

**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 17, 2006

**Inspector:** Don Ukers

**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 2.37-3.54" of rain was recorded on 5/12 with another 1.30-2.04" over 5/15-5/16 as reported by NOAA and depending on location.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways  <b>Composite</b>	<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. 5/17/06.</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. 3/2-5/17/06.</p> <p>- Water levels at the 2<sup>nd</sup> wetland crossing on the access road at Archers Lane have remained below problem levels. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- Other work areas are accessed from Hoyts</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. 12/8-5/17/06.</p> <p>-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor. 5/17/06.</p> <p>-Continue to monitor the conditions of all access</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>- N/A at this time</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	<p>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. 3/29-5/17/06.</p> <p>-Stone dust is used on the access roads at Costa Lane and John Todd Way. 3/2-5/17/06.</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. 2/22-5/17/06.</p> <p>- The mat bridge between poles #10-11 was removed. The wetland is in good shape but the adjacent areas are disturbed where the bridge was located. 5/17/06.</p>	<p>roads. If muddy conditions re-occur, place more wood chips or consider installing silt fence as needed. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- The Bethel Res. section was fairly muddy due to rain. Watch ruts and repair if necessary. 5/17/06</p> <p>-The Chestnut Ridge sect. remains in good shape</p> <p>- Continue to monitor for muddy conditions and repair controls when necessary. All wetland crossings look good with vegetation returning and high water. 5/10-5/17/06.</p> <p>- The streambed and water main were protected but additional erosion controls or stabilization will be needed on the disturbed soil to prevent sedimentation to the wetland. 5/17/06.</p>	<p>-Continue to evaluate</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>-Bridge was removed and soil surface here needs attention</p>
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	<p>- Stone dust access roads are in place to the south of Perry Ave and north of Broad St. 4/6-5/17/06.</p> <p>- A gravel entrance pad was in place north of Broad St. 5/4-5/17/06.</p> <p>-Work to the north of Perry Ave is also accessed off the paved cul-de-sac at April Ln. 5/17/06</p> <p>- A new area of work is accessed from the Rt 7 extension and Kent Rd. Several wetlands are</p>	<p>- Controls are in place. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- The river is at high flow again but access roads are stable. None at this time. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- Install haybales (or silt fence) at the corners of the wetland crossings to prevent run-off from the</p>	<p>- N/A at this time</p> <p>- N/A</p> <p>-Needs attention when feasible</p>

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	matted here but haybales or other controls should be installed at the corners. 5/17/06	access road to the wetland. 5/17/06.	
<p>Line Construction <b>Composite</b></p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p>	<p>- Rope is pulled through all structures here in preparation to pull wire. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- Rope is pulled through all of the structures in all sections in preparation for pulling lines 5/17/06.</p> <p>-Temporary wooden rider or guard poles were in place at all roadways 5/17/06.</p> <p>- Foundation work and structure installation continue near Broad St and the Norwalk Sub. 5/10-5/17/06</p> <p>- Structures installation and foundation work continues between Perry Ave. and the Rt 7 extension. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- Old wire was being removed and access roads installed between Rt7 ext and Kent Rd. 5/17/07</p>	<p>- See erosion controls section for more information. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 5/17/06.</p> <p>-None at this time. 5/17/06.</p> <p>-See erosion controls section for more information. 5/17/06.</p> <p>- See erosion controls section for more information. 5/17/06.</p> <p>-See erosion controls section for more information. 5/17/06</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</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p>	<p>- Water levels appear to remain below problem levels at the 2<sup>nd</sup> wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. 2/16-5/17/06.</p> <p>- Silt fence had contained sediment from run-off down the access road past Archers Lane but erosion was noted here. 4/26-5/17/06</p>	<p>- None at this time. 5/17/06.</p> <p>-Continue to monitor and install more controls if necessary. 4/26-5/17/06</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>- N/A at this time</p>

