

PETITION NO. 977/EM-CL&P-096-100903

The Connecticut Light and Power Company
New Milford, Connecticut
Staff Report
November 5, 2010

On September 3, 2010, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a notice of exempt modification from The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) for the replacement of a 247-foot guyed lattice tower with a 247-foot self-supporting lattice tower at 26 Chapin Road in New Milford, Connecticut. Council member Colin Tait and staff member David Martin visited the site on October 29, 2010 to review the proposal. John Morissette, Steve Florio, and Steve Osuch represented CL&P at the field review.

The existing guyed lattice tower was built in 1977 and is used by CL&P, Litchfield County Dispatch, and the Connecticut State Police. There are a number of antennas on the tower, including large microwave antennas that serve as part of the respective trunk systems for CL&P and the State Police.

CL&P recently had a structural analysis performed of the existing tower. The analysis concluded that the tower exceeded CL&P's allowable stress levels. Based on this conclusion, CL&P decided to replace the existing tower with a self-supporting lattice tower that would comply with CL&P's engineering standards and be able to support the same antenna load as the existing tower.

The existing tower is located near the top of a long flat ridge that runs north-south. There are single family homes to the immediate east and south that have views of the existing tower. There are also clusters of single family homes to the west and north, but these are farther away. The tower is blocked from their view by topography.

The proposed replacement, self-supporting lattice tower would present a larger profile in those areas which have views of the existing tower. However, the guy wires of the existing tower are visible from much of the area around the tower and add to the existing tower's visible presence, especially from vantage points closer to the tower. Even though the replacement tower will have a larger profile, it will not appreciably increase the area from which the tower is visible. In addition, the absence of guy wires would help to reduce the facility's potential for bird strikes.

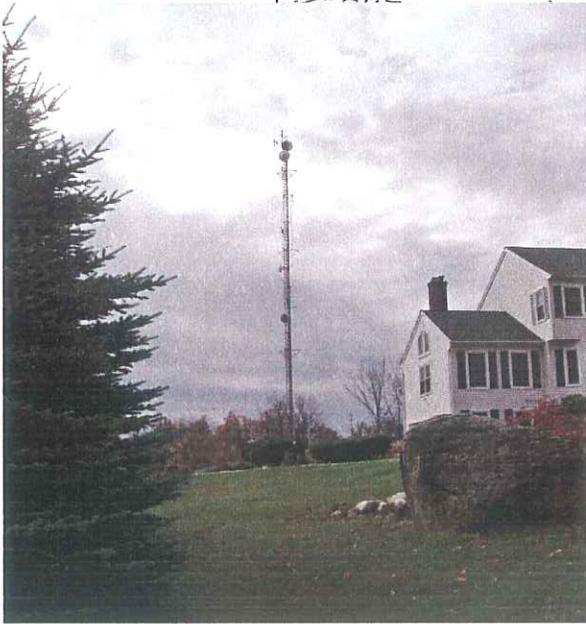
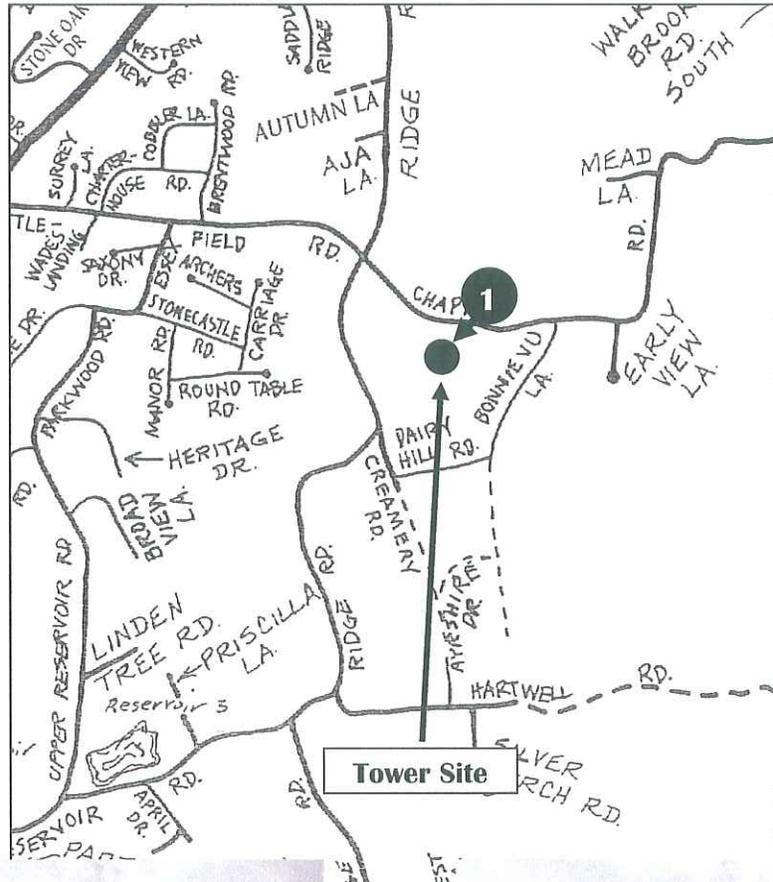
The new tower would be built directly adjacent to the existing tower. The larger foundation required for the replacement tower would require a ten-foot expansion of the fence around the tower and the equipment shelters in its southwest corner. There is a larger fence that encloses CL&P's entire property. This fence would not be expanded.

