

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: February 2, 2006

Inspector: Lee Curtis

Location: Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane) and (345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill)

Storm/

Rain Event: Little precipitation has been recorded since the previous inspection with the most significant being between 0.18-0.30” on 1/29 as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
<p>Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- The Composite ROW work 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, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and an area cleared from the station to the ROW. 2/2/06</p> <p>- Water levels at the 2nd wetland crossing on the access road had visibly receded. The crossing remains dry again with the new stone. Haybales were well in place along the silt fence here. 2/2/06.</p> <p>- See erosion control section for more details. 2/2/06.</p>	<p>- With freezing and thawing periods, additional measures for stability should be considered if there are still access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, it will have to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-2/2/06</p> <p>-The additional stone and reinforced controls will likely reduce turbidity here. Continue to maintain. 2/2/06.</p>
<p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>- Construction of access roads continues in the vicinity of Hoyts Hill. The wetland crossings between here and Chestnut Ridge remain well in place. 2/2/06</p> <p>-Mats are in place in at least 5 wetland locations in the Bethel</p>	<p>- Continue to maintain as needed. 2/2/06</p> <p>- The crossings are well constructed and the larger</p>

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	<p>Reservoir section. Several of the crossings are getting muddy and still need erosion controls. (Including between poles #17-18 and #10-11) 2/2/06</p> <p>-Sediment tracking was now noted along Nashville Rd. ext. from the ROW near structure #10. 2/2/06</p>	<p>stream was flowing clear. Continue to provide/extend silt fence at the “corners” and consider stone on the approach to the mats to reduce sediment tracking. 2/2/06</p> <p>- Continue to monitor. Install stone at road access points or sweep the street as necessary. 1/26/06</p>
<p>Foundation construction</p> <p>Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>-Almost all of the old wooden structures had been removed at the time. 2/2/06</p> <p>- Erosion controls were repaired at the structure foundation adjacent to Archers Lane to control the sediment piled here.2/2/06</p> <p>-Excavations were noted in several locations for wooden pole installation in the Bethel Reservoir and the Chestnut Ridge/Hoyts Hill sections. Poles were still stored off Nashville Rd. 2/2/06</p> <p>- A bucket truck was working at proposed pole #3. Existing lines were being taken down at structures adj. to Hoyts Hill station. 2/2/05</p> <p>- Stakes were in place at #19 for proposed pole locations. 2/2/06</p>	<p>-None at this time. 2/2/06</p> <p>- Continue to maintain. 2/2/06</p> <p>-Large amounts of sediment were still present at proposed structure #6. See erosion control section for recommendations. 2/2/06</p> <p>- None at this time. 2/2/06</p> <p>- Erosion controls will be installed here when work begins. 2/2/06</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls (includes inspection within 24 hours of a storm event)</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- Water levels had noticeably receded at the 2nd wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. The new controls and stone remain securely installed. 2/2/06.</p> <p>- The 1st wetland crossing, immediately within the Archers Lane site before the</p>	<p>-These additional controls will likely help to reduce new sediment loads. Sedimentation accumulation is still evident at the edge of the water. This is due to road or station related run-off. 2/2/06</p> <p>- Solutions to prevent sedimentation and turbidity in</p>

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<p>Erosion controls continued</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p> <p>Chestnut Ridge Section</p> <p>Bethel Reservoir Section</p>	<p>access road opens into the ROW continues to have sedimentation/turbidity issues from road run-off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sediment accumulation in the wetland ranges from a thin layer on the leaves to several inches thick. 1/26-2/2/06 - The 2nd structure in from Gallows Hill has a bare soil/boulder slope adjacent to the wetland with controls still well in place. 11/23-2/2/06. - The matted crossings in the Chestnut Ridge section are well protected. Continue to provide good controls at the wetlands near poles #1 and 2. 2/2/06 - A large amount of sediment resulted from excavation for structure #6. Sediment was pulled back from the outer silt fence barrier to reduce strain. However, the majority of the pile is still in a wetland area. 2/2/06 - Dewatering controls here remain the same as previously noted and sediment remained tracked through the woods to a wetland at the base of slope. However, it did not appear that any additional dewatering had occurred. 2/2/06 - A stockpile remains at structure #8 with silt fence in place. 2/2/06 - The stockpile from structure #9 foundation installation was still present but contractors are looking to remove it. 1/26-2/2/06 	<p>the ponded water here need to be investigated and implemented. Cleaning out the sediment in the stone may help. 1/4-2/2/06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In areas where sediment is substantial and feasibly removable, contractors should shovel it out carefully by hand. 2/2/06 - The area should be regraded, to final contours and restored when feasible. 12/1-2/2/06 -Continue to place controls at all four “corners” of the approach to the mats and crossings. Watch for increasingly muddy conditions on the mats. 2/2/06 - Remove the soil here ASAP since the sediment and controls are already in a wetland area. 1/19-2/2/06 -Install erosion controls at the base of slope to prevent sedimentation or remove the majority of the sediment from the woods. 1/26/06 - Monitor run-off from this area to the stream at the base of slope. 2/2/06 - Remove the stockpile when feasible. 1/26-2/2/06

