

**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:** December 14, 2005

**Inspector:** Diana Walden

**Location:** Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane)

**Storm/**

**Rain Event:** Approximately 0.76" of precipitation fell in the form of snow on 12/9 as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
<p>Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways</p>	<p>- The ROW 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 a new area cleared from the station to the ROW. 12/14/05</p> <p>- With the cold weather and snow, access roads and ROW were more frozen/stable. 12/8-12/14/05</p> <p>-The silt fence at some of the low spot/wetland crossings along the ROW may need to be extended or repaired, although, areas noted last week are now frozen over. 12/8-12/14/05.</p> <p>-Snow plowing issues were noted in a number of locations that. 12/14/05</p>	<p>-Most roads are in good shape and freezing conditions actually temporarily help the situation. Sedimentation is not an issue in most locations at this time but continue to monitor. 12/8-12/14/05</p> <p>- With freezing and thawing periods likely, mats should be considered to prevent ruts and create more stable conditions. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, it will have to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-12/14/05</p> <p>- The wetland areas will be restored when all work in this section is completed as this is considered temporary access. See erosion control section for more detail. 12/8-12/14/05.</p> <p>-See erosion control section for more details. 12/14/05</p>
<p>Foundation construction</p>	<p>-The foundation was installed for the structure adjacent to Archers Lane. 12/14/05.</p>	<p>-None at this time. 12/14/05</p>

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	<p>- Crews were working on pulling rope between the pole structures in preparation for line/cable pulling. 12/14/05</p>	<p>- None at this time. 12/14/05.</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls (includes inspection within 24 hours of a storm event) Erosion and Sediment Controls</p>	<p>-Water had been flowing around and/or underneath the silt fence although areas are now frozen over. Silt fence should be extended in areas where pooled water is reaching beyond the limits of the fence. All silt fence should be checked to be sure it is still toed in properly. 12/01-12/14/05.</p> <p>- The ROW and roads had been very muddy but are now frozen. 12/14/05</p> <p>- The 2<sup>nd</sup> structure in from Gallows Hill has had a bare soil stockpile/slope adjacent to the wetland with controls still well in place. 11/23-12/14/05.</p> <p>-On the Archers Lane side of the ROW, a vehicle had disturbed the soil and vegetation on the edge of the access road. 12/1-12/14/05.</p> <p>- Sediment, which is likely turbid dewatering from an excavation, had been placed at the top of slope but had drained to a wetland area. This is located off the left fork of the access path to the ROW coming from the Archers Lane station. 11/17-12/14/05</p> <p>- Snow plowing for access created some potential issues where snow was pushed over the controls in some places adjacent to wetlands. 12/14/05.</p>	<p>- The silt fence should be extended, towed in, and/or repaired as necessary. When maintained, the silt fence does a very good job of keeping turbid water out of the wetlands. These areas are frozen at this point but the controls should be prepared for thaw periods. 12/8-12/14/05.</p> <p>- Mats may be necessary to stabilize the access road for equipment movement during thaw periods. 12/8-12/14/05</p> <p>- The area should be regraded, pulled back from the fence, and restored when feasible due to weather. 12/1-12/14/05</p> <p>-The ruts should be repaired and silt fence may be needed along the edge of disturbance. Snow cover makes it difficult to see or repair this area. 12/14/05.</p> <p>- The sediment was not scraped up and removed prior to snow cover and is now difficult to see. Control all dewatering discharge especially near wetlands. 12/8-12/14/05</p> <p>- The snow needs to be pulled back from these areas and silt fence righted. 12/14/05</p>

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<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p>	<p>-The D&amp;M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings has worked well, but a few area came untoed and turbid water mixed in before the area froze over. Continue to toe in and/or extend the fence as necessary. 12/8-12/14/05</p> <p>-There was what appears to be excavation-dewatering discharge that drained to a wetland area off the left fork access road near Archers Lane. 11/17-12/14/05</p> <p>- Snow plow piles adjacent to wetland areas can distribute sediment when the snow melts. 12/14/05</p>	<p>-The crossings have been used consistently. As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 12/14/05. Extend and/or toe in areas of silt fence where necessary to prevent additional turbidity during thaw periods. 12/8-12/14/05</p> <p>-The solid sediment was not contained and removed prior to snow cover. 11/17-12/14/05</p> <p>- Pull the snow piles back and fix the silt fence. 12/14/05</p>
<p>State species of concern, threatened and endangered species</p>	<p>- This particular portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-12/14/05.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and are likely in the process of hibernating. 12/14/05.</p>	<p>-Crews had been doing daily sweeps for any turtles in the work areas and noting the results of their efforts on daily construction reports although turtles would no longer be active. 12/14/05</p>
<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p>	<p>- Accidental disturbance to vegetation occurred in a small area off the access road due to equipment movement a few weeks ago. 12/1-12/14/05</p> <p>- No further clearing was noted at this inspection. 12/14/05</p>	<p>- Repair and restore the area. This may be difficult to see during snow cover. 12/8-12/14/05</p> <p>- None at this time. 12/14/05</p>
<p>Dewatering</p>	<p>- Very few, if any activities remain that would potentially require dewatering. 12/14/05</p>	<p>- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. 12/14/05</p>
<p>Blasting</p>	<p>-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 12/14/05.</p>	<p>-None at this time. 12/14/05.</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Spills and Material Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No further spills or drips were noted at this inspection. 12/14/05</li> <li>- With the large number of trucks parked on the ROW near Gallows Hill, be observant of potential leaks/maintenance issues. 12/14/05</li> </ul>	<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>- 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.</li> </ul>
Additional Observations		

**Next likely scheduled inspection:**

Thursday December 22, 2005

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*



Photo on the left shows the erosion controls in place near the 2<sup>nd</sup> structure off Gallows Hill. This area will need restoration when snow cover is gone. Photo on the right shows the silt fence at the wetland crossing which should be extended during a thaw period. 12/14/05



View of the equipment actively pulling rope through the structures. 12/14/05



Photo on the left is a view along the ROW looking towards the Archers Lane side. Photo on the right is looking at some of the completed work on the first structure near Gallows Hill. 12/14/05



Photo on the left shows the low spot/wetland crossing near Archers Lane where water is apparently pooling through the fence to the wetland. This area will need to be secured to provide filtration to run-off. Photo on the right shows the access with snow piled along the road. 12/14/05



**Photo on the left shows another wetland area with snow piling up to and over the silt fence. This allows sediment to cross the barrier when the snow. Photo on the right is an overview of the ROW from the Archers Lane side. 12/14/05**



**The check dams that were previously installed are a good addition as they appear to be preventing some run-off from the access road from reaching adjacent wetlands. 12/14/05**