

**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:** August 17, 2006

**Inspector:** Lee Curtis, Susan Infalt

**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:** Depending on location, between 0.49-0.59" of rain was recorded on 8/15, with possibly higher localized totals as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways	- The Composite ROW work is mainly accessible from Gallows Hill Rd by an existing trail path with a swing gate, and an access road passing through the Archers Lane station. 8/17/06. -Most steep slopes have erosion in the stone dust.	- 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. 12/8/05-8/17/06.	-Not Applicable (N/A) until evaluation at the end of work.
<b>Composite</b>	- 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. 3/2-8/17/06.	-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 8/17/06.	- Still needs attention
	- Even with the recent repairs, erosion on the access road has caused stone to spill over the silt fence further down-gradient. 8/17/06	-This is adjacent to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> wetland crossing and will have to be pulled back and repaired again. 8/17/06	- Needs attention (even following recent repairs).
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	- Work areas are accessed from Hoyts Hill, Chestnut Ridge Rd, Webb Rd, Lime Kiln Rd,	-Continue to monitor the conditions of all access roads. If muddy conditions re-occur, place	- N/A at this time

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<b>Norwalk Section</b>	<p>Whortleberry Rd, John Todd Way and Costa Lane. 3/29-8/17/06.</p> <p>- The access road erosion near structure #31 was regraded but erosion continues to the adjacent driveway even with the haybales in place. 7/19-8/17/06.</p> <p>- Controls at Bethel water building were in good shape. However, Webb Rd has received significant storm run-off from Nashville Rd ext. 7/12-8/17/06.</p> <p>- At Kent Rd (north) sediment tracking was not noted on the street. 7/19-8/17/06.</p> <p>-Mats remain in good shape over the wetlands in this section. 8/17/06</p> <p>-Several wetlands are matted to the south of Kent Rd. Silt fence appears to be in good shape along this section. 8/17/06.</p>	<p>more wood chips or consider installing silt fence as needed. 8/17/06.</p> <p>-Continue to monitor and keep stone out of any resource areas. Haybales currently contain the sediment. 7/26-8/17/06</p> <p>- Flow from Webb Rd during rain events is not project related but it is washing out the road with each storm 7/5-8/16/06</p> <p>- Continue to maintain this entrance and sweep street when necessary. Add more clean stone if needed 7/19-8/17/06</p> <p>- None at this time. 8/17/06</p> <p>- Continue to maintain and reinforce the spots that continuously wash out. 7/12-8/17/06</p>	<p>-Look into more permanent solutions.</p> <p>- Evaluate road condition</p> <p>-N/A at this time</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>- Silt fence seems to be in good repair</p>
<p><b>Line Construction Composite</b></p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p>	<p>- Active work was not noted in the Archers Lane ROW section this week. 8/17/06.</p> <p>- Crews were clearing danger trees in the area of Costa Lane 8/17/06</p> <p>- Ropes were in place for pulling wire in several places near Kent Rd to the north and south. Wire pulling also continues at</p>	<p>- None at this time. 8/17/06.</p> <p>- None at this time 8/17/06</p> <p>-None at this time. 8/17/06.</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>- N/A</p> <p>-N/A</p>

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Line Construction continued	<p>the Norwalk Sub 8/17/06.</p> <p>- The final structure had been installed at #11048 south of Arrowhead Rd.. 8/17/06</p>	<p>-None at this time. 8/17/06.</p>	<p>- N/A</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p>Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.</p>	<p>- Although controls upgradient of the 2<sup>nd</sup> wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road were repaired, additional run-off caused stone to pile over the fence again. 8/17/06.</p> <p>- Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-8/17/06. Another area with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW remains past Archers Lane. 3/15-8/17/06.</p> <p>- An old stockpile was noted at a structure before Rt 53 off Gallows Hill. 5/17-8/17/06</p> <p>- The controls at structure #34 off Gallows Hill remain in good shape but the surrounding area is bare of vegetation 8/17/06</p> <p>-The majority of the pile at structure#6 has been removed but soil remains encroaching on wetlands 4/12-8/17/06.</p> <p>- Ruts and disturbance</p>	<p>- Controls should be maintained as necessary and the stone has to be pulled back from the wetland. More permanent measures will be needed. 8/17/06.</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. 2/22-8/17/06.</p> <p>- Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 4/6-8/17/06.</p> <p>-Make sure that restoration occurs in previously disturbed areas and that materials are removed and not forgotten in place. 5/17-8/17/06</p> <p>- The area should be restored and vegetated-even if it is temporarily. 6/14-8/17/06</p> <p>- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-8/17/06.</p> <p>- Haybales should be placed across the ROW to</p>	<p>-N/A</p> <p>-Still needs attention (CL&amp;P is looking into a solution here)</p> <p>- Needs attention when feasible</p> <p>- Needs attention when feasible.</p> <p>- Needs attention when feasible</p> <p>- Needs attention (even though the majority of</p>

