnson Victoria Hackett Consumer Counsel Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051
Intervenor	ICE Energy, Inc.	Stephen J. Humes, Esq. McCarter & English LLP 185 Asylum Street, CityPlace I Hartford, CT 06103
Party	Town of Enfield	Kevin M. Deneen, Town Attorney Office of the Town Attorney 820 Enfield Street Enfield, CT 06082-2997
Party	City of Meriden	Deborah L. Moore, City Attorney Meriden City Hall Department of Law 142 East Main St. Meriden, CT 06450
Party	The United Illuminating Company	Linda L. Randell Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary UIL Holdings Corporation 157 Church St., P.O. Box 1564 New Haven, CT 06506-0901 Bruce L. McDermott Wiggin and Dana LLP One Century Tower New Haven, CT 06508-1832
Intervenor	The Connecticut Energy Advisory Board	Michele S. Riverso Assistant Attorney General 110 Sherman Street Hartford, CT 06105

Party	Connecticut Department of Transportation	Eileen Meskill Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 55 Elm Street P.O. Box 120 Hartford, CT 06141-0120
Intervenor	Farmington River Watershed Association	Eileen Fielding Farmington River Watershed Association 749 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury, CT 06070
Party	Citizens Against Overhead Power Line Construction	Citizens Against Overhead Power Line Construction c/o Richard Legere 1204 Newgate Road West Suffield, CT 06093 Matthew C. McGrath Attorney at Law 4 Richmond Road West Hartford, CT 06117
Intervenor	Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)	Nicholas J. Scobbo, Jr. Bruce F. Anderson Ferriter Scobbo & Rodophele, PC 125 High Street Boston, MA 02110