



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 5, 2016

James R. Morrissey, Esq.
UIL Holdings Corporation
157 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06506

RE: **PETITION NO. 1243** - The United Illuminating Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to its existing Ansonia Substation located at 24 Franklin Street and 4 Riverside Drive in Ansonia, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Morrissey:

At a public meeting held on August 4, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the above-referenced proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50k, would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, with the following conditions:

1. Use of off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board standards, or in the alternative, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions, including, but not limited to, retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts, particulate filters and use of ultra-low sulfur fuel;
2. Compliance with the provisions of Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that limit the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes;
3. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
4. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;
5. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the City of Ansonia;
6. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;

7. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v;
8. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided the facility owner/operator/transferor is current with payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v and the transferee provides written confirmation that the transferee agrees to comply with the terms, limitations and conditions contained in the Declaratory Ruling, including timely payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v; and
9. If the facility owner/operator is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation or other entity and is sold/transferred to another corporation or other entity, the Council shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer.

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 petition dated June 30, 2016.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Very truly yours,



Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/MP/cm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated August 4, 2016

- c: The Honorable David Cassetti, Mayor, City of Ansonia
David Blackwell, Sr., Zoning Enforcement/Anti-Blight Officer, City of Ansonia



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Petition No. 1243

The United Illuminating Company

Ansonia Substation

24 Franklin Street and 4 Riverside Drive, Ansonia

Staff Report

August 4, 2016

Introduction

On June 30, 2016, The United Illuminating Company (UI) submitted a petition (Petition) to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to the existing Ansonia Substation. This petition was field reviewed on July 22, 2016 by Council member Phil Ashton and Michael Perrone of the Council staff. James Morrissey, Esq., Attorney, UI; Syed Rahman, Project Engineer, UI; Shawn Crosbie, Environmental Analyst, UI; Adla Reddy, Project Manager, UI; and Samantha Marone, Permitting and Public Outreach, UI also attended the field review.

The ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE) *Southwest Connecticut Transmission 2022 Needs Assessment II* dated June 2014 determined that the 115-kilovolt (kV) system in the Frost Bridge-Naugatuck Valley sub-area of Southwest Connecticut (SWCT) is exposed to risks initiated by a single contingency transmission line failure event. If this event occurs during peak conditions, low voltage (e.g. brown outs) would occur in the area. ISO-NE's *SWCT Area Transmission Solutions Study Report* (Solutions Study) subsequently identified and recommended solutions to remedy the transmission system issues in SWCT, including in the Frost Bridge – Naugatuck Valley sub-area. As part of the remedies identified for the transmission system in the sub-area, the Solutions Study identified the need for two 25 mega-volt-ampere reactive (MVAR) 115-kV transmission capacitor banks at UI's Ansonia Substation. This proposed project is currently identified in the June 2016 ISO-NE Regional System Plan Project List with an estimated in-service date of December 2017.

Municipal Consultation and Notice

On March 26, 2016, UI representatives met with Mayor David Cassetti of the City of Ansonia to discuss the proposed modifications to the Ansonia Substation. By letter dated May 2, 2016, Ansonia's Zoning Enforcement Officer David Blackwell, Sr. noted that the proposed project to strengthen the electric system would benefit the needs of Ansonia's residents and businesses. By letter dated May 9, 2016, Mayor David Cassetti also expressed his support for the proposed project. Formal notice of the project was provided to the City of Ansonia, abutting property owners, and required state officials on or about June 30, 2016. No other comments were received.

Site

The Ansonia Substation site is located in a heavy industrial zone on a 1.5-acre parcel located west of Riverside Drive. The surrounding areas to the north and south are industrial in nature. To the east of the site is the Naugatuck River and industrial uses on the opposite side of the river. Directly to the west of the project site are existing trees and a residential area on Route 334.

The Ansonia Substation is connected to the transmission system via two overhead 115-kV transmission lines that extend into the substation from the northwest. The proposed modifications to the substation would be

located primarily in the northern portion of the substation yard and would extend easterly into an adjacent UI-owned property.

Proposed Project

Specifically, UI proposes to install the following at the existing Ansonia substation:

- a) Two 115-kV 25 MVAR capacitor banks;
- b) Two 115-kV circuit switchers with integral disconnect and ground switches;
- c) High profile 115-kV aluminum tubular bus work supported by station post insulators;
- d) 115-kV cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE) insulated underground cable with cable terminators;
- e) Two 115-kV sulfur hexafluoride gas insulated circuit breakers
- f) Two 115-kV vertical break disconnect switches
- g) Instrument transformers;
- h) Six damping air core reactors;
- i) Miscellaneous steel structures for equipment and bus work support to be installed on concrete spread footing foundations;
- j) Eight shielding masts for lightning protection; and
- k) Replacement of existing chain link fence with new 14-foot tall fence with 1-foot of barbed wire.