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<p>Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way</p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p> <p>Kent Rd. (North – new ROW section)</p>	<p>remain in the wetland between poles #10-11. although vegetation is increasing. 8/17/06.</p> <p>- Areas near structures #24-25 remain bare of vegetation. 8/17/06.</p> <p>- The driveway contractor (unrelated to the project) remains in this area. The driveway fill appears to encroach on wetlands as the contractor widened the road. 7/19-8/17/06.</p> <p>- The access road erosion near structure #31 was regraded but erosion had returned despite the haybales. 7/19-8/17/06</p> <p>- The area near pole #11078 remains fairly bare of vegetation 8/17/06.</p> <p>- The area near pole #11080 at the substation remains fairly bare of vegetation 8/17/06.</p> <p>- The stone access pad north of Kent Rd may still need some cleanup but there was no tracking in the road at this time. 8/17/06</p> <p>- Silt fence remains along both banks of the stream and near the foundation at the pond in the Kent Rd north section. 7/19-8/17/06.</p>	<p>prevent sedimentation and help discourage access. 5/17-8/17/06</p> <p>- Revegetate the areas ASAP to reduce run-off. 8/9-8/17/06.</p> <p>- This is not project related but should be noted for the record in case there are issues here later. 6/7-8/17/06.</p> <p>- Keep all stone/sediment from entering resource areas and evaluate better stabilization measures. 7/19-8/17/06</p> <p>-This area should be restored/seeded even if temporarily since this area washes out regularly 7/19-8/17/06</p> <p>- Restore the adjacent area with vegetation to reduce potential run-off, even if it is temporarily. 6/7-8/17/06</p> <p>-Continue to maintain and sweep the street when necessary. Improve pad if needed. 7/19-8/17/06</p> <p>-Continue to monitor and maintain as needed. 8/17/06</p>	<p>the damage is not project related.)</p> <p>-Silt fence was repaired</p> <p>- Not project jurisdictional</p> <p>-Continue to evaluate.</p> <p>-N/A</p> <p>- Needs revegetation when feasible.</p> <p>- N/A at this time</p> <p>- N/A at this time</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
<p>Arrowhead Rd (south)</p> <p>Kent Rd. (South)</p>	<p>-Silt fence was still down at pole #11051 at the time of inspection. 8/3-8/17/06</p> <p>- Fence was in good shape along the Kent Rd south ROW but stone remains on other side. 8/17/06.</p>	<p>- Silt fence was repaired immediately after the inspection. 8/17/06</p> <p>-Continue to repair and reinforce controls. These areas will be difficult to control during heavy rain due to the drainage patterns. 7/12-8/17/06</p>	<p>- Fence was repaired.</p> <p>- Remove stone when feasible.</p>
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation <b>Composite</b></p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p> <p><b>Norwalk Section</b></p>	<p>-The D&amp;M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings have worked fairly well. 4/6-8/17/06.</p> <p>- Mats were removed from the wetland by Rt. 58. 8/17/06</p> <p>- At structure #6, most of the mud was removed from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 4/6-8/17/06.</p> <p>- Non project related vehicles had not returned to the wetland between #10-11 but damage remains. Vegetative growth has increased 8/17/06</p> <p>-Controls needed repair at #51 adjacent to the wetland near the pond at Kent Rd 8/17/06</p> <p>- Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 3/29-8/17/06.</p>	<p>- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-8/17/06.</p> <p>- 345kV XLPE crews restored the wetland. 8/17/06</p> <p>- Continue to remove entire pile. 2/16-8/17/06.</p> <p>- Haybales should be added across the access road on both side of the wetland to reduce sedimentation. 5/25-8/17/06</p> <p>-Silt fence was repaired immediately after the inspection. Adjacent wetlands were not impacted. 8/17/06</p> <p>- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible, especially at stream buffers. 3/2-8/17/06.</p>	<p>-N/A until the end of work.</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>- NA</p> <p>- N/A</p>

