



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

October 25, 2006

Mr. Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman  
Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Mr. Caruso:

Subject: Middletown - Norwalk  
345-kV Transmission Project  
River Crossings  
Ash Creek, Sasco Creek and Mill River  
Town of Fairfield and City of Bridgeport

In September 2006, Northeast Utilities (NU) submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC), its proposed Development and Management Plan for river and railroad crossings located within Segment 4a of the transmission project. The purpose of this correspondence is to encourage the CSC to compel NU to fully vet the option of open trench methodology as a means to cross the subject streams.

Since the September submission, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) has reviewed several proposals from NU that put forth either a utility bridge or attachment to the highway bridge as a means to traverse the streams. The Department acknowledges that it is technically feasible to attach the power lines to the underside of the bridges at Sasco Creek and the Mill River, but the presence of transmission lines will make inspection and repairs of the bridges more difficult and costly. Based upon the Department's extensive experience in reconstructing bridges, it is our position that if NU's transmission lines are attached to these bridges, all of the following will be true when the bridge is reconstructed:

- Construction staging will be far more complicated
- Construction duration will be significantly increased resulting in significant impacts to the traveling public, including economic disruptions to businesses in the area of the bridges
- Construction costs will be significantly increased. While the added costs will be absorbed by NU, those costs will eventually be passed on to the utility ratepayers.

The Ash Creek structure is a reinforced concrete arch structure, and the Department does not consider attachment to be feasible because of the internal corrosion issues that may be generated by the transmission lines. Therefore, NU must consider other alternatives for the Ash Creek location.

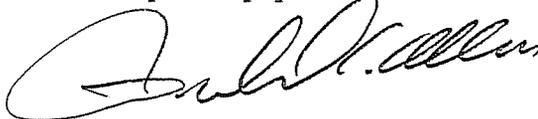
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Further, the Department understands the concerns expressed by the Town of Fairfield and the City of Bridgeport with regard to crossing these streams via an independent utility bridge. As requested in the City of Bridgeport's letter to CSC dated October 6, 2006, "burying these cables beneath the Creek bed via the trenching method needs to be re-visited" is a position also held by this Department. The Department believes that, while there may be temporary wetland impacts during the underground installation of the 345-kV facility, these impacts can be mitigated through flow diversion, turbidity control and other proven environmentally acceptable methods. In addition, this "in water" work could be accomplished with time of year restrictions that would further mitigate the short-term impacts of the installation. The Department believes the open trench methodology to be feasible and, overall, to be the least disruptive to all interests.

To that end, the Department requests that the CSC require NU to fully explore open trenching, as this option appears to have been prematurely dismissed.

Thank you for the Council's consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



*For* Arthur W. Gruhn, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
Bureau of Engineering and  
Highway Operations

cc: The Honorable Kenneth Flatto, First Selectman, Town of Fairfield  
The Honorable John M. Fabrizi, Mayor, City of Bridgeport  
Ms. Anne Bartosewicz, Project Director, Northeast Utilities