

<p><b>DOCKET NO. 424</b> - The Connecticut Light &amp; Power Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut portion of the Interstate Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Windham, which consists of (a) new overhead 345-kV electric transmission lines and associated facilities extending between CL&amp;P's Card Street Substation in the Town of Lebanon, Lake Road Switching Station in the Town of Killingly, and the Connecticut/Rhode Island border in the Town of Thompson; and (b) related additions at CL&amp;P's existing Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and Killingly Substation.</p>	<p>} } } } } }</p>	<p>Connecticut  Siting  Council  December 27, 2012</p>
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**Decision and Order – Interstate Reliability Project**

Pursuant to the foregoing Findings of Fact and Opinion for the Connecticut portion of the Interstate Reliability Project (Interstate), the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) finds that there is a public need for the proposed facility and that the effects associated with the construction of a new overhead 345-kV electric transmission lines and associated facilities extending between CL&P's Card Street Substation in the Town of Lebanon, Lake Road Switching Station in the Town of Killingly, and the Connecticut/Rhode Island border in the Town of Thompson; and related additions at CL&P's existing Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and Killingly 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.

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 Interstate route with potential route and/or configuration variations noted under Condition numbers 3(p) and 3(q) of this Decision and Order. The new transmission line shall be placed primarily on H-frame structures except in Segment 9 between Lake Road Junction and Lake Road Switching Station in Killingly where the existing and proposed lines would be supported on vertical steel structures; and in the areas of the federally-owned Mansfield Hollow property and Hawthorne Lane Alternative, details of which shall be submitted prior to construction as noted below. Also, structure #39 on the property of Highland Ridge Golf Range shall be constructed as a steel monopole.
2. The Certificate Holder shall construct the additions to Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and Killingly Substation, as proposed.
3. The Certificate Holder shall prepare a Development and Management (D&M) Plan, whole or in parts, for this project 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 Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam and Thompson 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. Details of ground disturbance;
  - f. Vegetative clearing plan;
  - g. A wetland restoration plan;
  - h. Invasive species control plan;
  - i. Provisions to manage the discovery of undocumented Native American Archaeological resources;
  - j. A post-construction electric and magnetic field monitoring plan;
  - k. A schedule of construction hours during nights and/or weekends and mitigation of lighting and noise;
  - l. A plan to minimize air quality effects during construction;
  - m. A blasting plan, if necessary;
  - n. Identification of developed areas for staging and equipment lay down, field office trailers, sanitary facilities and parking before establishing a new area;
  - o. Plans and strategies to prevent the use of the right-of-way by all-terrain vehicles;
  - p. Details of the configuration of the line structures within the federally-owned Mansfield Hollow State Park and Wildlife Management Area;
  - q. Details of the route and line configuration for the segment of the line that crosses Hawthorne Lane in Mansfield; and
  - r. Details of protection measures for active farmland, including a report of consultations with the owners of agricultural properties to identify active farmland and assess protection of agricultural soils.
4. The Certificate Holder shall comply with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection recommendations, or coordinate with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for construction of the route in the area of endangered, threatened, or special concern species identified along the Interstate route in Connecticut.
  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 Energy and Environmental Protection prior to the commencement of construction, in areas where said permits are required.
  8. The Certificate Holder shall hire an independent environmental inspector, 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, the Willimantic Chronicle, and the Norwich Bulletin.

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:

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