

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: May 10, 2006

Inspector: Lee Curtis

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

Storm/

Rain Event: Between 0.03-0.28" of rain was recorded over 5/9-5/10 as reported by NOAA and based on location

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways Composite	<p>- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Rd 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. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- Active clearing was not noted past Archers Lane. Wood chips have been blown off the cleared ROW in some areas. See the vegetative clearing section for more details. 3/2-5/10/06.</p> <p>- Water levels at the 2nd wetland crossing on the access road at Archers Lane have remained below problem levels. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3rd wetland area 2/16/06.</p>	<p>- If necessary, additional measures for stability should be considered for access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, they will need to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-5/10/06.</p> <p>-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- The damage should be repaired at the 3rd wetland. See erosion control section for more</p>	<p>-N/A until evaluation at the end of work.</p> <p>- Still needs attention</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>-Needs attention if feasible</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
345kV H-Frame	<p>Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/9-5/10/06.</p> <p>- Other work areas are accessed from Hoyts Hill, Chestnut Ridge Rd, the Bethel Res. water plant road, Lime Kiln Rd, Whortleberry Rd, John Todd Way and Costa Lane. Wood chips were placed along a majority of the access roads. 3/29-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Stone dust is used on the access roads at Costa Lane and John Todd Way. 3/2-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Mats are in place in the wetland locations in all of the H-frame sections. Watch the crossings for muddy conditions and monitor erosion controls. 2/22-5/10/06.</p> <p>- The mat bridge between poles #10-11 for access to bring in the poles remains in good shape. 5/10/06.</p> <p>-Ruts were noted in the access road due to heavy equipment. 4/6-5/10/06.</p>	<p>details. 2/16- 5/10/06. At this point, it may not be worth attempting to repair. 5/10/06</p> <p>-Continue to monitor the conditions of all access roads. If muddy conditions re-occur, place more wood chips or consider installing silt fence as needed. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor for muddy conditions and repair controls when necessary. All wetland crossings look good with vegetation returning. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- The streambed and water main remain protected. 3/23-5/10/06.</p> <p>-This should be restored eventually. 5/10/06.</p>	<p>- N/A at this time</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p>
Norwalk Section	<p>- Stone dust access roads are in place to the south of Perry Ave and north of Broad St. 4/6-5/10/06.</p> <p>- A gravel entrance pad was in place north of Broad St. 5/4-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Work to the north of</p>	<p>- Controls are in place. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 5/10/06.</p>	<p>- N/A at this time</p> <p>- N/A</p> <p>-N/A</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
	Perry Ave is also accessed off the paved cul-de-sac at April Ln. 5/10/06		
<p>Line Construction Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p> <p>Norwalk Section</p>	<p>-Crews are working to pull rope through the structures in preparation to pull wire. 5/4-5/10/06.</p> <p>-All poles are in place in the Chestnut Ridge section. Blocks remain installed in preparation for pulling lines 4/26-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Temporary wooden rider or guard poles were in place at all roadways 5/10/06.</p> <p>- Foundation work and structure installation continue near Broad St and the Norwalk Sub. 5/10/06</p> <p>- Temporary wooden rider or guard poles were in place here as well. 5/10/06</p> <p>- Structures are being installed and old structures are being removed off of Perry Ave. 5/01/06.</p>	<p>-None at this time. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 5/10/06.</p> <p>-None at this time. 5/10/06.</p> <p>-See erosion controls section for more information. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 5/10/06</p> <p>- None at this time. 5/10/06</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>- N/A</p> <p>- N/A</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls Composite</p> <p>Erosion controls continued</p>	<p>- Water levels appear to remain low at the 2nd wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. 2/16-5/01/06.</p> <p>- Silt fence had contained sediment from run-off down the access road but erosion was noted here. 4/26-5/10/06</p> <p>- A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3rd wetland area. Haybales</p>	<p>- None at this time. 5/10/06.</p> <p>-Continue to monitor and install more controls if necessary. 4/26-5/10/06</p> <p>- Damage to the wetland should be repaired if feasible. 2/16-5/10/06.</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>- N/A at this time</p> <p>-N/A</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Erosion controls continued	<p>had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/2-5/10/06.</p> <p>- Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-5/10/06. Another area with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW remains past Archers Lane. 3/15-5/10/06.</p>	<p>But, at this point, it may be more damaging to enter the wetland. 5/4-5/10/06</p> <p>-Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&M plan. 2/22-5/10/06.</p> <p>- Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 4/6-5/10/06.</p>	<p>-Still needs attention (CL&P is looking into a solution here)</p>
<p>345kV H-Frame Chestnut Ridge Section</p>	<p>-The majority of the pile at structure#6 has been removed but soil remains encroaching on wetlands 4/12-5/10/06.</p>	<p>- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-5/10/06.</p>	<p>- Needs attention when feasible</p>
Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	<p>- The silt fence by structure #9 requires some maintenance. The adjacent disturbed area should be restored if feasible. 5/10/06.</p> <p>- Silt fence and mats remain in place in a number of locations in this section. 4/6-5/10/06.</p>	<p>- Maintain silt fence here until the area is stabilized. (Or provide mulch and seed for stabilization). 5/10/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor for any muddy conditions or need for repairs. All observed controls remain in good condition. 4/6-5/10/06.</p>	<p>-Fence was going to be maintained following the inspection.</p> <p>-N/A</p>
Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way	<p>- Mats remain well in place over the stream between poles #10-11. Erosion controls remain well installed at the "corners" and along the second wet area. 3/29-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Mats are in place at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #29. 3/2-4/6-5/10/06.</p>	<p>- None at this time. Continue to monitor this area due to heavy use and maintain as needed. 4/6-5/10/06. Wetland vegetation is returning well with the growing season. 5/10/06</p> <p>-Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions and install silt fence as needed. 3/2-5/10/06.</p>	<p>- N/A.</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<p>Norwalk Section</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Silt fence could use minor repair near structure #28. 5/10/06. -Erosion controls remain intact at poles #24 and 25 and further washouts were not noted. 5/10/06. -One area of silt fence south of Perry Ave. was strained due to an adjacent soil pile. 5/10/06. - Silt fence remained in place at several locations north of Broad St. 5/10/06. - The foundation installation near the Norwalk substation required silt fence coverage beyond the portion installed last week. 5/10/06. - The silt fence here at the foundation was also strained due to adjacent sediment build-up. 5/10/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Repair if feasible but wetlands are not located immediately adjacent. 5/10/06. -Maintain controls until areas surrounding the foundation are stabilized. 5/10/06 -Continue to maintain the silt fence when feasible. However, wetlands are not immediately adjacent 5/10/06. - Continue to maintain all areas of fence due to proximity to resource areas. 5/10/06. - Additional silt fence was being installed at the time of inspection. 5/10/06 -The fence should be cleared of sediment and possibly reinforced with haybales due to the proximity of the river. 5/10/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs attention if feasible -N/A -Needs attention when feasible -N/A. -Repairs were being made. -Needs attention when feasible.
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p>Composite</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings have worked well. 4/6-5/10/06. - Direct damage was noted in the wetland at the 3rd crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-5/10/06. - Use caution in clearing trees from wetland areas. 	<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. 1/26-5/10/06. - The damage to the 3rd wetland should be repaired if feasible but it may be more damaging to go in at this time. 5/4-5/10/06. - Retain shrubs and low growth as much as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -N/A until evaluated at the end of work. -N/A N/A at this time.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<p>345kV H-Frame</p> <p>Norwalk Section</p>	<p>Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 3/29-5/10/06.</p> <p>- Clearing appears to be complete in this area. 5/10/06.</p> <p>-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-5/10/06.</p> <p>- At structure #6, most of the mud was removed from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 4/6-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Foundations being installed are adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies and most controls are in good shape. 5/10/06.</p>	<p>possible, especially at stream buffers. 3/2-5/10/06.</p> <p>-None at this time. 5/10/06</p> <p>-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-5/10/06.</p> <p>- Continue to remove entire pile. 2/16-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Continue to monitor. 5/10/06.</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>-Needs attention when feasible.</p> <p>-N/A.</p>
<p>State species of concern, threatened and endangered species</p>	<p>- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-5/10/06.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting but is now in an active season. 4/6-5/10/06.</p>	<p>- Now that weather is warmer, it is time to recommence daily walkthroughs prior to work. (Major work has not been noted here this spring) 4/6-5/4/06.</p>	<p>-N/A at this time</p>
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-5/10/06.</p> <p>- A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and</p>	<p>-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Replace shrubs where necessary. 5/10/06</p> <p>- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should</p>	<p>-Needs attention when feasible</p> <p>- Still needs attention</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<p>345kV H-Frame</p> <p>Norwalk Section</p>	<p>also along the wetland edge at the 3rd structure off Gallows Hill. These areas are off property. 2/22-5/10/06. -This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Clearing was not actively occurring along the ROW past Archers Lane. 5/10/06. -Clearing efforts appear to be complete here. 5/10/06.</p> <p>-The ROW areas near Broad Street and Perry Ave have also been cleared. 5/4-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Two cleared corridors are present into Norwalk Junction. It appears that efforts to retain shrubs, especially in wetland areas could have been improved here 5/10/06.</p>	<p>be removed carefully to comply with the D&M plan. 2/22-5/10/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-5/10/06.</p> <p>- To avoid wetland damage, trees here will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-5/10/06 -Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-5/10/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. Vegetation was not as prevalent here. Many areas were grass. 5/10/06.</p> <p>-The area was largely clearcu when the D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 5/10/06</p>	<p>CL&P is looking into this.</p> <p>- CL&P proposed the work under these specs.</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>- N/A</p>
Dewatering	- No obvious dewatering efforts were noted. 5/10/06.	- 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) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment. 3/9-5/10/06.	-N/A at this time
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 5/10/06.	-None at this time. 5/4/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment was leaking at the time of inspection. 3/15-5/10/06.	- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used	-N/A