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Erosion controls continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-5/17/06. Another area with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW remains past Archers Lane. 3/15-5/17/06.</li> <li>- An old stockpile was noted at a structure before Rt 53 off Gallows Hill. 5/17/06</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&amp;M plan. 2/22-5/17/06.</li> <li>- Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 4/6-5/17/06.</li> <li>-Make sure that restoration occurs in previously disturbed areas and that materials are removed and not forgotten in place. 5/17/06</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Still needs attention (CL&amp;P is looking into a solution here)</li> <li>- Needs attention when feasible</li> </ul>
<b>345kV H-Frame</b> Chestnut Ridge Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The majority of the pile at structure#6 has been removed but soil remains encroaching on wetlands 4/12-5/17/06.</li> <li>- The silt fence by structure #9has been maintained. The adjacent disturbed area should be restored if feasible. 5/17/06.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-5/17/06.</li> <li>-Provide mulch and seed for stabilization 5/17/06.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Needs attention when feasible</li> <li>-Fence was maintained</li> </ul>
Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Silt fence and mats remain in place in a number of locations in this section. 4/6-5/17/06.</li> <li>- Mats were removed from the stream between poles #10-11. Disturbed soil remained on the access road adjacent to the wetland. 5/17/06.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to monitor for any muddy conditions or need for repairs. All observed controls remain in good condition. 4/6-5/17/06.</li> <li>- Additional controls or stabilization measures should be placed to prevent sedimentation. 5/17/06</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-N/A</li> <li>- Needs attention</li> </ul>
Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mats are in place at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #29. 3/2-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-N/A at this time</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p>	<p>4/6-5/17/06.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Silt fence near structure #28 is being monitored and repaired as needed. 5/17/06.</li> <li>-Erosion controls remain intact at poles #24 and 25 and further washouts were not noted. 5/17/06.</li> <li>-One area of silt fence south of Perry Ave. continued to have soil piling against it. 5/17/06.</li> <li>- Silt fence was flooded at the river north of Broad St and will be repaired when the water recedes. 5/17/06.</li> <li>- Another area further north needs silt fence repair due to the tight workspace. 5/17/06</li> <li>- The foundation near the Norwalk substation has good silt fence coverage. 5/17/06.</li> <li>- Mats are installed at wetland crossings in the Rt 7 ext- Kent Rd section but controls are needed at the corners. 5/17/06</li> </ul>	<p>install silt fence as needed. 3/2-5/17/06.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continue to monitor .Wetlands are not located immediately adjacent. 5/17/06.</li> <li>-Maintain controls until areas surrounding the foundation are stabilized. 5/17/06</li> <li>-The fence is being monitored and sediment is removed regularly. 5/17/06.</li> <li>- Continue to maintain all areas of fence due to proximity to resource areas. 5/17/06.</li> <li>- Sediment should be pulled back and fence repaired. 5/17/06</li> <li>-Continue to monitor due to proximity of the river. 5/17/06</li> <li>-Install haybales or silt fence at the corners of the mat crossings to prevent runoff from the access road. 5/17/06.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Silt fence is being monitored</li> <li>-N/A</li> <li>-Silt fence is being monitored</li> <li>-Will be repaired when water recedes</li> <li>- Needs attention when feasible.</li> <li>-N/A</li> <li>-Needs attention when feasible.</li> </ul>
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The D&amp;M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings have worked well. 4/6-5/17/06.</li> <li>- Direct damage was noted in the wetland at the 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing as a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-5/17/06.</li> <li>- The damage to the 3<sup>rd</sup> wetland should be repaired if feasible but it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-N/A until evaluated at the end of work.</li> <li>-N/A</li> </ul>