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The matted crossing between proposed poles #10-11 is becoming increasingly muddy. Controls are not in place on the approach. 1/26-2/2/06 - Similar issues were noted at the crossing between #17-18 which is also increasingly muddy. Sedimentation was noted in the water below the mat here. 2/2/06 - Mats near proposed pole #19 were also increasingly muddy. Silt fence installation was beginning here. 2/2/06 -Silt fence was recommended at this structure as well due to its proximity to wetlands. 1/12-2/2/06 -Some clearing access was noted past proposed pole #21. Wetlands are at the base of slope here. 2/2/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install silt fence or haybales at the “four corners” of the mat. Consider stone on the access road approach to remove some of the sediment accumulation. 2/2/06 - Place controls, consider stone installation and carefully remove accumulated sediment in the wetland. 2/2/06 - Consider stone installation and continue placement of controls. 2/2/06 -Install fence as necessary. Work had not yet reached this structure but the location was staked. 1/12-2/2/06 - If access continues, install proper controls and crossings. 2/2/06
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p>Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings had worked well, but at three areas near Archers Lane, turbidity issues have been present. Run-off from the road, the drainage pipe, and snow plow issues had led to sedimentation. 2/2/06 - The rocks at the 1st crossing remain clogged with sediment and noticeable deposits were in the wetland. 1/4-2/2/06 -Crossings were well installed but mats are getting muddy in several locations. 1/4-2/2/06 - Sedimentation to the wetland was noted at the crossing between poles #17-18 2/2/06. - Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. Erosion controls and stone were much improved at the second crossing. 1/26-2/2/06 - The 1st crossing could also use some clean stone. Sediment will have to be carefully removed. 1/4-2/2/06 -See recommendations in erosion control section.1/4-2/2/06 - This may need to be removed carefully by hand. 2/2/06 - If channelization is noted as a result during the spring, the

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	<p>adjacent to streams. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 1/19-2/2/06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It appears that little brush was left behind at the stream between poles #10-11. 2/2/06 - At the excavation for proposed structure #6, a large amount of mud was contained within the silt fence but it was already within the wetland. 1/19-2/2/06 	<p>previously created ruts should be repaired if possible. 1/12-2/2/06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try to leave shrubs and low growth where possible, especially at stream buffers. 2/2/06 - Lack of workspace is an issue here but the erosion controls and mud were within the wetland. The entire pile should be pulled back/removed and controls reinstalled closer to the pole. 1/19-2/2/06
<p>State species of concern, threatened and endangered species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-2/2/06. -The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and are likely hibernating. 2/2/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Turtles would no longer be active at this time of year. 2/2/06
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearing continues for the H-frame section. Chips remain as well as stockpiles of larger trees. They may be utilized by landowners. 12/22-2/2/06 - New clearing was noted near structure #10. Chips continue to be spread out on the ROW here. 2/2/06 Efforts have been good to keep them out of wetlands. - Trees are also being cleared adjacent to streams and wetlands to expand the ROW. 1/12-2/2/06 - Clearing was also occurring at the stream crossing between #10-11. Ruts were not present but branches were strewn in the stream . 2/2/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-2/2/06 - Chips spread on the ROW should not be to a depth of more than 3” by the time the growing season is about to begin. 1/4-2/2/06 - Stumps will remain and trees should be felled toward the mats to avoid ruts in the stream. 1/12-2/2/06 - Efforts to retain shrubs were noted in some sections but areas near the stream crossing here seem somewhat bare. Attempt to retain buffers, especially at streams. Remove

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	- Some access was noted beyond pole #21. 2/2/06	branches from the stream channel. 2/2/06 - If clearing access is needed here, provide appropriate controls to the wetlands. 2/2/06
Dewatering	- Active dewatering was not noted at a particular structure this week. 2/2/06	- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. (Make sure to check downgradient for these areas- i.e. as in pole #6) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment. 2/2/06
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 2/2/06.	-None at this time. 2/2/06.
Spills and Material Storage	- No drips or leaks were noted under any of the vehicles this week. 2/2/06	- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - 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.
Additional Observations		

Next likely scheduled inspection:

Thursday, February 9, 2006

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 Lee Curtis



(Composite Section): Photo on the left shows a view of the 2nd crossing along the road from Archers Lane. The water has receded and the crossing is improved with stone and haybales. Photo on the right shows the 3rd crossing. Some minor siltation has occurred in the wetland.



