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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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DATE: December 13, 2007

TO: Council Members

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director 

RE: **DOCKET NO. 352** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a proposed substation located at 264 Rood Avenue and 25 Shelley Avenue, Windsor, Connecticut.

I. Introduction

The application is from The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) for the construction, maintenance, and operation of an electrical substation in the Town of Windsor, Connecticut. The proposed substation would add capacity and improve electric distribution system reliability in response to increasing electrical demand in the Windsor area. The town of Windsor supports the proposal.

CL&P proposes to construct a 115-kV to 23-kV substation on a 21-acre parcel owned by CL&P off Rood Avenue in the southern portion of Windsor. The proposed substation would be constructed in the middle of the mostly wooded parcel. Several transmission and distribution lines and a switching station are currently on the property. As part of the proposal, CL&P would remove the switching station. An abandoned residence is located on the eastern portion of the property.

Development of the substation and related improvements would impact two wetland areas and would require clearing of a wooded area to accommodate the 137-foot by 220-foot substation. Access to the station would utilize an existing dirt road on the property that extends from Rood Avenue. The substation would be effectively screened by existing wooded areas. CL&P would enhance the screening by planting a woodland mix in areas disturbed by construction activities.

II. Technical

The application includes relevant maps, descriptions of the proposed site, costs, a description of the environmental effects of the proposed construction, and health and safety information. The application meets statutory technical requirements for processing the application. Council staff believes additional information can be obtained through pre-hearing interrogatories. This project would not require an outside consultant.



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III. Administrative Review

CL&P stated that all service and filing requirements pursuant to General Statutes § 16-501 (b) have been fulfilled. The applicant stated that notice to the general public was published in the *Hartford Courant* on November 2 and November 11, 2007. Although the project is exempt from Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) review, CL&P provided a courtesy copy of the municipal filing to the CEAB.

IV. Procedural

The Council must schedule a hearing for the proceeding between 30 and 150 days after receipt of an application. The Council must also appoint a custodian of the docket and designate a place for the deposition of the transcript. Staff recommends designating Carriann Mulcahy as custodian of the docket, holding the public hearing in the Town of Windsor on Thursday, February 21, 2008, and depositing the transcript in the Windsor Town Hall.

V. Proposed Schedule

Application received	November 7, 2007
Completeness review	December 13, 2007
Pre-hearing Questions	<i>(Tentative dates)</i>
• Set-One Filed	December 21, 2007
• Set-One responses received	January 18, 2008
• Set-Two Filed	January 25, 2008
• Set-Two responses due	February 14, 2008
Pre-hearing conference (10:00 a.m.)	January 23, 2008
Pre-filed testimony due	February 14, 2008
Deadline to request Party/Intervenor status	February 14, 2008
Field review (2:00 p.m.)	February 21, 2008
Hearing (3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)	February 21, 2008
Close of Record	March 24, 2008
Draft Findings of Fact	April 10, 2008 <i>(tentative)</i>
Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion & Decision & Order	April 24, 2008 <i>(tentative)</i>
Deadline for Decision	May 5, 2008
180-day extension date	November 3, 2008

Robert D. Mercier
 Siting Analyst