



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

www.ct.gov/csc

June 24, 2016

James R. Morrissey, Esq.
UIL Holdings Corporation
157 Church Street
P.O. Box 1564
New Haven, CT 06506-0901

RE: **PETITION NO. 1176** – The United Illuminating Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed Bridgeport 115-kV transmission line upgrade project consisting of the northern and southern sections of 115-kV lines extending from Congress Substation in the City of Bridgeport to Baird Substation in the Town of Stratford, Connecticut, and related substation improvements. **Development & Management Plan.**

Dear Attorney Morrissey:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on June 23, 2016, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on June 6, 2016.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on June 6, 2016. Requests for any changes to the D&M Plan shall be approved by Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-62(b). Furthermore, the project developer is responsible for reporting requirements pursuant to RCSA §16-50j-62.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the council's decision on the petition dated September 21, 2015 and in the D&M Plan dated June 3, 2016 and is subject to the following conditions:

1. Install and maintain rigid situation barriers to isolate work areas from adjacent wetland areas;
2. That approval of any requested significant changes to the approved D&M Plan be delegated to Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-62(b). In accordance with that section, if advance written notice is impractical, the Petitioner shall provide verbal notice of the changes and shall submit written specifications to the Council within 48 hours after the verbal notice.

Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated June 23, 2016.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RDM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated June 23, 2016

c: The Honorable Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor, City of Bridgeport
Parag Agrawal, Planning Director, City of Bridgeport
David Kooris, Director, Office of Planning and Economic Development, City of Bridgeport
The Honorable John A. Harkins, Mayor, Town of Stratford
Jay Habansky, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Town of Stratford
Amy Hicks, The United Illuminating Company

Petition No. 1176
The United Illuminating Company
Bridgeport 115-kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project
Bridgeport – Stratford, Connecticut

Development and Management Plan Staff Report
June 23, 2016

On September 17, 2015, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) approved a petition from The United Illuminating Company (UI) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed Bridgeport-Stratford 115-kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project (Project). The Project consists of the replacement of existing bonnet transmission structures mounted on MetroNorth Railroad (MNRR) catenaries with new monopole structures. In its decision, the Council required UI to submit a Development and Management Plan (D&M Plan) detailing construction procedures and the final location of the new structures. On June 6, 2016, UI submitted the D&M Plan for the Project to the Council and to the Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport. Neither municipality provided comment regarding the D&M Plan to the Council.

The D&M Plan contains detailed Project drawings and provisions for construction methods, construction support and laydown areas, dust control, work hours, environmental resource management, stormwater pollution control, noise control, soil and groundwater management, snow and ice removal, and final restoration.

The Project extends for 2.3 miles between the Congress Substation in Bridgeport and the Baird Substation in Stratford. The Project involves the installation of 83 new galvanized steel monopoles and new 115-kV 1590-kcmil conductors to replace the existing 795-kcmil conductors mounted on the catenary bonnets. On the north side of the MNRR, UI will install 42 single steel monopole structures ranging in height from 80 to 120 feet with an average height of 80 feet. On the south side of the MNRR, UI will install 41 single steel monopole structures ranging in height from 80 to 120 feet with an average height of 90 feet.

The new monopoles will be installed approximately 15 to 25 feet from the existing MNRR catenaries and will be supported on concrete drilled pier foundations. Most of the new monopoles will be located within the existing MNRR right-of-way. In some areas the monopoles will be installed along local roads. The Project also includes the removal of the bonnets and conductors mounted on the catenaries and minor connection work within both substations.

Subsequent to the Council's approval of the Petition, several monopole locations were relocated to maintain proper alignment with the Baird Substation replacement project that was approved by the Council on April 28, 2016 in Docket 465. These changes include the following:

- Structures 825ANS and 825ANN were shifted approximately 150 feet to the west.
- Structures 824S and 824N were shifted approximately 50 feet to the west.
- Structure 825AS was shifted approximately 150 feet to the east.

All Project work will be coordinated with the MNRR. UI is in the process of obtaining necessary permits from MNRR and the Connecticut Department of Transportation for the construction of overhead transmission lines over the railroad as well as within the railroad right-of-way. UI has obtained permits from the US Army Corp of Engineers, the US Coast Guard, The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), CT State Historic Preservation Office, and the DEEP Office of Long Island Sound. UI has consulted with the City of Bridgeport and the Town of Stratford and will submit applications to appropriate local agencies for road crossings, street excavation and blasting permits. UI will notify property owners of record prior to construction.

UI intends to begin work in August 2016 with completion scheduled for March 2019. The August 2016 start date will occur around a recently scheduled MNRR outage which will enable UI to construct an access road to new structure location 825ANN. Typical work hours will be between 7 AM and 7 PM Monday through Friday, with some work on Saturday and Sundays, and night work from 10 PM to 5 AM Monday through Sunday, as necessary. During MNRR outages and time sensitive installations, work may continue for 24 hours.

Most of the Project area is accessible from existing access roads or local roads abutting the railroad right-of-way. Existing access roads may be widened and new roads established, as necessary. Gravel work pads and pull pads will be constructed in designated locations. Once the Project is complete, temporary access roads, work pads and pull pads will be removed. Fencing and other structures removed for the Project will be restored/replaced upon Project completion.

Prior to construction, construction areas and sensitive environmental features will be field delineated and staked. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be established in accordance with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*.

Vegetation will be removed along the MNRR to accommodate construction as well as to maintain conductor clearance requirements in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code. Clearing will be required in two wetland areas, totaling 3,500 square feet. In addition to clearing, the wetland adjacent to structure 800N will have 25 square feet of temporary impact from the installation of construction matting and 10 square feet of permanent impact from filling.

Once construction is complete, cleared upland areas will be seeded with a rye seed mix and wetland areas seeded with a wetland seed mix. New transmission right-of-way areas will be maintained to prevent future growth of high canopy species that could interfere with transmission line operations. The D&M Plan contains an invasive species plan to reduce potential for the establishment of invasive plant species.

Although UI reviewed the Natural Diversity Database as part of the initial Petition filing, UI performed a second review prior to the filing of the D&M Plan. No listed species will be affected by the Project.

Subsurface investigations indicate contaminated soils and/or groundwater in certain portions of the Project area. UI will remove and dispose of contaminated soils/groundwater in accordance with regulatory criteria.

UI will designate an Environmental Analyst and an Environmental Inspector to the Project to oversee and review environmental practices during construction. Biweekly environmental reports will be filed with the Council during construction activities.

The D&M Plan for this project conforms to the Council's declaratory ruling and addresses the environmental issues likely to be encountered during this Project. Council staff recommends the following:

1. Install and maintain rigid siltation barriers to isolate work areas from adjacent wetland areas; and
2. That approval of any requested significant changes to the approved D&M Plan be delegated to Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-62(b). In accordance with that section, if advance written notice is impractical, the Petitioner shall provide verbal notice of the changes and shall submit written specifications to the Council within 48 hours after the verbal notice.