CL&P hired a radio frequency engineer (C² Systems) to take field measurements of the radio frequency levels at locations around the tower. Measurements were taken at 33 different locations; the highest recorded measurement represented 1.9% of the FCC's Maximum Permissible Emission.

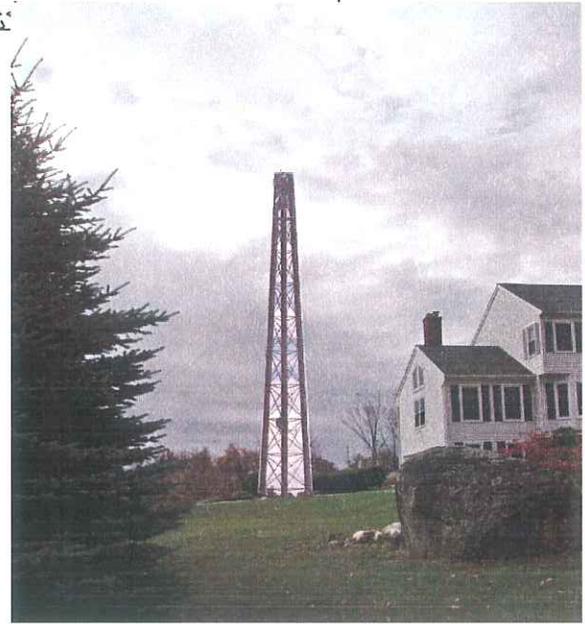
There are two power lines in the vicinity of the tower: 352 - a 345 kV line that runs between Long Mountain and Frost Bridge and 1813 - a 115 kV line that runs between Carmel Hill and Rocky River.

CL&P did notify the nearest property owners to the tower of its replacement plans. It received a few calls from property owners seeking further clarification. The Council's office also received one request for more information but no follow up after the requested information was sent.

Photosimulation—View 1

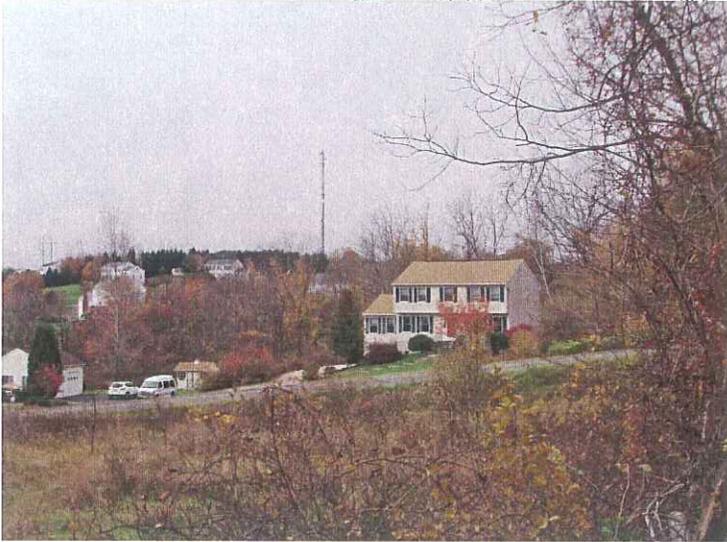
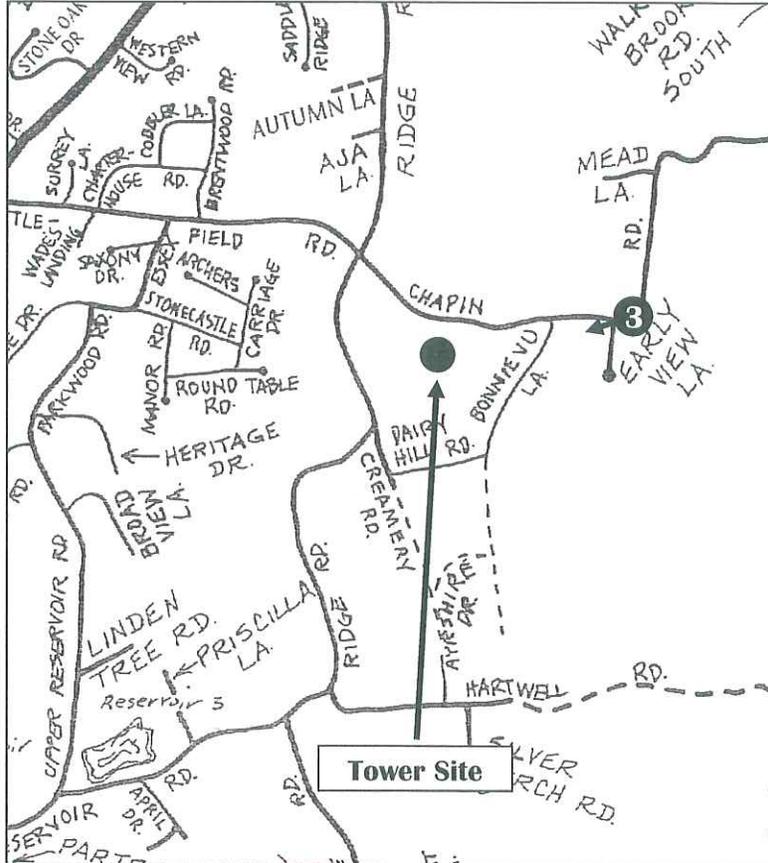


