

**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:** June 20, 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 0.14-0.7" of rain was recorded over 6/19-6/20 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. 6/20/06.</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. 3/2-6/20/06.</p> <p>- One spot along the access road past Archers Lane has stone dust from the road overtopping the silt fence adjacent to the wetland. A second spot is also piling up. 6/7-6/20/06.</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. 12/8/05-6/20/06.</p> <p>-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- Repairs should be made either by transition station or overhead crews. Stone/sediment needs to be removed. 6/1-6/20/06.</p> <p>- An additional haybale was installed but is not enough. 6/14/06</p>	<p>-N/A until evaluation at the end of work.</p> <p>- Still needs attention</p> <p>-Needs attention- also see transition station report.</p>



Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
	<p>directions and up to the pond in the north. 5/25-6/20/06.</p> <p>-Several wetlands are matted here and most have silt fence installed at the corners. A few areas may still need maintenance where stone and sediment overtopped the fence. 6/14-6/20/06.</p>	<p>- Repairs may be needed in a few spots in the silt fence in the section south of Kent Rd. 6/7-6/20/06.</p>	<p>- Maintenance may be needed in several locations</p>
<p><b>Line Construction Composite</b></p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p>	<p>- Crews continue to pull wire at the structures leading into Archers Lane. 5/25-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Crews continue to pull wire at the structures off John Todd Way. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- Old towers remain down in the area of Perry Ave, Kent Rd, North Seir and the Rt.7 extension. They will be removed eventually. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- All foundations that could be accessed by North Seir Hill Rd have been poured. Some of the structures have been installed. 6/7-6/20/06.</p> <p>- All foundations have been installed to the south of Kent Road and foundation drilling continues to the north. 6/20/06.</p>	<p>- None at this time. 5/25-6/20/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- None at this time 6/20/06</p> <p>-None at this time. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- See erosion controls section for more information. 6/20/06.</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. 2/16-6/20/06.</p>	<p>- None at this time. 6/20/06.</p>	<p>-N/A</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<p>Erosion controls continued</p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p>Chestnut Ridge Section</p>	<p>- Silt fence is being overtopped and/or sediment is piling from run-off on the access road past Archers Lane. 6/1-6/20/06</p>	<p>-The overtopped area should be repaired and stone pulled back and removed from the wetland. Continue to monitor the second spot. 6/1-6/20/06</p>	<p>- Needs attention from either transition station or overhead crews</p>
	<p>- Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-6/20/06. Another area with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW remains past Archers Lane. 3/15-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&amp;M plan. 2/22-6/20/06. - Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 4/6-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-Still needs attention (CL&amp;P is looking into a solution here)</p>
	<p>- An old stockpile was noted at a structure before Rt 53 off Gallows Hill. 5/17-6/20/06</p>	<p>-Make sure that restoration occurs in previously disturbed areas and that materials are removed and not forgotten in place. 5/17-6/20/06</p>	<p>- Needs attention when feasible</p>
	<p>- Disturbed soil remains adjacent to structure #34 off Gallows Hill and this was overtopping the haybales. 6/14-6/20/06</p>	<p>- The soil should be pulled back and the area vegetated- even if it is temporarily. 6/14-6/20/06</p>	<p>- Needs attention when feasible.</p>
	<p>- Erosion remains in the stone dust near pole #2 but silt fence was repaired and reinforced with haybales. 6/14-6/20/06</p>	<p>- Continue to monitor; wetlands are not immediately adjacent but repair ruts if feasible. 6/14-6/20/06</p>	<p>- N/A</p>
	<p>-The majority of the pile at structure#6 has been removed but soil remains encroaching on wetlands 4/12-6/20/06.</p>	<p>- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-6/20/06.</p>	<p>- Needs attention when feasible</p>
	<p>- Haybales were placed in the low spot at the access road near structure</p>	<p>- Continue to monitor and reinforce if necessary. 6/20/06</p>	<p>-N/A</p>