Photo on the left shows a view along the ROW. Wooden poles have been removed. Photo on the right shows the foundation structure immediately adj. to Archers Lane station. Erosion controls were installed at the base of the soil pile here. 2/2/06



345kV (H-Frame Section): Photo on the left shows the view from proposed pole #21. Wetlands are located at the base of slope. Photo on the right shows an access road clearing crews have used. The area at the base of the slope is also wet and should be protected if access continues. 2/2/06



Photo on the left shows the location of proposed structure #19 immediately adjacent to a wetland. Erosion controls are proposed. Photo on the left shows the mat crossing here with the beginning of silt fence installation. The crossing is muddy and stone should be considered on the approach to the mat. 2/2/06



Photo on the left shows sedimentation that has occurred at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of proposed poles 17 and 18. Photo on the right shows a long view of the approach to this area with foundation drilling ongoing. Erosion controls are needed and the source of the sedimentation needs to be removed. 2/2/06



Photo on the left shows excavations for the wooden poles of one of the new structures. Photo on the right shows the crossing on the stream in from Bethel Reservoir. Make efforts to preserve low shrubs and brush, esp. along streams. This does not seem to have occurred in all locations.

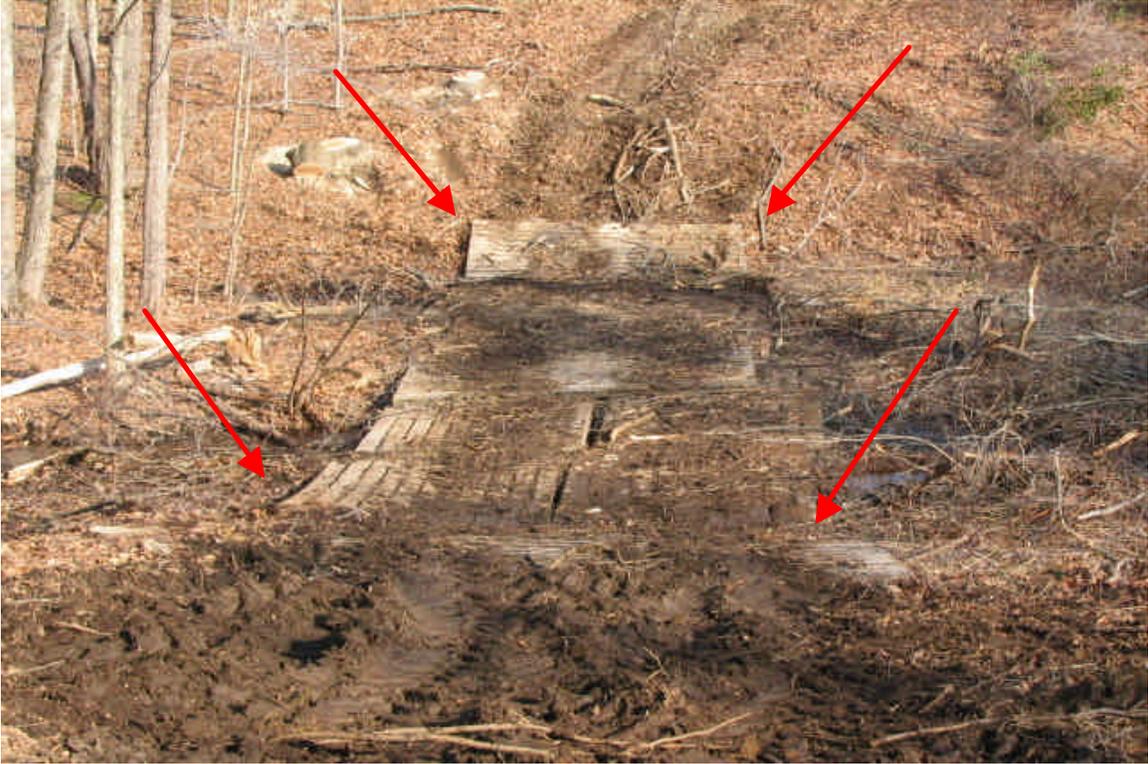


Photo shows a view of the wetland crossing on the stream just north of the Bethel Reservoir access. Mats and the approach are getting muddy and there are no controls to protect the stream. Place silt fence at the “four corners” of the crossing. Consider stone prior to the mat. 2/2/06



Adj. to Nashville Rd: Photo on the left shows the work and stockpile of structure materials at proposed structure #10. Chestnut Ridge Rd.: Photo on the right shows erosion controls installed at a stockpile left behind at structure #8. 2/2/06



Photo on the left shows the inadequate dewatering set-up near structure #6. It does not appear to have been used since it was noticed several weeks ago but exposed sediment remains down the slope. Photo on the right shows the wetland crossing with controls in place at all sides. 2/2/06



Photo on the left shows the excavations for the wooden poles at proposed structure #6. Photo on the right shows that contractors did make efforts to pull soil back from the silt fence. However, the soil pile itself and the silt fence remain in a wetland. The entire area should be cleaned up as soon as feasible. 2/2/06