



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System

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P.O. Box 270
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(860) 728-4532

April 22, 2014

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

RE: Docket No. 424: Interstate Reliability Project
Development and Management Plan Change Notice Request:
Proposed Minor Modification in Deployment of Snake Exclusionary Fencing at Contractor
Material Laydown / Staging Area, 87 Boston Post Road, Town of Windham

Dear Chairman Stein:

The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) respectfully requests that the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) staff consider and approve a minor modification in the deployment of silt fence, for the purposes of eastern hognose snake exclusion, around the above-reference contractor material laydown / staging yard. This yard is required to support the construction of CL&P's Interstate Reliability Project (Project).

Background

Pursuant to correspondence dated November 4, 2013, the Council approved CL&P's request for the use of the yard at 87 Boston Post Road, in the Town of Windham. The Council approved the use of the yard with conditions, which are summarized as follows:

- (a) Conduct a sweep of the yard for the presence of eastern hognose snakes prior to any activities or other use of the property related to the Project;
- (b) Install exclusionary silt fence around the yard to prevent entry by the eastern hognose snake; and
- (c) Implement at the yard the eastern hognose snake mitigation measures that are used for the Project transmission line construction.

In late November 2013, CL&P and its contractor, PAR Electrical Contractors, Inc. (PAR), conducted a sweep of the yard for eastern hognose snakes and installed exclusionary silt fencing around the portion of the site to be used for Project material laydown / staging. The exclusionary silt fencing was installed in accordance with the site map provided to Council staff on November 27, 2013, taking into consideration that the southern portion of the yard also provides primary access for an active sand / gravel / cement operation. As a result, the southern portion of the yard could not be encircled with exclusionary silt fence.

Since the commencement of the active period for eastern hognose snakes (April 1 – October 31), CL&P and PAR also have been and will continue to be vigilant about inspecting for snakes when using the yard (per condition (c) of the Council's approval). All Project construction also must complete environmental training, during which the eastern hognose snake habitat and required mitigation measures are discussed. To date, no eastern hognose snakes have been observed during sweeps of the yard prior to use of the property.

The yard, in an active gravel pit, is presently used for the temporary storage of transmission line structures and related materials, and is expected to be so used for the duration of Project construction.

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Issue

Over the past months, unauthorized dirt bike and/or ATV-type traffic has repeatedly knocked down two small portions of the exclusionary silt fence on the north and east boundaries of the yard. The attached photographs (Exhibit 1) illustrate the typical dirt bike / ATV damage to the silt fence. Consequently, PAR has had to deploy personnel to repeatedly fix the fence.

The unauthorized dirt / bike ATV use occurs during non-working hours and cannot be effectively deterred. During Project inspections, the Council's independent environmental inspectors (the BSC Group, Inc.) have observed the dirt bike / ATV damage to the exclusionary silt fencing.

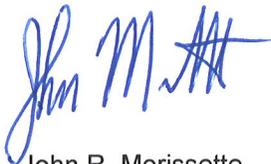
Proposed Resolution

CL&P seeks Council staff approval to leave small gaps in the exclusionary silt fence to allow the dirt bikes / ATVs to enter the yard / sand / gravel pit area without damaging the other portions of the fencing. This will be safer for the unauthorized dirt bike / ATV users, and will avoid the need to deploy Project personnel to repeatedly fix the fence.

The small gaps will not adversely affect eastern hognose snakes because CL&P and PAR will continue to conform to Condition (c) of the Council's November 4, 2013 approval, which requires inspection for snakes when using the yard for Project purposes during the snakes' active period.

Should you, other Council members, or staff have any questions regarding this request, 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

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

Encl

Exhibit 1: Exclusionary Silt Fencing Damaged by Dirt Bike / ATV Use: 87 Boston Post Road Yard