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Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	<p>#6 on 6/14/06</p> <p>- Non project related vehicles were still reported in the stream &amp; wetland between poles #10-11. Ruts and disturbance worsened. 6/14-6/20/06.</p>	<p>- The ruts in the stream or wetland should be smoothed out and silt fence should be placed across the ROW to prevent sedimentation and help discourage access. 5/17-6/20/06</p>	<p>- Needs attention (even though the majority of the damage is not project related.)</p>
Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way	<p>- Erosion controls at poles #24 and 25 are in good shape. 6/20/06.</p>	<p>-Continue to monitor. 6/20/06.</p>	<p>- N/A</p>
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	<p>- A contractor (unrelated to the project) remains in this area filling near the wetland for a driveway. 6/7/06-6/20/06. Silt fence has been installed near the work. 6/20/06.</p>	<p>- This is not project related but should be noted for the record in case there are issues here later. 6/7-6/20/06.</p>	<p>- Not project jurisdictional</p>
	<p>-The area of silt fence near pole #11078 had sediment piled up against it again. 6/7-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-Controls need repair and sediment should be pulled back. Continue to maintain. 6/7-6/20/06</p>	<p>-Needs attention</p>
	<p>- The foundation near the Norwalk substation has good silt fence coverage. 5/17-6/20/06. However, bare, exposed soil remains adjacent to the foundation. 6/7-6/20/06</p>	<p>-Continue to monitor due to proximity of the river. Restore the adjacent area with vegetation to reduce potential run-off, even if it is temporarily. 6/7-6/20/06</p>	<p>- Needs attention if feasible</p>
Kent Rd. (North – new ROW section)	<p>- Mats were installed at foundation #68 on North Seir Hill Rd. due to wet conditions. 6/1-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-Install silt fence downgradient of the mats if necessary. 6/1-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-Needs attention if feasible.</p>
	<p>- The stream/wetland crossing in the Kent Rd, new ROW section, had corner controls installed.</p>	<p>-Continue to monitor to prevent runoff from the access road. 6/20/06.</p>	<p>- N/A</p>
	<p>-Although water in the stream was not turbid during the recent heavy</p>	<p>-Extend the silt fence along both banks of the stream to prevent run-off</p>	<p>- Needs attention</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Kent Rd. (South)	<p>rain, portions of the banks need silt fence due to lack of vegetation 6/7-6/20/06.</p> <p>- The swale leading into a wetland area in this section has good silt fence installed. 6/7-6/20/06</p> <p>- Mats were in place at the pooled wetland crossing as well. Water here remains clear without obvious turbidity. 6/7-6/20/06</p> <p>-Silt fence was installed along the pond. The pond was not receiving any turbid run-off, even during heavy rains but a few spots in the silt fence may come un-toed. 6/7-6/20/06</p> <p>-Slightly turbid run-off was noted leaving the ROW at Kent Rd during the rain event on 6/7/06. Stone has been added to the access road to prevent and filter run-off. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- Mats are installed along much of the ROW south of Kent Rd. During the heavy rains, sediment and stone overtopped the silt fence in several locations here 6/7-6/20/06.</p>	<p>from the recently cleared areas. 6/7-6/20/06</p> <p>- Erosion controls were well installed and should be maintained. 6/7-6/20/06</p> <p>- Continue to monitor. Watch silt fence for any areas that need to be toed back in. 6/7-6/20/06</p> <p>- Monitor silt fence carefully and restore all spots beginning to come un-toed. 6/7-6/20/06</p> <p>-Continue to monitor. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- Pull silt fence up and repair if not already done. These areas will be difficult to control during heavy rain due. Pull stone/sediment back from wetland where necessary. 6/7-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>- N/A at the time</p> <p>- Stone added to access road.</p> <p>- Needs attention</p>
Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and	-The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings have	- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so	-N/A until evaluated at the end of work.