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<p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p>	<p>result of equipment slipping. 2/16-5/17/06.</p> <p>- Use caution in clearing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 3/29-5/10/06.</p> <p>-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-5/17/06.</p> <p>- At structure #6, most of the mud was removed from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 4/6-5/17/06.</p> <p>-Foundations being installed are adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies and most controls are in good shape. 5/17/06.</p>	<p>may be more damaging to go in at this time. 5/4-5/17/06.</p> <p>- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible, especially at stream buffers. 3/2-5/10/06.</p> <p>-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-5/17/06.</p> <p>- Continue to remove entire pile. 2/16-5/17/06.</p> <p>-Continue to monitor. 5/17/06.</p>	<p>N/A at this time.</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. 9/15-5/17/06.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting but is now in an active season. 4/6-5/17/06.</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) 4/6-5/17/06.</p>	<p>-N/A at this time</p>
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p>	<p>- Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-5/17/06.</p>	<p>-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-5/17/06.</p> <p>-Replace shrubs where necessary. 5/17/06</p>	<p>-Needs attention when feasible</p>

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<p><b>Composite</b></p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p>	<p>- A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and also along the wetland edge at the 3<sup>rd</sup> structure off Gallows Hill. These areas are off property. 2/22-5/17/06.</p> <p>-This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-5/17/06.</p> <p>-Clearing was not actively occurring along the ROW past Archers Lane. 5/17/06.</p> <p>-Clearing efforts appear to be complete here. 5/17/06.</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 5/10-5/17/06.</p> <p>- Clearing will become necessary in the Kent Rd. section. 5/17/06</p>	<p>- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&amp;M plan. 2/22-5/10/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-5/17/06.</p> <p>- To avoid wetland damage, trees here will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-5/17/06</p> <p>-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&amp;M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-5/17/06.</p> <p>-The area was largely clearcut when the D&amp;M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 5/10-5/17/06</p> <p>- Retain shrubs and vegetation where feasible. 5/17/06</p>	<p>- Still needs attention CL&amp;P is looking into this.</p> <p>- CL&amp;P proposed the work under these specs.</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>- N/A</p> <p>- N/A at this time</p>
Dewatering	<p>- No obvious dewatering efforts were noted. 5/17/06.</p>	<p>- 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. 3/9-5/17/06.</p>	<p>-N/A at this time</p>
Blasting	<p>-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 5/17/06.</p>	<p>-None at this time. 5/17/06.</p>	<p>-N/A</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment was leaking at the time of inspection. 3/15-5/17/06.	<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>- Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands.</li> </ul> Use proper storage for all materials.	-N/A
Additional Observations			

**Next likely scheduled inspection:** Thursday May 25, 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 Don Ukers



**(Composite Section):** Photo on the left shows the ROW past Archers Lane looking towards Rt 53. Photo on the right shows the wetland crossing off Gallows Hill where controls are still in good shape. 5/17/06



Photo on the left shows a stockpile remaining at a pole location. Make sure that proper restoration and material removal occurs before work is complete. (H-Frame): Photo on the right shows the ROW in the Bethel Res. Section. Conditions were very muddy at this time. 5/17/06.



**(345kV H-Frame):** Photo on the left shows a view of the stream between structures #10 and 11 with the mats/crossing removed. The adjacent area is disturbed and additional controls or stabilization measures may be needed across the ROW. 5/17/06.



**Photo on the left shows where silt fence was well restored adjacent to structure #7. Photo on the right shows the wetland near structure #24 with controls well in place. 5/17/06.**



Photo on the left shows structure #28 in the vicinity 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 an area north of Broad St. where silt fence could use some repair due to the tight workspace. 5/17/06.



(Norwalk Section) Photo on the left shows where the river flooded over the silt fence in this location north of Broad St. Photo on the right shows the structure south of Perry Ave, adjacent to the river where sediment continues to pile against the silt fence but is regularly removed. 5/17/06.



**Photo on the left shows foundation work on structure #11070 with concrete trucks following washout procedures. Photo on the right shows mats installed along a wetland crossing in the new Rt 7 extension to Kent Rd. section. Haybales check dam should be placed at the corners. 5/17/06**



**Photo on the left shows another small wetland crossing in this area. Install haybales or silt fence as needed to prevent runoff from the roadway. Photo on the right shows an overview of the ROW in this area. 5/17/06**