



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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www.ct.gov/csc

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 24, 2016

Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager-Transmission Siting
Eversource Energy
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

RE: **PETITION NO. 1230** – Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to its existing Stony Hill Substation including the installation of a new access road to the substation on Eversource's property located at 49 Stony Hill Road, Brookfield, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting held on June 23, 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. Examine the feasibility of extending the new access drive from Deer Tail Drive;
2. Submit a final site plan detailing road and substation clearing limits, contours, grading, drainage control and E&S controls, for Council review and approval;
3. Use of on-site material for side-slope armoring, if feasible;
4. Identification of Project construction work hours; and 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 Brookfield;
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/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
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 May 2, 2016 and additional information received on June 17, 2016.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Stein" followed by the initials "MAB".

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RDM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated June 23, 2016

- c: The Honorable Stephen C. Dunn, First Selectman, Town of Brookfield
Katherine Daniel, Community Development Director, Town of Brookfield
Alice Dew, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Town of Brookfield



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Petition No. 1230

Eversource Energy

Stony Hill Substation, Brookfield, Connecticut

Staff Report

June 23, 2016

Introduction

On May 2, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for proposed modifications to the Stony Hill Substation located at 49 Stony Hill Road in Brookfield Connecticut. Council member Robert Hannon and Council staff member Robert Mercier conducted a field review of the proposed project on June 10, 2016 with Eversource representatives Helen Taylor, Ken Case, Doug Czarnomski, Gregory Wilkosz, and Paul Knapik. No members of the public or the Town were in attendance. Notice of the Petition was provided to the Town of Brookfield and abutting property owners on or about May 2, 2016. Prior to submission of the Petition to the Council, Eversource met with Town officials in March 2016 to discuss the Project. To date, the Council has not received any comments regarding the Petition filing. Eversource submitted a revised site plan on June 17, 2016 to account for a slight redesign of the compound.

Proposed Project

The project is being proposed to eliminate potential transmission system voltage criteria violations and to regulate system voltage under certain contingency events, as identified in the June 2014 Southwest Connecticut Area Needs Assessment performed by ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE) and the ISO-NE February 2015 Solutions Study. To address these concerns, Eversource proposes the following:

- a. Expansion of the substation yard to the east by approximately 40,000 square feet. The new fence enclosing the expansion area would match the existing substation fence. A new 20-foot wide access gate would be located along the south side of the substation expansion area;
- b. Installation of one 25-MVAR synchronous condenser inside a new metal-clad enclosure, approximately 74 feet long by 35 feet wide by 33 feet high;
- c. Installation of two radiators for synchronous condenser cooling;
- d. Installation of one 12.47- kV to 115-kV step-up transformer;
- e. Installation of one 115-kV manual disconnect switch;
- f. Installation of one 115-kV sulfur hexafluoride circuit breaker;
- g. Installation of 115-kV bus support structures for the new equipment;
- h. Installation of two 60-foot tall lightning masts for protection of the new equipment;
- i. Installation of a permanent 700-foot long, 20-foot wide gravel access road extending from Stony Hill Road to the southeast side of the substation expansion area. An access gate would be installed at the entrance point on Stony Hill Road;
- j. Installation of security equipment and lighting; and
- k. Removal of two existing trailer mounted DVAR units and associated pad-mount transformers.



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Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

Eversource is proposing a new driveway to access the east end of the substation as the existing driveway only provides access to the west end of the substation. It is not possible to bring heavy equipment through the substation from the west end to the east end due to the arrangement of the existing substation equipment and fence. Although there is another existing gravel road that extends along a transmission line corridor adjacent to the north side of the substation, this road could not be used as it is too narrow and any necessary widening would be encumbered by an active rail line and transmission line structures and associated guy wires. Additionally, extensive retaining walls would be required to widen the road along the adjacent rail corridor to stabilize a steep slope.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database, there is one state-listed and federally listed endangered species in the general area of the site. Eversource would consult with DEEP and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to minimize potential impacts to this species.

Two wetland areas were delineated on Eversource's property. One wetland (W7) is a forested and emergent wetland located immediately east of the proposed substation expansion area. After the initial filing, Eversource slightly modified the substation fence line to increase the distance to W7 to the greatest extent possible (21 feet). The second wetland (W6) is a small forested wetland approximately 150 feet south of the proposed access drive.

No vernal pools were identified on Eversource's property. The Project area is not located within an aquifer protection area or within a FEMA designated flood hazard zone.

The substation expansion area and new access drive would require the clearing of 2.5 acres of woodland on Eversource's property. Although the access drive would have a 20-foot wide travel surface, a 50-foot corridor would be created to accommodate the equipment delivery trailer. Once construction is complete, Eversource would allow vegetation to regenerate to the edge of the gravel access drive.

The ground elevation in the substation expansion area decreases by approximately 14 feet from the southwest corner to the northeast corner. Eversource would need to import fill to create a level surface and create an armored slope along the north and east sides, adjacent to the wetland. The access road traverses uneven, rocky terrain and would require cut and fill to create a level, graded surface. Excavated rock and old stonewalls in the path of the access drive could be used for the necessary slope armoring along the road or in the substation expansion area.

A Town maintained stormwater catch basin exists along Stony Hill Road in the area of the new access road apron. It appears this catch basin discharges on Eversource's property approximately 20 feet north of the catch basin. The outfall is elevated, causing scouring and drainage channelization on Eversource's property. Eversource would have to examine this outfall, in coordination with the Town, to prevent the proposed access road from being undermined by this existing drainage pattern.

Erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control measures would be installed in accordance with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* and Eversource BMPs. Temporary E&S controls would remain in place until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.

The existing substation is set back from Stony Hill Road and is buffered from adjacent residences by woodland. The new equipment would be of similar height and appearance to that of existing equipment.

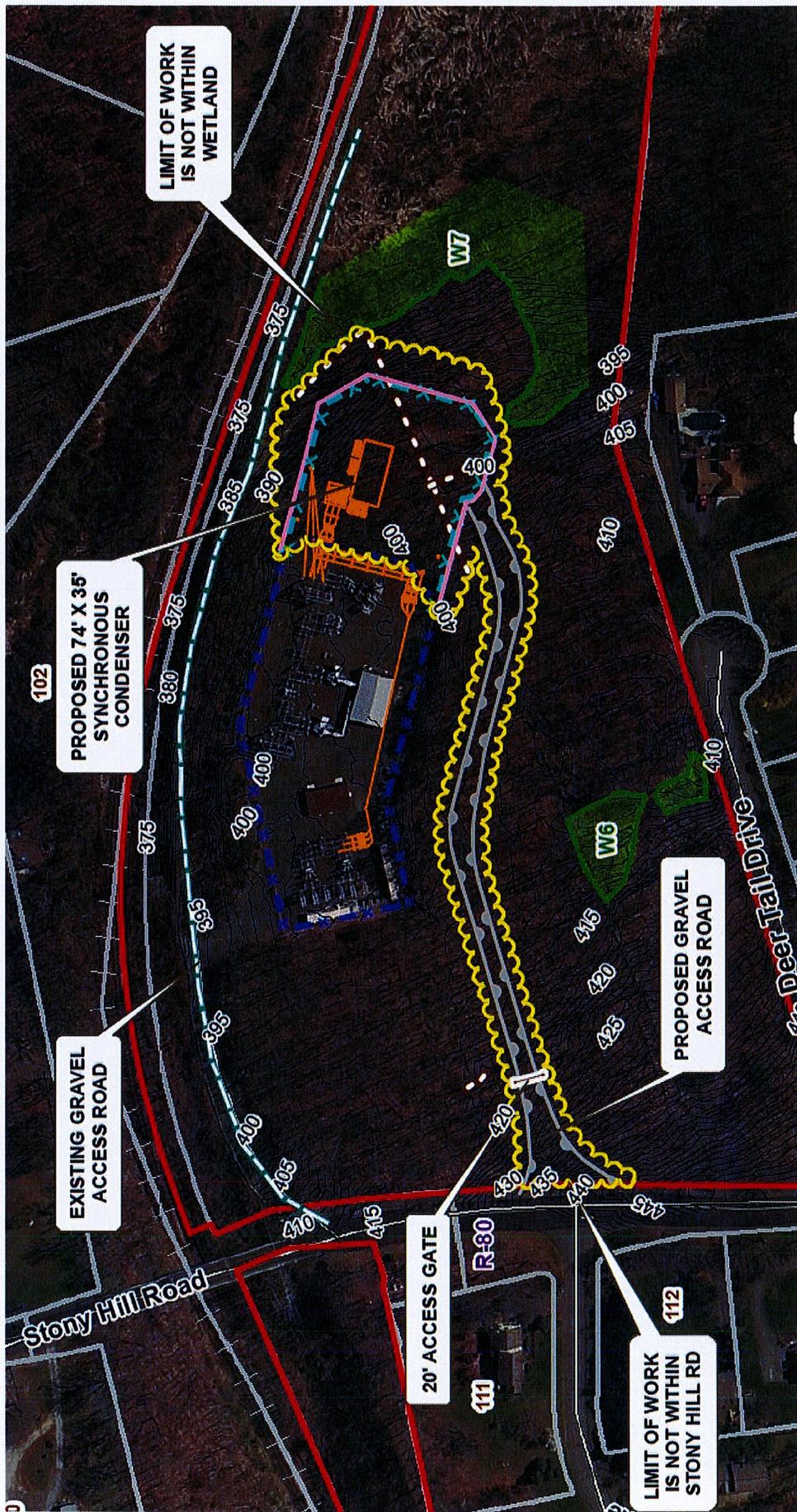
Noise levels associated with the new equipment would be below State noise control criteria. The new equipment would not change electric and magnetic field levels at the property boundaries.

The project would be constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with established industry practices and in accordance with Eversource's December 2011 Best Management Practices Manual for Connecticut. Construction is expected to begin in early 2017, with completion by year-end 2018.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the following:

1. Examine the feasibility of extending the new access drive from Deer Tail Drive;
2. Submit a final site plan detailing road and substation clearing limits, contours, grading, drainage control and E&S controls, for Council review and approval;
3. Use of on-site material for side-slope armoring, if feasible;
4. Identification of Project construction work hours; and approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.



Legend

	Substation Expansion Limit of Work		Proposed Gravel Access Road
	Substation Expansion		Railroad
	Existing Fenceline		Eversource Property
	Proposed Fenceline		Town Boundaries
	Proposed Ground Apron		Parcel Boundary
	Existing Stonewall to be Removed		Existing Gravel Access Road
	Field Delineated Wetland Line		Access Gate
	Field Delineated Wetlands		R-80 Zoning Code Label