

**DOCKET 370** – Consolidated proceeding pursuant to the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) Request for Proposal (RFP) process under C.G.S. §16a-7c. **Original application:** The Connecticut Light & Power Company application for Certificates of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut Valley Electric Transmission Reliability Projects which consist of (1) The Connecticut portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Bloomfield, East Granby, and Suffield, or potentially including an alternate portion that traverses the municipalities of Suffield and Enfield, terminating at the North Bloomfield Substation; and (2) the Manchester Substation to Meekville Junction Circuit Separation Project in Manchester, Connecticut. **Competing application:** NRG Energy, Inc. application pursuant to C.G.S. §16-50l(a)(3) for consideration of a 530 MW combined cycle generating plant in Meriden, Connecticut.

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**Opinion Docket 370 - NRG Energy, Inc.**

On March 19, 2009, NRG Energy, Inc. (NRG) submitted an application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for consideration of a 530 megawatt (MW) (nominal) combined cycle generating plant located off South Mountain Road in Meriden, Connecticut (the Meriden power facility) as a competing project to the Greater Springfield Reliability Project and Manchester to Meekville Project (MMP) proposed by The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) in Docket No. 370. NRG proposed the Meriden power facility following review of the project by the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16a-7c to meet the need addressed by the GSRP and MMP with a generation alternative.

CL&P has proposed GSRP/MMP as a solution to a reliability problem in the Greater Springfield load area, which includes north-central Connecticut. Although the project was designed as a solution to a transmission security problem, it would also improve the power transfer capacity between Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The Council finds that the Meriden power facility would not meet the system-wide needs addressed by the GSRP and MMP transmission line projects. During the consolidated proceeding, it became evident that there is no generation alternative that would eliminate all or part of the need for the GSRP and MMP. Studies by Northeast Utilities Service Company (CL&P’s planning and management company) and the Independent System Operator of New England have found that there is an ongoing need for the GSRP and MMP that could not be met by the addition of generation. Additionally, the Meriden power facility is not located near the greater Springfield and north-central Connecticut electric load area; therefore it would not influence the system to eliminate the transmission capacity issue that the GSRP and MMP would address.

On April 27, 1999, the Council granted a Certificate, in Council Docket No. 190, for the construction and operation of a 540 MW combined-cycle electric power generating facility to PDC-El Paso Meriden, LLC. NRG acquired the Meriden facility in December 2000. Therefore, NRG has a current and valid Certificate to complete construction and operate the facility and does not need another approval from the Council for the same project. Details, including environmental impacts, of the Meriden project are discussed in the Docket 190 Findings of Fact, Opinion and Decision and Order of April 27, 1999. Prior to this proceeding, this Council has already considered and granted an extension to NRG to complete facility construction to December 31, 2011.

The Council will deny NRG’s application as a competing project to the Greater Springfield Reliability Project and Manchester to Meekville Project proposed by The Connecticut Light and Power Company in Docket No. 370.