The tallest components inside the substation would be the proposed approximately 55-foot lightning masts for lightning safety.

To accommodate the proposed upgrade, the existing fenced substation would be expanded with an irregular shape towards the east. The incremental substation footprint would have maximum dimensions of approximately 200 feet measured in a roughly northeast-southwest direction and about 325 feet measured in the approximately northwest-southeast direction. The existing chain link fence has 2-inch mesh and is 14 feet tall topped with barbed wire. The expanded fence design is proposed to match the existing fence design for uniformity. UI would maintain the same existing paved access from Riverside Drive to the substation. However, this paved access would be widened inside the fenced substation, and an additional paved area would be constructed within the eastern section of the fenced substation. All other areas within the fenced substation would be crushed stone.

Environmental

The nearest residence is located on Franklin Street (Route 334), approximately 145 feet to the west of the existing substation. However, the incremental visual impact of the proposed project on this or other residences on Route 334 is not expected to be significant because such residences are located at an elevation approximately 60 feet higher than the substation base elevation. Thus, these residences are looking "over" the substation, which makes the substation's height appear much less. Even the tallest proposed objects in the substation (i.e. 55-foot tall lightning masts) are still less than the elevation difference.

Approximately 16 trees with a diameter of six inches or greater would be removed to construct the proposed substation expansion. The tree clearing areas would be along the northern and eastern sides of the existing substation. However, the tree clearing is not expected to significantly impact visibility because existing trees to the west would remain. These existing trees to remain are located between a residential area to the west and the substation.

UI had a cultural resource review performed by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage). By letter dated February 27, 2016, Heritage identified one Area of Potential Effect (APE). However, Heritage determined that, due to repeated disturbance during the 20th century, this APE no longer possesses archaeological

sensitivity. Thus, Heritage does not recommend any further archaeological research. By letter dated April 20, 2016, the State Historic Preservation Office noted that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project.

By letter dated March 14, 2016, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) noted that, per review of the Natural Diversity Database, the blueback herring, a State-designated Species of Special Concern, may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. On March 31, 2016, Fuss & O'Neil, Inc. (UI's consultant) informed DEEP that there would be no stormwater discharge from the site to the Naugatuck River, and no work would be performed in the water. DEEP's fisheries biologist replied by email dated March 31, 2016 and indicated that the proposed project would not affect the blueback herring.

There are no wetlands on or in the vicinity of the proposed project. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services National Wetlands Inventory, the nearest wetland is west of Route 8, roughly 0.5 miles to the southwest. No vernal pools were identified in or around the project area.

Erosion and sedimentation controls would be consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sedimentation Control*.

The proposed project is not located within a DEEP-designated Aquifer Protection Area.

The project is located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency Zone X (shaded). Zone X (shaded) is an area between the 100-year and 500-year flood zones, but is protected from a 100-year flood by an existing levee system.

Based on the proposed scope of work at the site, with a footprint of approximately 1.3 acres, UI would register with DEEP under the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Remediation Wastewaters from Construction Activities and would develop a project-specific stormwater pollution control plan.

Due to the concentration of certain constituents within the soils on the substation site, UI would apply for and obtain a registration under DEEP's General Permit for the Discharge of Groundwater Remediation Wastewater to a Sanitary Sewer. UI would require its construction contractor to adhere to the requirements of this permit in order to avoid or minimize the potential for on-site contaminants, which may be encountered in the on-site soils or groundwater, to migrate off-site to water resources from construction activities via stormwater. Therefore, groundwater encountered in excavations or stormwater that accumulates in construction areas would be pumped first to an on-site treatment unit before being discharged to Ansonia's sanitary sewer infrastructure. Soils excavated during construction would be handled in accordance with UI's Soil, Groundwater & Stormwater Management Plan and would be disposed of off-site at an approved landfill facility.

The worst-case existing and proposed magnetic field levels under average load conditions would be at the southern fence line of the expanded substation area. This corresponds to Profiles 4 and 5 at a distance of zero feet on page 21 of UI's Electric and Magnetic Field Assessment Report (EMF Report) prepared by Exponent, Inc. The existing or pre-construction magnetic field level at this location would be approximately 10.1 milligauss (mG). The proposed or post-construction magnetic field level at this location under average load conditions would increase slightly to 11.5 mG. The existing magnetic field levels at the nearest residence on Franklin Street (Route 334) based on average load conditions is on the order of 0.4 mG. Post-construction magnetic field levels at this location would be nearly unchanged at approximately 0.3 mG. Thus, all projected magnetic field levels identified in the EMF Report would remain far below the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection acceptable exposure level of 2,000 mG for general public

as recognized in the Council's "Electric and Magnetic Field Best Management Practices for the Construction of Electric Transmission Lines in Connecticut."

