



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Date: June 26, 2012

RE: Post-Construction Report – **DOCKET NO. 352** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a proposed substation located at 264 Rood Avenue, Windsor, Connecticut.

On April 24, 2008, the Council approved an application from The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) for the construction of an electrical substation on a mostly forested 21 acre parcel north of Rood Avenue in Windsor. Prior to construction the site contained a small switching station at the north end of the parcel, adjacent to a residence. A transmission and distribution right-of-way is located on the property.

The D&M Plan for the project was approved on May 22, 2008. A revision to D&M was filed with the Council on October 6, 2009 regarding underground trenching for an underground optical ground wire from the substation to the existing 115-kV overhead #1751 transmission circuit. CL&P notified the Council on December 14, 2009 that construction was complete and the site was operational.

I conducted a field review of the site on June 7, 2012. The new substation is located in the center of the parcel and consists of a 220-foot by 137-foot area enclosed by an eight-foot high chain link and barbed wire fence. A berm surrounds the substation on the north, west and south sides. The gravel access road and parking area is located to the west. Access to the site is from a gated, pre-existing gravel road that extends north from Rood Avenue along the right-of-way.

The switching station was removed and three new distribution poles installed. A gravel surface remains in a portion of former switching station area to provide additional parking for substation and right-of-way maintenance activities. The remaining area was planted with grasses and wetland mix.

Plantings were installed as indicated in the D&M Plan and include plantings on the north side of the substation, the north side of the former switching station, and along the property line of two residences west of the substation and right-of-way that have direct backyard views although the plantings are short for one of the residences. A larger, fast growing species such as white pine may be a better species to use for visual mitigation on future projects.

At the request of the Town, CL&P relocated a population of lady slippers from the substation site to the wooded area to the east. Correspondence from CL&P indicates half of the lady slippers took hold and that the Town was pleased with the result. The D&M Plan also specified several forested wetland enhancement areas. One of the wetlands east of the site appeared in good condition with standing water, skunk cabbage and other growth. The wetland area north of the switching station along the property line had standing water with abundant ferns but did have some dead shrubs and lawn clippings from the adjacent landowner.

The observed conditions of this site appear to conform to the D&M Plan approved by the Council. No outstanding issues are evident.



Site location at 264 Rood Avenue.



Access road to substation along right-of-way.



Rear of substation, looking west. Note plantings on berm in foreground.



Substation, looking southwest. Plantings on berm.



Substation, looking northeast.



Former switchyard location. Note row of plantings along property line.



Right-of-way west of substation. Note plantings along property line.



Wetland (“enhanced”) along north property line. Ferns and dead shrubs.



Forested wetland east of substation, near Lady Slipper re-planting area.