



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System

56 Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270
(860) 728-4532

March 25, 2014

Mr. Robert Stein, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Docket No. 424: Interstate Reliability Project
*D&M Plan Change Notice Request:
Proposed Contractor Staging Area / Yard (Tri-State Drilling): 360 Plains Road, Town of
Windham*

Dear Chairman Stein:

Pursuant to Section 16-50j-62(a)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), Condition 3(n) of the Council's Decision and Order in Docket No. 424, and Section 7.2 of the Development and Management (D&M) Plan for the *Construction of the Interstate Reliability Project (Project) New 345-kV Transmission Lines and Related Minor Modifications to Adjacent Lines*, The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) submits the above-referenced proposed Contractor staging area / yard to the Connecticut Siting Council for review and approval.

To support structure installation and related construction activities for the Project, Tri-State Drilling (Tri-State), a subcontractor to CL&P's prime contractor, PAR Electric Contractors, Inc. (PAR), proposes an additional, previously-disturbed, upland site, located at 360 Plains Road in the Town of Windham, for use as a staging area / yard. This site would be used to supplement the Tri-State / PAR staging areas / yards approved by the Council on February 24, 2014.

The proposed staging area / yard is located on an approximately 11.4-acre portion of a larger property owned by Builders East LLC and used for sand and gravel mining. The site is bordered by a railroad track and other portions of the mining operation. The Shetucket River is located approximately 0.3 mile to the northeast. Exhibit 1 illustrates the site location, access from Plains Road, railroad, and existing land uses on and near the site.

Analysis of U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps and aerial photographs indicates that the property has been mined extensively, over several decades. The site does not encompass any water resources; is not located within a floodplain; has no potential to contain intact cultural resources¹; and is not directly proximate to any residential uses. The nearest residential uses are principally located southwest of the railroad tracks, along Old Plains Road (refer to Exhibit 1).

A review of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) publicly-available maps (December 2013) indicated the presence of a listed species habitat in the vicinity of the site. However, CL&P's analysis of more specific NDDB data, provided through a data-sharing agreement with CT DEEP, revealed that this is an aquatic species found in the Shetucket River. The use of the proposed staging area / yard will not affect this species.

¹ The proposed site was reviewed by CL&P's cultural resource consultant, Public Archaeology Laboratory.

Chairman Stein
March 24, 2014
Page 2

The staging area / yard site will include construction trailers and portable bathroom facilities, and will be used for the following types of construction support activities:

- Storing construction materials, equipment, tools, and supplies
- Parking construction vehicles, equipment, as well as the personal vehicles of construction personnel
- Minor maintenance of construction equipment
- Storing and assembling transmission line structure components
- Temporary storage of materials prior to appropriate disposition from the Project.

Some site preparation work (e.g., grading and graveling) will be required to create a level base for Project construction support activities. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed and maintained at the site, as necessary, to minimize the potential for off-site erosion and in accordance with the Best Management Practices presented in the approved D&M Plan.

CL&P is providing notice of this proposed D&M Plan change to the affected property owner and the Town of Windham chief elected officials.

Enclosed please find an original and 15 copies of this submission.

Should you or other Council members have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at john.morissette@nu.com or telephone at (860) 728-4532.

Sincerely,



John R. Morissette
Project Manager – Transmission Siting

Encl

cc: Service List
The Honorable Ernest Eldridge, Mayor, Town of Windham
Neel Beets, Town Manager, Windham Town Hall



Proposed Material Laydown Yard
Interstate Reliability Project
 360 Plains Road
 Windham, CT



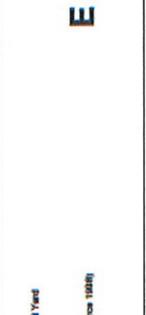
Exhibit 1

Scale: 1" = 12,400' when printed at 11" x 17"

Source: ESRI and Barnes & McDonnell Engineering

Legend

- Residence within 300' of Material Yard
- Material Yard
- FEMA 100 Year Floodzone (Source 1988)
- Natural Diversity Database
- Railroad



DATE: MARCH 14, 2014

DATE: MARCH 14, 2014