

PETITION NO. 244 - Connecticut
Natural Gas Corporation petition for
a declaratory ruling that no Certifi-
cate of Environmental Compatibility
and Public Need is required for its
proposal to install, own, and operate
a natural gas line in Bloomfield,
West Hartford, and Hartford,
Connecticut.

Connecticut

Siting
Council

ORIGINAL

May 30, 1990

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), in accordance with the provisions of Sections 16-50g to 16-50z of the Connecticut General Statutes, (CGS) petitioned the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on January 12, 1990, for a declaratory ruling that a natural gas pipeline proposed to be constructed, operated, and maintained by CNG would be a natural gas distribution pipeline that the Council would not have jurisdiction over. (Record)
2. Pursuant to Section 16-50m of the CGS, the Council held a public hearing on the petition for a declaratory ruling on April 2, 1990, beginning at 1:30 P.M. and continuing at 6:30 P.M. in the conference room of the Council in New Britain, Connecticut. (Record)
3. The parties to this proceeding are the petitioner and those persons and organizations whose names are listed in the Decision and Order which accompanies these Findings of Fact. (Record)
4. The proposed pipeline would be a 250 pounds per square inch gauge pressure (psig) natural gas pipeline within Bloomfield, West Hartford, and Hartford, Connecticut. (CNG 1, Exhibit 4, p. 1)
5. The proposed pipeline would be installed substantially under public streets. CNG has the power of eminent domain, but maintains it does not plan to exercise this authority in the construction of this proposed pipeline. (CNG 1, Exhibit 4, p. 1; Tr., 4/02/90, 1:30 P.M., p. 39)
6. The proposed line would be approximately 37,500 feet in length. The diameter of the pipeline would range from 12 to 20 inches. (CNG 1, Ex. 4, p. 2)
7. The proposed pipeline would begin at the CNG gate station in Bloomfield and would provide natural gas to serve the Capitol District Energy Cogeneration (CDECCA) facility in Hartford. (CNG 1, Exhibit 4, p. 2; Tr., 4/2/90, 1:30 P.M., p. 20)
8. The CDECCA facility uses natural gas to produce electricity, which is then sold to Northeast Utilities. The proposed line would allow the CDECCA facility to burn natural gas year-round instead of oil. CDECCA currently burns natural gas approximately nine months of the year. The CDECCA facility is not a gas distribution center. (Tr. 4/02/90, 1:30 P.M., p. 28, p. 111)

9. The proposed line would be added to and become part of CNG's local gas distribution network to provide natural gas to residential, commercial, and industrial gas users in the Hartford area. (CNG 1, Exhibit 4, p. 2; Tr., 4/02/90, 1:30 P.M., p. 19, pp. 49-50; CNG 3, Q. 3)
10. The safety regulations established by the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) define a fuel gas transmission line as a pipeline which transports natural gas from a gathering line to a distribution center or storage facility; or as a pipeline that operates at a hoop stress ratio of 20 percent or more of specified minimum yield strength (SMYS); or as a pipeline which transports natural gas within a storage field. Distribution lines are defined as pipelines that are not transmission lines or gathering lines. (CNG 1, Exhibit 4, pp. 2-3; Tr., 4/02/90, 1:30 P.M., pp. 17-18; CNG 2, Q. 1)
11. A gathering line is a pipeline which transports gas from a current production facility to a transmission line or main. (Tr., 4/02/90, 1:30 P.M., p. 64)
12. The proposed line would operate at a hoop stress of eight to 15 percent SMYS. (CNG 3, Q.3)
13. Within its franchise area, CNG does not own or operate any natural gas transmission lines. (Tr., 4/02/90, 1:30 P.M., pp. 20-21)
14. Under CGS Section 16-50i (a) (2), a fuel transmission facility under the Council's jurisdiction includes a fuel transmission facility except a gas transmission line having a design capability of less than two hundred psig. (CGS Section 16-50i(a)(2))
15. DOT regulations require all natural gas pipelines to be tested at 150 percent of the line's maximum actual operation pressure. The proposed line would be operated at 250 pounds psig and tested at 375 pounds psig. (CNG 3, p. 7; Tr., 4/02/90, 1:30 P.M., p. 52)
16. Typical interstate natural gas transmission lines operate at maximum pressures of 400 to 900 pounds psig. (CNG 3, p. 5)
17. If CNG decreased the operating pressure of the proposed line to less than 200 pounds psig, it would be necessary for CNG to install a larger pipe to deliver the same volume of gas. A larger pipe would be more expensive and might result in higher rates for CNG's ratepayers. (CNG 3, p. 10)