



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Staff Report
Petition No. 177
Northeast Utilities
Bloomfield, Connecticut
March 11, 1987

On February 19, 1987, Owen L. Clark, Fred J. Doocy, and Thomas E. Fanning, Jr., of the Siting Council met Don Larson of Northeast Utilities (NU) for a field review at NU's Bloomfield 3B substation. NU is petitioning the Siting Council for a determination that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for proposed additions to the substation.

NU proposes to add a 50-MVA, 115-kV to 23-kV transformer; six 23-kV circuit breakers; two sets of feeder reactors; and associated control and protective relay equipment. According to NU, this equipment is necessary to meet projected load growth in the Bloomfield area. There are now two transformers at the substation. The construction of the third transformer installation was anticipated approximately ten years ago, at which time some support structures and associated equipment were installed. However, construction was deferred because of lower than expected load growth in the area.

The substation is located in a residentially-zoned area, through which passes a NU transmission line. The existing substation fence would contain the new additions. The substation is screened on three sides by evergreen plantings and trees exceeding ten feet in height. The new installation would have no visual impact on adjacent properties.

The addition of one transformer is expected to increase the sound level at some points along the property line by a maximum of 4 dBA. Mr. Larson informed the review team that the proposed transformer is a newer model which operates more quietly than the existing transformers. The review team stopped at the closest residence to the NU property line, approximately 100 yards north of the substation fence. No sounds from the existing transformers were heard from this location.

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The transformer would be placed over an existing sump, constructed a few years ago. Mr. Larson was unsure whether the oil capacity of the proposed transformer would exceed the sump's holding capacity. Mr. Larson stated that NU would expand the sump to provide 100 percent containment of the proposed transformer's oil in case of spillage. The oil would be "non-PCB," as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency.

According to NU, the proposed additions would not affect television or radio reception in the area, the proposed project would not impact any wetlands or waterways and is not within a 100-year flood-hazard zone or stream-channel encroachment line, and no zoning approvals from the Town of Bloomfield would be required.

Construction would commence in January 1988 and could be completed by the end of May 1988.

Thomas E. Fanning, Jr.
Siting Analyst

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