



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 8, 2016

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1228** – 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 Pootatuck Substation located at 14 Old Stratford Road in Shelton, Connecticut and related modifications to adjacent 115-kV transmission lines within existing Eversource Energy right-of-way.

Dear Attorney Morrissey:

At a public meeting held on July 7, 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. Use of native species for project restoration/landscaping;
4. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
5. 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;
6. 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 Town of Shelton;

7. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
8. 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;
9. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided the facility owner/operator/transferee 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
10. 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 April 15, 2016.

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

Very truly yours,



Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RDM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated July 7, 2016

c: The Honorable Mark A. Laretti, Mayor, City of Shelton
Richard Schultz, Planning Administrator, City of Shelton
Amy Hicks, The United Illuminating Company



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Petition No. 1228

**The United Illuminating Company
Pootatuck Substation, Shelton, Connecticut
Staff Report
July 7, 2016**

Introduction

On April 15, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (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 modifications to the Pootatuck Substation located at 14 Old Stratford Road in Shelton, Connecticut. The Pootatuck Substation was approved by the Council on March 7, 2013 in Docket 433 and was placed into service in 2015. It was designed to accommodate future expansion within the substation yard.

Council member Robert Hannon and Council staff member Robert Mercier conducted a field review of the proposed project on June 21, 2016 with UI representatives James Morrissey, Esq., Amy Hicks, Samantha Marone, Tony Buccheri, Richard Pinto and Ralph Anderson. No members of the public or the City of Shelton were in attendance.

Notice of the Petition was provided to the City and abutting property owners on or about April 15, 2016. Prior to submission of the Petition to the Council, UI met with City officials in December 2015 and February 2016 to discuss the project. To date, the Council has not received any comments regarding the Petition filing.

Proposed Project

The project is being proposed to eliminate potential 115-kV electric transmission system voltage criteria violations and potential overload conditions in the Frost Bridge-Naugatuck Valley sub-area that were identified in the June 2014 Southwest Connecticut Area Needs Assessment performed by ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE). ISO-NE's subsequent February 2015 Solutions Study identified the proposed project as necessary to alleviate reliability concerns in the Frost Bridge-Naugatuck Valley sub-area by providing voltage and thermal support during contingency events through the addition of a new 115-kV source to the substation and the installation of a new capacitor bank.

UI proposes to construct an additional 115-kV bay within the western portion of the substation yard and interconnect the new bay with Eversource's 1056 Line and the 1483 Line. New equipment within the substation includes a new 30 megavolt-ampere reactive 115-kV capacitor bank and associated gas circuit breaker as well as two new 60-foot tall H-frame terminal structures and a new 70-foot tall monopole. The existing transmission bus would be reconfigured from a single tie breaker to a four-breaker ring bus through the addition of three gas circuit breakers, associated switches and potential devices.

The 115-kV transmission line interconnection would also require two new steel monopoles installed outside of the substation but on UI's property to carry the lines into the substation. The new monopole associated with the 1056 Line would be 80 feet in height and the new monopole associated with the 1483 Line would be 95 feet in height. Existing structures associated with these lines range in height from 70 to 95 feet.

All substation work would be performed within the existing gravel substation yard and no expansion of the substation fence is necessary. A portion of the existing asphalt parking area for the substation control house would be removed to accommodate the proposed equipment and related foundations and underground conduits.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

Construction of the project would not require blasting. Excavation would be required for equipment foundations, stormwater control relocation and underground conduits. Site grading would be minimal.

Vegetative clearing would be minimal as most work is within the existing fenced substation. Several shrubs on UI's property in the transmission right-of-way would be removed to construct the two new interconnection monopoles. Meadow grasses and/or shrubs would be planted in disturbed areas once construction is completed.

The project is located in an upland area and no wetlands or floodplains would be impacted. The Far Mill River is located at the north end of UI's property.

As part of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) permit for the original substation project, UI established a 1.1 acre conservation easement along the Far Mill River riparian corridor extending along the north property line. The project would require the installation of a new interconnection monopole within the conservation area, resulting in 1,210 square feet of temporary impact and 30 square feet of permanent impact. This disturbance to the conservation area would not require additional permits from the ACOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

According to the DEEP Natural Diversity Database, no listed species are within the project area. No archeological or historic resources would be impacted by the project. UI submitted a Project Review Form to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on January 15, 2016. To date, UI has not received any correspondence from SHPO regarding this project.

Although the Project does not meet the threshold requirement for registration with DEEP for a *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Remediation Wastewaters from Construction Activities*, UI would implement standard construction best management practices and would conform to the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*.

Excavated soils would be segregated and disposed of off-site. Groundwater encountered during construction would be treated prior to discharge in accordance with DEEP and municipal permit requirements.

The existing substation is located adjacent to commercial property, Old Stratford Road and Route 8. No residences are nearby. The new substation equipment and new monopoles would be of similar height and appearance to that of existing equipment.

Noise levels associated with construction would be temporary and typical of construction activities.

Magnetic field levels would increase in certain areas along the western portion of the substation property after both lines are looped into the substation. Near the northwest corner of the substation property and beneath the transmission line, the magnetic field would increase from 42 milligauss (mG) to 53 mG. At the southwest corner of the substation property and under the transmission line, the magnetic field would increase from 20 mG to 50 mG. The increase in magnetic fields along the western side of the property declines rapidly with increased distance from the transmission lines. At 100 to 300 feet from the substation fence, the magnetic field from the substation and transmission lines would be less than that from existing electric distribution sources.

Construction Schedule

The project would be constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with established industry practices and UI's engineering and construction specifications. Construction would occur in stages, with some tasks overlapping, over an 8 to 9 month period. UI intends to begin construction in March 2017 with a projected in-service date of November 2017. Work activities would vary based on site conditions and line outages but it is expected site preparation and foundation installation would occur over the first three months, with equipment installation and operation testing occurring over the remaining five to six months. In general, work hours would be from 7 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday with additional hours scheduled on an as needed basis to complete critical and time sensitive tasks.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the following:

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. Use of native species for project restoration/landscaping; and
4. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.

Figure 1: Existing Pootatuck Substation, City of Shelton



Figure 2: Visual Rendering of Proposed Pootatuck Substation Modifications