Existing Tower

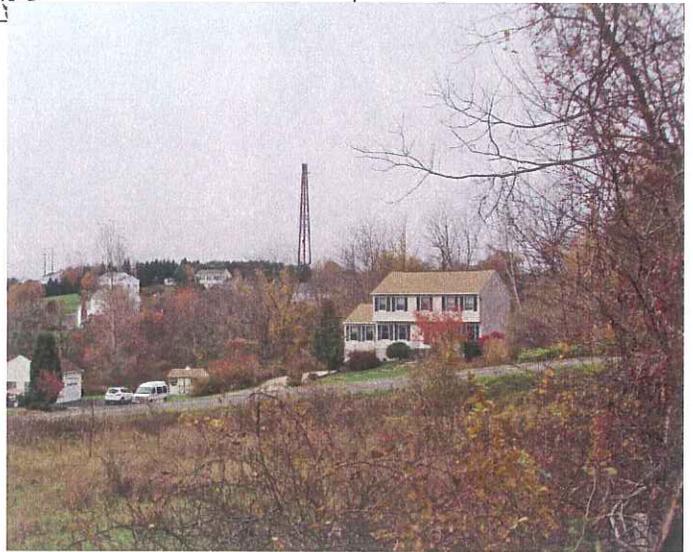


Simulated Replacement Tower

Photosimulation—View 3

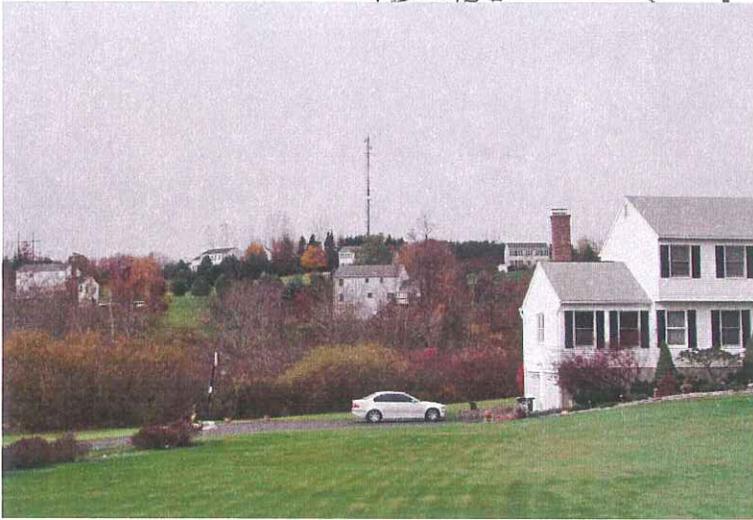
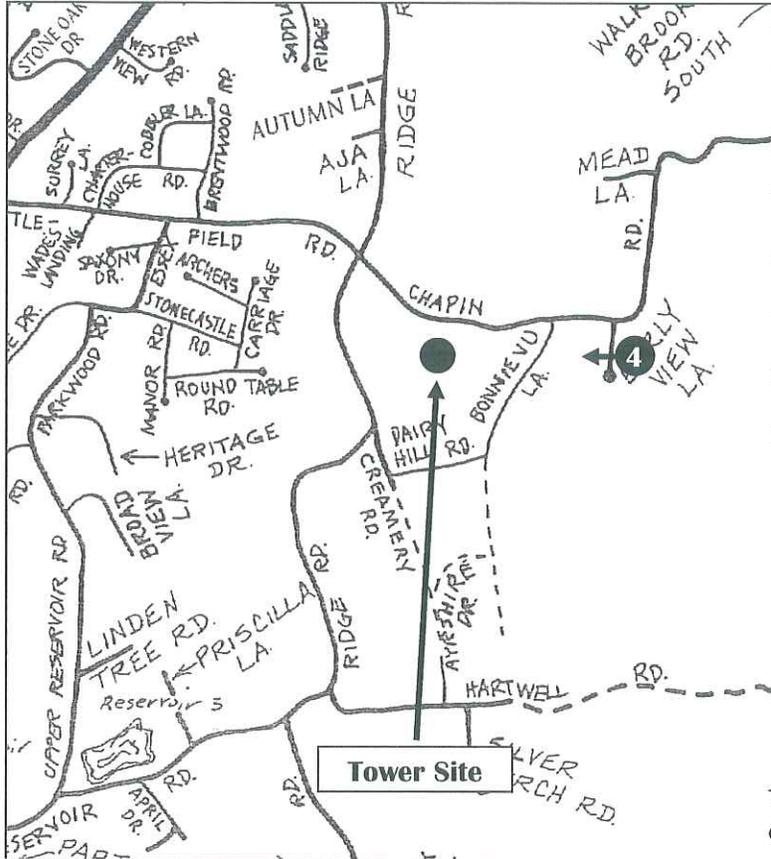


