



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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DATE: February 16, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Linda Roberts, Executive Director 

RE: **DOCKET NO. 424** - The Connecticut Light & Power Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut portion of the Interstate Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Windham, which consists of (a) new overhead 345-kV electric transmission lines and associated facilities extending between CL&P's Card Street Substation in the Town of Lebanon, Lake Road Switching Station in the Town of Killingly, and the Connecticut/Rhode Island border in the Town of Thompson; and (b) related additions at CL&P's existing Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and Killingly Substation.

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### I. Introduction

This application is from The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut portion of the Interstate Reliability Project (Interstate). The Connecticut portion of Interstate consists of the construction of a new overhead 345-kV electric transmission line over approximately 37 miles between Card Street Substation in Lebanon, Lake Road Switching Station in Killingly and the Connecticut/Rhode Island border. The project would also consist of related modifications and improvements to existing facilities.

The Connecticut portion of the Interstate project would traverse portions of 11 towns, mostly within existing CL&P rights-of-way (ROW). The proposed project would traverse portions of Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson. The only additional municipality that would be affected by route variations would be Windham. CL&P would acquire additional easement area along 1.4 miles of the ROW on property owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Mansfield Hollow area.

CL&P proposes modifications to the existing Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station and Killingly Substation within the fenced areas of each facility.

### II. Technical

The application conforms to the Council's *Application Guide for Electric and Fuel Transmission Line Facility* dated April 2010 and includes the description of existing conditions, relevant maps some with 1 inch to 100 foot scale, descriptions of the proposed and alternative designs including overhead and underground technology, 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.

III. Administrative Review

The applicant has 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 Willimantic Chronicle and The Norwich Bulletin on December 9, 2011 and December 16, 2011. Electric customer bill insert describing the proposed project was included in one or more monthly bills to each CL&P customer in the municipalities of Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam and Thompson and to each customer of The Bozrah Light and Power Company in Lebanon on or after October 31, 2011.

IV. Procedural

Staff recommends designating Lisa Fontaine as custodian of the docket and depositing the transcripts in the Clerk's office of the following municipalities: Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Windham.

V. Proposed Schedule

Application received	12/23/11
Completeness review	02/16/12
Pre-hearing Questions to CL&P (additional questions may be filed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set-One filed</li> <li>• Set-Two filed</li> </ul>	Approx. 02/23/12 Approx. 03/27/12
Field Reviews to be conducted in segments (beginning at 2:00 p.m.) would precede public comment sessions (beginning at 7:00 p.m.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lebanon</li> <li>• Brooklyn</li> <li>• Mansfield</li> </ul>	04/18/12 04/19/12 04/24/12
Pre-hearing conference (11:00 a.m.)	03/21/12
Pre-filed testimony due	04/17/12
Deadline to request Party/Intervenor status	04/17/12
Evidentiary Hearings in New Britain	Beginning May (1, 3, 22, 23) 2012
Close of Record	Approx. July 2012
Draft Findings of Fact	Approx. September 2012
Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion & Decision & Order	Approx. October 2012
Deadline for Decision (1 yr after CEAB decided not to issue an RFP)	02/01/13

Siting Analyst: Christina Walsh