



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 186
Northeast Utilities
Thomaston, Connecticut
June 19, 1987

On June 15, 1987, Brian Emerick and James G. Horsfall of the Siting Council and Robert K. Erling of the Council staff met Donald Larson of Northeast Utilities (NU) for a field review at the Thomaston 2B substation in Thomaston, Connecticut. NU is petitioning the Council for a determination that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for proposed additions to the Thomaston substation.

The proposed work consists of the addition of one 25-MVA, 115-kV to 13.2-kV transformer, one 115-kV circuit breaker, a section of 13.2-kV double-bus metal-clad switchgear, and a mobile-transformer position. According to NU, the equipment is needed to meet the projected 13.2-kV load in the Thomaston area. All of the proposed equipment would be located within the fenceline of the existing substation.

The installation of the transformer would increase the sound level at some points along the property line by a maximum of 5 dbA, but would not be noticeable from any homes in the area. There are no homes adjacent to the substation property.

The oil which would be used in the transformer and circuit breaker would have a PCB concentration of less than 50 ppm. It would therefore be considered non-PCB, as designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Construction is planned to begin in November 1988. The work is scheduled for completion by June 1989.

Although not germane to the Council's decision in this petition, the petition misstates applicable law. At page 2 it states, "Section 16-50k(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that the Connecticut Siting Council must determine that a proposed modification may have 'substantial adverse environmental effect' prior to the requirement that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need be obtained (sic)." Instead, that provision requires that, prior to implementing a facility modification, an applicant must secure from the Council either a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need or a determination that no such Certificate is required.

Robert K. Erling
Siting Analyst