



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01742-2751

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 1, 2006

Regulatory Division
CENAE-R-PEB
File No. NAE-2004-1162

Honorable Christopher Shays
House of Representatives
1126 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515-0704

Dear Mr. Shays:

This is in reference to your November 21, 2006 letter regarding the Connecticut Light and Power Company's (CL&P) proposed utility bridge crossing over Ash Creek between Fairfield and Bridgeport, Connecticut. We acknowledge the concerns of the Town of Fairfield regarding the proposed utility bridge.

The Corps is not opposed to horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or open cut construction, especially if either of these methods were determined to be less environmentally damaging practicable alternatives with respect to aquatic resource impacts. CL&P's initial application included an HDD crossing under Ash Creek. They later changed to a utility bridge crossing because of geotechnical issues. It is now our understanding that they have reassessed the situation and are again proposing to use the HDD method to cross Ash Creek. Therefore, the utility bridge is not an issue at this point.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at 978-318-8220, or your staff may contact Susan Lee at 978-318-8494.

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Thalken
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Honorable Christopher Shays
Representative in Congress
10 Middle Street, 11th Floor
Bridgeport, CT 06604-4223

Attn: Mr. Donald Biondi
Connecticut Light & Power Company
107 Selden Street
Berlin, CT 06037

CONGRESSMAN
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

DEC 05 2006

BRIDGEPORT, CT

P.M.P.