The operation of the substation, as modified by the proposed project, would continue to comply with DEEP noise regulations.

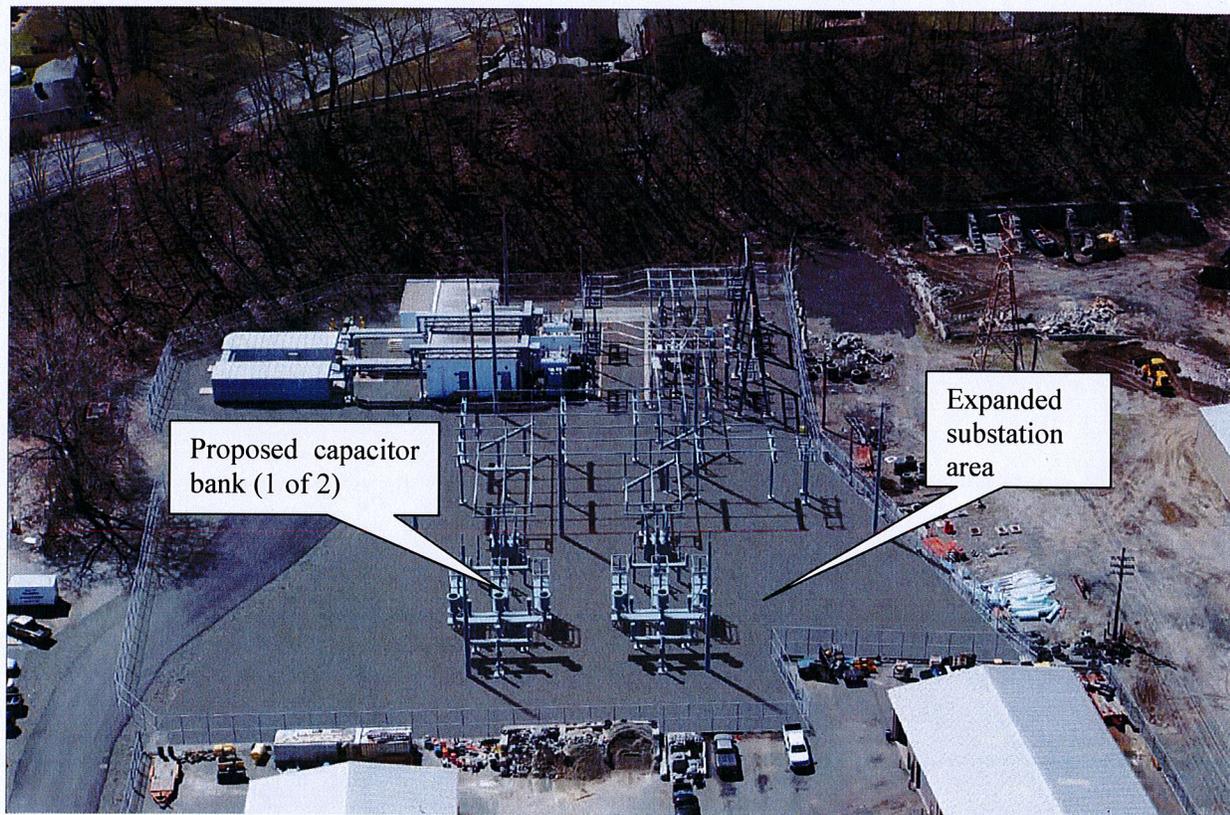
Construction Schedule

UI anticipates beginning construction approximately March 2017 and completing construction by approximately November 2017. Normal working hours would be Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Non-standard work hours may be required during transmission line outages. Construction-related noise is exempt per DEEP noise regulations. Notwithstanding, any construction-related impacts to existing noise levels would be short-term and localized in the vicinity of the work site.

Conclusion

If approved, staff recommends including the following conditions:

- a) Use of off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board standards, or in the alternative, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions, including, but not limited to, retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts, particulate filters and use of ultra-low sulfur fuel;
- b) Compliance with the provisions of Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that limit the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes; and
- c) Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.



Final Configuration with substation expansion, new capacitor banks and associated equipment