

**Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection**

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

**Date:** October 27, 2005

**Inspector:** Don Ukers

**Location:** Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane)

**Storm/**

**Rain Event:** An additional 1.8" of rain fell over 10/24-10/25 bringing October's total rainfall to 15 inches which is an 11-inch departure from the average.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ROW is accessible from Gallows Hill Road by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, and the access road previously used for the Archers Lane substation. 10/27/05</li> <li>- Some areas along the ROW were getting muddy with ruts created from tracking. 10/27/05</li> <li>-The first low spot/wetland crossings in from Gallows Hill had silty standing water in the access path but the erosion controls were well installed and kept water in the wetlands clear. 10/27/05</li> <li>- Some sediment tracking was noted onto Gallows Hill 10/27/05</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Most roads are in good shape although the muddy conditions were allowing the creation of ruts on the ROW. Consider using mats if the soil is not stable enough. The area will have to be regraded at the end of the work to return to original conditions. 10/27/05</li> <li>- The wetland areas will be restored when all work in this section is completed (including future trenching) as this is considered temporary access. 10/27/05</li> <li>- The tracking will be monitored to see if it is a continuous problem. 10/27/05</li> </ul>
Foundation construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cable was being pulled at the riser structure just off Gallows Hill following the conduit installation here. 10/27/05</li> <li>-Open excavations and drilling operations continue at a number of other structure locations along the ROW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-None at this time. 10/27/05</li> <li>- Most are in upland areas and well contained. 10/27/05</li> </ul>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
	<p>10/27/05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The stockpile is still in place at the second structure in from Gallows Hill and the excavation was being dewatered to a constructed basin. 10/27/05</li> <li>- A concrete foundation was being poured at the third structure. 10/27/05</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sure the stockpile and water and mud is contained when it is removed from the pit and not able to migrate to adjacent wetlands. 10/5-10/27/05</li> <li>- None at this time. 10/27/05</li> </ul>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls (includes inspection within 24 hours of a storm event) Erosion and Sediment Controls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Silt fence is still well in place along the low wetland spots on the access path. Some turbid standing water was noted across the ROW at the first crossing in from Gallows Hill but the fence kept the water in the wetland clear. 10/27/05</li> <li>- Haybales were added in front of the silt fence at the second structure in from Gallows Hill and the surrounding area was mulched. The sediment was scraped out of the wetland. Further sedimentation was not noted. 10/27/05</li> <li>- Silt fence was in place around another stockpile at a pole location further along the ROW. 10/27/05</li> <li>-Clearing was noted near the transition station/ROW edge in a muddy area. Erosion controls may need to be extended here. 10/27/05</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to maintain the silt fence and controls when necessary. 10/27/05</li> <li>-Continue to monitor this area but actions were taken as recommended here. 10/27/05</li> <li>- Continue to maintain controls while the pile is present, although wetlands were not immediately adjacent. 10/27/05</li> <li>- Confirm with CL&amp;P what the plans are in this area. 10/27/05</li> </ul>
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The D&amp;M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the first wetland crossing in from Gallows Hill continues to work very well as turbid water was seen on the ROW but water in the wetland remained clear. 10/27/05</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- None at this time, the crossings have been constructed. As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 10/27/05</li> </ul>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
	<p>-The sediment that had filter into the wetland at the 2<sup>nd</sup> structure was scraped away and no further issues were noted at the time. 10/27/05</p>	<p>- None at this time. Continue to monitor while bare soil, dewatering and the stockpile are in place here. 10/27/05</p>
<p>State species of concern, threatened and endangered species</p>	<p>- The overhead portions have been identified as having potential habitat for several state listed species, including several species of turtles and plants. This particular portion of overhead work includes the turtle habitat area. 9/15-10/27/05</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting. 10/27/05.</p>	<p>-Crews have been doing daily sweeps for any turtles in the work areas and noting the results of their efforts on daily construction reports. 10/27/05</p>
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p>	<p>-The ROW has been mowed in this section in order to allow for truck access and foundation construction. Vegetation that did not need to be removed was left in place on either side of the access path 9/15-10/27/05</p> <p>- Further clearing was noted at the Archers Lane/ROW edge. This was being done by CL&amp;P. Conditions appeared to be muddy here. 10/27/05</p>	<p>-None at this time. In general limit clearing to those areas necessary. 10/27/05</p> <p>- Confirm what the clearing is needed for and whether erosion controls need to be extended. Keep clearing to the area necessary. 10/27/05</p>
<p>Dewatering</p>	<p>- Water is being removed from the excavation at the second structure in from Gallows Hill. A settling corral/basin was constructed due to adjacent wetlands. 10/27/05</p> <p>- Dewatering has been necessary at other structures in upland areas. 10/19-10/27/05</p>	<p>- No sediment issues were noted in the wetland at this time. 10/27/05</p> <p>- None at this time. Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas and if it will not reach any resource areas. 10/27/05</p>
<p>Blasting</p>	<p>-No blasting has been necessary at this time except in the adjacent Archers Lane transition station. 10/27/05</p>	<p>-None at this time. 10/27/05</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Spills and Material Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No further spills were noted at this inspection. 10/27/05</li> <li>- Be sure to establish a concrete washout station where drivers are instructed to go and washout water will be contained away from wetlands, waterways, and inlets/catch basins. Uncontrolled washouts are not permitted on the ROW per the D&amp;M plan. 10/19-10/27/05</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site</li> <li>- Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios.</li> <li>- Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled.</li> <li>- Take care not to get carried away and to be vigilant when refueling. Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.</li> </ul>
Additional Observations		

**Next likely scheduled inspection:** Wednesday November 2, 2005

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**Inspector's Signature:** *Diana Walden for Don Ukers*



Overhead ROW: View of the 2<sup>nd</sup> structure in from Gallows Hill where haybales were installed as additional controls as requested to prevent sedimentation to the adjacent wetland. 10/27/05



Photo on the left shows concrete being poured for a pole foundation. Photo on the right shows a pole structure about to be installed. (10/27/05)



View of the flooded low spot/wetland crossing where the silt fence is doing a good job of keeping turbid water out of the wetland. These crossings were well installed. 10/27/05



View of the first structure at Gallows Hill Rd where cable is being pulled through the recently installed conduit up to the pole. 10/27/05



Photos shows work on the Archers Lane side of the ROW where excavations are also being drilled for pole installation. The poles site are all fairly muddy along the ROW. 10/27/05



Some clearing by CL&P was noted near the Archers Lane station/ROW edge. It should be confirmed what the clearing is needed for and whether it was within project limits. Erosion control may need repair or extension- (bottom left corner of photo). 10/27/05