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
		or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.	
Additional Observations			

Next likely scheduled inspection: Wednesday May 17, 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 the areas off the ROW past Archers Lane where wood chips have not been raked or removed. Photo on the right shows the area with the similar issue past Gallows Hill. CL&P has been looking into this. 5/10/06



Photo on the left shows a view of the looking along the ROW towards Rt 53. **(H-Frame):** Photo on the right shows the wetland crossing south of structure #11 in the Bethel Res. Section in good shape. 5/10/06.



(345kV H-Frame): Photo on the left shows a view of the stream crossing between structures #10 and 11 with controls in good shape. Photo on the right shows silt fence near structure #9 which needs some repair, or the area should be restored with seed and mulch. 5/10/06.



Photo on the left shows a view of the silt fence preventing sedimentation to the adjacent wetland at structure #25. Restore/stabilize this area when feasible. Photo on the right shows the silt fence in good shape near structure #24. 5/10/06.



Photo on the left shows a view of the ROW in the area of Costa Lane. Silt fence on the side slope here should be monitored although wetlands are not immediately adjacent. (Norwalk Section)
Photo on the right shows the work area adjacent to the substation. 5/10/06.



(Norwalk Section) Photo on the left shows an area of silt fence to clean up and a potential problem spot to continue monitoring. Additional controls should be considered here due to the proximity of the river. Photo on the right shows work north of Broad St. 5/10/06.



Perry Ave: Photo on the left shows structures being removed along the ROW to the south of Perry Ave. Photo on the right shows a work area adjacent to the recently flooded wetland channel. 5/10/06



Photo on the left shows where soil was placed over the silt fence in a tight workspace in this area. The pile was being pulled back after the inspection. Fence should be repaired if necessary. Photo on the right shows the ROW to the north of Perry with spools set up. 5/10/06