Existing Tower

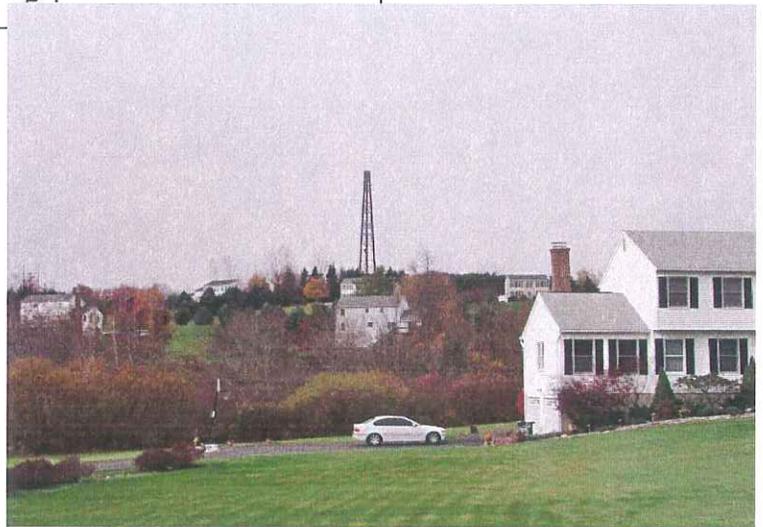


Simulated Replacement Tower

Photosimulation—View 4

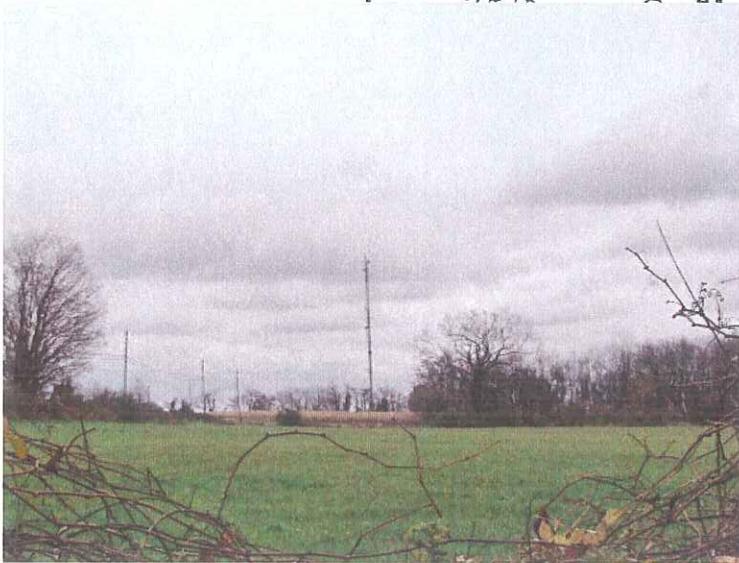
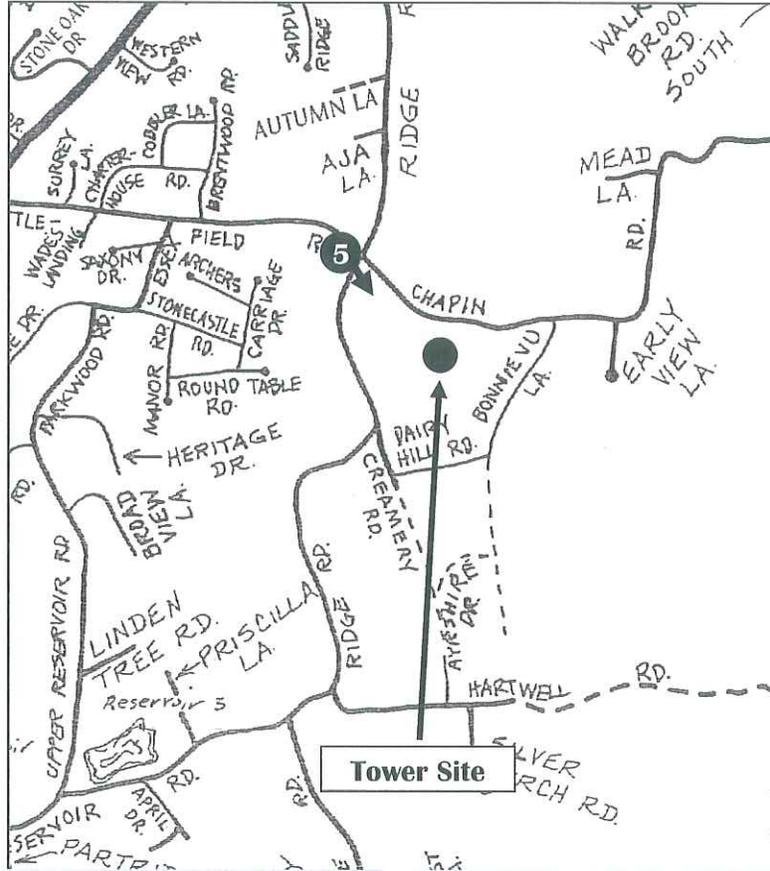


Existing Tower



