



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

1 CENTRAL PARK PLAZA • NEW BRITAIN, CONN. 06051

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PETITION NO. 91
December 6, 1982

Fred Doocy, Mortimer Gelston, and George Dunn met Jerry Thompson, John Harrington, and Frank Perotti of Northeast Utilities (NU) to review the proposed removal of 7.5 miles of de-energized 69 kV transmission line between Rockville Junction in Vernon and Skungamaug Substation in Coventry. NU petitioned the Council on November 15, 1982, requesting a determination that no certificate of environmental compatibility and public need is required because the proposed removal will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect.

The proposed project would consist of the removal of seventy-three two-pole and three-pole wood structures, the removal of three conductors and one overhead ground wire for the 7.5 miles of the existing line, installation of two guys on structure number 6628 at Skungamaug Substation to change that from a support to a dead-end type structure, and some access road creation and right-of-way brush clearing to allow access to the structures in some areas. All-terrain vehicles would be used where practical, and rehabilitation of the right-of-way would be done where needed.

The subject line is the only circuit on the right-of-way. Although NU plans to retain fee simple ownership and easements on the right-of-way, no need for transmission along this route is forecast through the twenty year planning period. The line has reached the end of its functional life and would require extensive work to be left in place. Evidence of this was seen in the poor condition of the structures.

Mr. Perotti stated that in sensitive areas the wood poles would be cut at or near the ground level and the tops removed by drag line wherever possible to minimize the vehicular activity necessary for the removal. This would be the case for the two or three two-pole H-frame structures in the Cedar Swamp area in Tolland which was designated as a natural area of statewide significance by a regional study group. Material regarding the area was supplied to the Council by the Department of Environmental Protection in connection with this petition. In most areas, including all areas of agricultural use and landscaped areas, the poles would be pulled from the ground and removed. The Walker Reservoir East, which the line crosses in Vernon, is not a public water supply. Minimal wetlands obstacles were evident on the line and the removal activity is planned when dry conditions exist: July through December, in 1983.

The proposed removal would result in a great decrease in the visual impact of the right-of-way which runs adjacent to residential areas in the Vernon area. Farming activities on the right-of-way should be easier if the structures are removed.

George A. Dunn
Environmentalist
12/7/82