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<b>All Sections</b>	-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-8/17/06.	-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-8/17/06. - Watch this near the pooled area on the new ROW section	-N/A
State species of concern, threatened and endangered species	- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-8/17/06.  -An Eastern box turtle was noted crossing the access road near structure #7 in the Chestnut Ridge Rd section on 6/14/06.	- Now that weather is warmer, daily walkthroughs should be occurring prior to any work in the area. 4/6-8/17/06.  - Perform walkthroughs in this new section as well. 6/14-8/17/06.	-N/A at this time  -N/A
Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)  <b>Composite</b>  <b>345kV H-Frame</b>  <b>Norwalk Section</b>	- Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-8/17/06.  - 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. 2/22-8/17/06. -This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-8/17/06.  -Clearing was not actively occurring along the ROW past Archers Lane but may occur soon. 8/17/06.  - Clearing of danger trees was still occurring near Costa Lane. 8/17/06  -Some additional danger tree clearing/ log removal	-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-8/17/06. -Replace shrubs where necessary. 8/17/06.  - Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&M plan. 2/22-8/17/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-8/17/06.  - To avoid wetland damage, trees here will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-8/17/06  -Continue to monitor. 8/17/06  - Be extremely careful to retain shrubs and	-Needs attention when feasible  - Still needs attention CL&P is looking into this.  - CL&P proposed the work under these specs.  -N/A at this time  -N/A

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
	efforts remain 8/17/06.	vegetation where feasible. 5/25-8/17/06.	
Dewatering	- No obvious dewatering efforts were noted at the time of inspection. 8/17/06.	- 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. 3/9-8/17/06.	-N/A at this time
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 8/17/06.	-None at this time. 8/17/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	-No spills or drips were noted along the route this week. 8/17/06.  - In general, equipment should be parked over 100 ft from resource areas or as far as feasible. 8/17/06	- 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.	
Additional Observations			

**Next likely scheduled inspection:**

Thursday August 24, 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 repaired/reinforced silt fence along the access road in the ROW past Archers Lane. Photo on the right shows where stone continues to accumulate and spill over the fence even after repairs were recently made. 8/16/06



(345kV H-Frame): Photo on the left shows the view towards Hoys Hill in the Chestnut Ridge section of the ROW. Photo on the right shows a view towards structure #10 where the wetland crossing had been. Restore any bare soil areas when feasible. 8/16/06.



**Photo on the left shows a view towards the wetland and silt fence near structure #25 off Lime Kiln Rd. Restore vegetative cover where feasible. Photo on the right shows the continuing erosion of the access road near structure #31. 8/16/06**



**(Norwalk Section): Both photos show where silt fence remained partially down near structure #11051 adjacent to the wetland. (Fence was repaired after the inspection). 8/16/06.**



Photo on the left shows mats and silt fence in place along the section north of Kent Rd. Photo on the right shows a view of the structure in place along the bank of the pond. Ropes were in place for pulling wire. 8/16/06.



Photo on the left shows crews preparing to pull wire in the Kent Rd south area. Photo on the right shows work in the vicinity of North Seir Hill Rd. and Rt 7 extension. 8/16/06



**Photo on the left shows a view along the ROW near Perry Ave with all old towers removed from the area. Photo on the right shows where the river has receded back to its main channel with the dry weather. 8/16/06**



**Photo on the left shows the structures in place at the Broad St. crossing. Photo on the right shows structure #11080. Revegetate this area when feasible to reduce run-off to the silt fence and river. 8/16/06**