Simulated Replacement Tower

Photosimulation—View 5

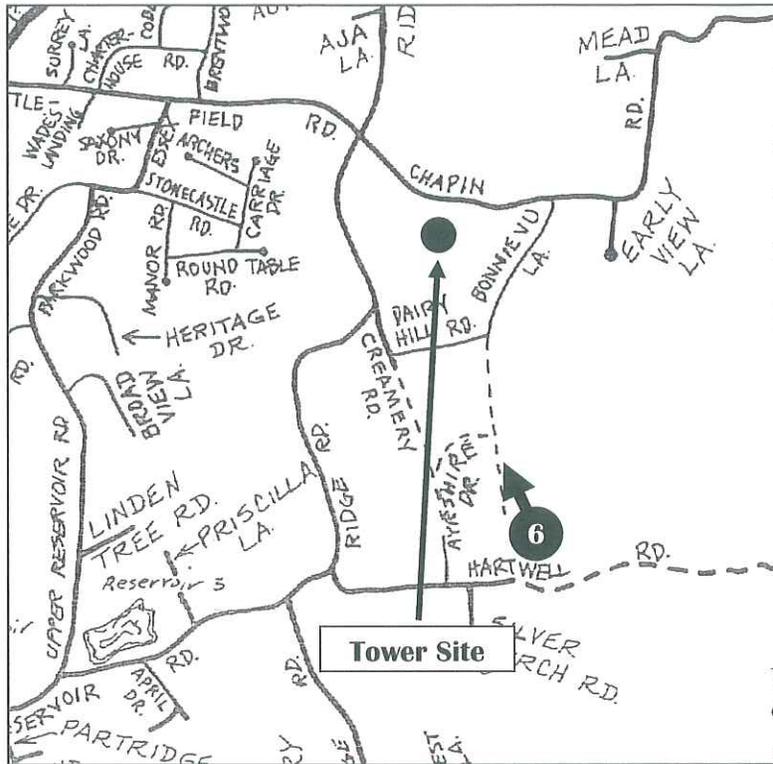


Existing Tower



Simulated Replacement Tower

Photosimulation—View 6



Existing Tower



Simulated Replacement Tower