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<p>mitigation</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p> <p><b>All Sections</b></p>	<p>worked well. 4/6-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Direct damage was noted in the wetland at the 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-6/20/06.</p> <p>- At structure #6, most of the mud was removed from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 4/6-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Non project related vehicles continue to be noted in the wetland between #10-11. 6/7-6/14-6/20/06</p> <p>-The pond, stream, and pooled area in the new ROW section off Kent Rd are fairly well protected by controls but silt fence should be extended at the stream. 6/14-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Use caution in clearing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 3/29-6/20/06.</p> <p>-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-6/20/06.</p>	<p>the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-6/20/06.</p> <p>- The damage to the 3<sup>rd</sup> wetland should be repaired if feasible but it may be more damaging to go in at this time. 5/4-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Continue to remove entire pile. 2/16-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Ruts should be smoothed out and silt fence added in an attempt to discourage access. 5/25-6/20/06</p> <p>-Carefully remove some of the branches and debris noted in the stream and extend silt fence where recommended. 6/7-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible, especially at stream buffers. 3/2-6/20/06.</p> <p>-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Watch this near the pooled area on the new ROW section</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>-Needs attention when feasible.</p> <p>-Needs attention (the majority of disturbance is from non project related vehicles)</p> <p>-Needs attention see erosion control section</p> <p>- Several wetland areas in the new section had retained shrubs.</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. 9/15-6/20/06.</p>	<p>- Now that weather is warmer, daily walkthroughs should be occurring prior to any work in the area. 4/6-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-N/A at this time</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
	<p>-An Eastern box turtle was noted crossing the access road near structure #7 in the Chestnut Ridge Rd section on 6/14/06.</p>	<p>- Perform walkthroughs in this new section as well. 6/14-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-N/A</p>
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p>	<p>- Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-6/20/06.</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. 2/22-6/20/06.</p> <p>-This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-6/20/06.</p> <p>-Clearing was not actively occurring along the ROW past Archers Lane. 6/20/06.</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 5/10-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Clearing of new ROW continues in the Kent Rd. section and is coming in from the other end of the pond. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- Efforts were made to retain stumps and shrubs along the bank of the pond, stream and pooled area. 6/7-6/20/06.</p>	<p>-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-6/20/06.</p> <p>-Replace shrubs where necessary. 6/20/06.</p> <p>- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&amp;M plan. 2/22-6/20/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-6/20/06.</p> <p>- To avoid wetland damage, trees here will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-6/20/06</p> <p>-The area was largely clearcut when the D&amp;M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 5/10-6/20/06</p> <p>- Herbaceous wetland species are growing back fairly well 6/20/06</p> <p>- Be extremely careful to retain shrubs and vegetation where feasible. 5/25-6/20/06.</p> <p>- Some downed branches were noted in the stream that could be carefully removed. 6/7-6/20/06</p>	<p>-Needs attention when feasible</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>- Several areas near wetlands did have vines and shrubs in place.</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Dewatering	- No obvious dewatering efforts were noted at the time of inspection. 6/20/06.	- 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. 3/9-6/20/06.	-N/A at this time
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 6/20/06.	-None at this time. 6/20/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment was leaking at the time of inspection. 3/15-6/20/06.	- 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. - Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.	-N/A  - Not jurisdictional to the project
Additional Observations			

**Next likely scheduled inspection:** Wednesday June 28, 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 spot along the Archers Lane ROW where the access road stone overtopped the fence. It should be pulled back. **(345kV H-Frame):** Photo on the right shows the controls installed near structure #2 last week. 6/20/06



**(345kV H-Frame):** Photo on the left shows a view of the wetland between structures #10 and 11. Adjacent landowners have reported vehicles here which are not project related. Some silt fence across the access road may help to prevent this. Photo on the right shows vegetation growing well within the wetland. 6/20/06.



**Photo on the left shows the wire pulling in the vicinity of John Todd Way. Photo on the right shows the silt fence in place and the vegetative cover near structure #24. 6/20/06.**



**Photo on the left shows the erosion controls in place near structure #25. (Norwalk Section): Photo on the right shows new foundations being installed along the new portion of the ROW, north of Kent Rd. 6/20/06.**



**(Kent Rd):** Photo on the left shows the matted stream crossing. Silt fence should be extended along the banks here. Photo on the right shows the silt fence in good shape near the natural swale. 6/20/06.



**Photo on the left shows a view of the pond with the silt fence in good shape. Photo on the right shows a view of mats placed in a wet area to access the structure. 6/20/06**



**Photo on the left shows another view of the ROW in the Kent Rd/North Seir Hill Rd. area. (Perry Ave): Photo on the right shows where the silt fence remains in place at the structure adjacent to the overflow portion of the river. The area surrounding the foundation should be revegetated. 6/20/06**



**Photo on the left shows a view of the ROW in the Perry Ave section. Towers will be removed eventually. Photo on the left shows the structure near Norwalk Substation. Erosion controls remain in place but the area should be re-vegetated to decrease potential run-off. 6/20/06**