



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 193HW
Norwalk Harbor Substation
Staff Report
October 22, 1987

Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) is requesting a determination that no Certificate of Public Safety and Necessity is required for the construction of an above-ground, two-million gallon, concrete tank and replacement by that tank of an existing two-million gallon surface impoundment known as Equalization Basin-2 (EB-2) at CL&P's Norwalk Harbor Substation, Norwalk, Connecticut.

Dr. William H. Smith and Dr. James G. Horsfall, members of the Siting Council, and Thomas E. Fanning, Jr., staff of the Siting Council, met with Northeast Utilities (NU) representatives Thomas Arcari and Nicholas Lanzalotta on the site of the proposed project on October 13, 1987.

The project consists of the construction of a two-cell concrete tank 9.5 feet high, 191 feet long, and 162.5 feet wide, and an attached pump room. This tank would be constructed on a parcel of land previously used for ash disposal, located approximately 70 feet from and parallel to the existing two-million gallon surface impoundment. EB-2 has been used since 1978 as a neutralization treatment basin for wastewaters pumped from the generator boilers during maintenance periods. The highly acidic water is detoxified through mineral extraction and neutralization processes.

The basin has a single, rubber-like liner, in a deteriorating and patched condition. The 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires double-liners for surface impoundments of this type. CL&P chose to construct the proposed tank rather than replace the liner. CL&P would detoxify and drain the impoundment; remove the liner and existing dike; and fill, grade, and seed the impoundment area. The liner would be tested for the presence of hazardous waste, then disposed of in a manner approved by the DEP.

CL&P has submitted the impoundment closure and post-closure plans to the DEP and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Both agencies have granted approval of these plans.

The wastewater treatment system is permitted by the DEP. The new tank would not require a new DEP or EPA permit under hazardous waste management regulations. The tank would be associated with the industrial process of generating electricity and would not be part of a commercial hazardous waste disposal treatment or recovery business. Final approval of the new tank as part of the Norwalk Harbor wastewater treatment system is pending from the DEP.

CL&P contends that under CGS Section 22a-115(9), the new tank would replace an individual component necessary to normal operations of an existing hazardous waste facility and not be a modification.

The substation is located on a peninsula in South Norwalk in a tidal area. The facility is surrounded to the north and west by various trees and shrubs. The nearest residences are approximately one-half mile to the north. A City of Norwalk beach and recreational area is located approximately three-quarters of a mile across the harbor to the northeast. The proposed project would blend into the backdrop of the power station facilities. The new tank would be lower in height than existing structures in the substation.

Construction would be according to the submitted prints, but commencement of construction is unspecified at this time, contingent upon final approval by all involved agencies. CL&P must complete the project by November 8, 1988, or cease treating, storing, or disposing of the wastewaters.

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