

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051
Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950
E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov
www.ct.gov/csc

April 25, 2012

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Linda Roberts
Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 424** - The Connecticut Light & Power Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut portion of the Interstate Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Windham, which consists of (a) new overhead 345-kV electric transmission lines and associated facilities extending between CL&P's Card Street Substation in the Town of Lebanon, Lake Road Switching Station in the Town of Killingly, and the Connecticut/Rhode Island border in the Town of Thompson; and (b) related additions at CL&P's existing Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and Killingly Substation.

At the public hearing session on April 24, 2012 in Mansfield, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received correspondence concerning the above-referenced application from the Town of Mansfield.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50(b), a copy of the application was submitted to the Town of Mansfield for their review. In the event that the Town of Mansfield does not avail themselves of the opportunity to attain party or intervenor status under Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n, their correspondence shall become part of the record in this proceeding.

Therefore, a copy of their correspondence is being distributed to all participants in this proceeding and will also be administratively noticed in the record.

LR/CMW/laf

Enclosure

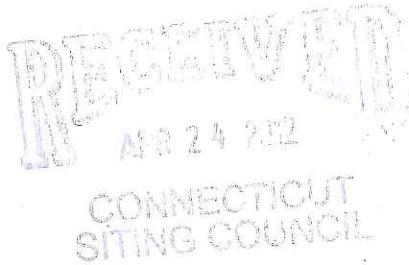
TOWN OF MANSFIELD



Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
MANSFIELD, CT 06268-2599
(860) 429-3336
Fax: (860) 429-6863

April 24, 2012



Mr. Robert Stein
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

Subject: Proposed Interstate Reliability Project

Dear Mr. Stein:

On behalf of the Mansfield Town Council, I would like to thank you and your colleagues on the Connecticut Siting Council for coming to Mansfield and providing our residents and businesses with the opportunity to share their concerns regarding the proposed Interstate Reliability Project. As you are aware, the project proposed by Northeast Utilities represents a significant undertaking that will dramatically change the landscape that you had an opportunity to view on your tour this afternoon.

As referenced in our Town Manager's January 31, 2012 letter to Northeast Utilities, while the Town recognizes the need for the project itself, we do oppose the proposed route through eastern Connecticut for the following reasons:

- Inadequate consideration has been given to reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, particularly alternate routes such as Alternative C-1, which in following highway rights-of-way would have a less invasive impact on existing communities;
- Inadequate consideration has been given to mitigating the impact of the preferred alternative, such as minimizing the clear cutting of trees and buffering the visual impact of the project;
- There is a high likelihood of detrimental land use impacts to properties along the entire route through eastern Connecticut. In Mansfield, the proposed project would negatively impact property values for abutting businesses, private schools, childcare facilities and homes as a result of the visual impact, public perception regarding the safety of living or having schools and childcare facilities located near high voltage power lines, the general market reluctance to locate next to such facilities, and in the case of one business, the physical location of the proposed transmission line. While there is an existing transmission line in the corridor, the addition of a new line will only serve to amplify existing concerns and perceptions, whether or not they are substantiated by scientific evidence. As such, the power of perception and its impact on properties within the corridor cannot be understated. A map of existing land uses is attached for your reference (Exhibit A).

- The proposed project would reduce the functional value of existing and potential farmland due to the additional soil disturbance and associated construction and maintenance impacts;
- The proposed project would reduce the recreational value of Mansfield Hollow State Park and wildlife habitat through the proposed widening of the project corridor and clearing of vegetation; and
- The proposed project will have a detrimental impact to the rural character of the area without any compensating economic benefit.

Notwithstanding the above listed concerns, should the proposed route through eastern Connecticut be deemed appropriate by the Siting Council, there are several mitigation measures that would minimize the impact of the project on our community, our residents, and our businesses. Without such mitigation, the impacts to local properties will be substantial, including the potential loss of businesses. Therefore, we respectfully request that if the Siting Council finds the proposed route to be acceptable, such approval be conditioned on Northeast Utilities providing the following mitigation measures. (Note: these measures are listed in order from west to east along the corridor, not in order of priority.)

- **Relocation of Pole 39 (Highland Ridge Golf Range)**

The transmission line corridor currently runs through the Highland Ridge Golf Range located at 164 Stafford Road. Due to the layout of the driving range, the existing transmission line does not interfere with use of the range as it is located immediately adjacent to the golf tees and therefore any drives are hit well below the height of the line. However, the distance and location of the proposed transmission line from the tee area would present an obstacle if constructed as proposed. As the owner of the driving range owns adjacent property to the northwest of the transmission line corridor, he is willing to provide additional right-of-way in exchange for relocation of Pole 39. In its current design, the new transmission line follows the path of the existing line, which turns from an easterly to a northerly heading at existing pole 9038. If the proposed Pole 39 were relocated to be in line with Poles 38 and 40, instead of following the existing jog in the line, the operational impacts to the driving range would be eliminated (Exhibit B). This relocation would also reduce the length of the transmission line between Poles 38 and 40. Without the proposed pole relocation, the owner of the driving range has indicated that he will be forced to close the business due to the operational impacts presented by the proposed location of the transmission line.

In addition to the pole relocation, construction should be timed for off-season to minimize operational impacts on the driving range. Financial compensation for construction conducted during the golf season should be provided to offset operational impacts and loss of revenue due to construction.

- **Use of the Mansfield underground variation and a modified Mount Hope underground variation**
The application included two underground variations for Mansfield, one which extended from a point southwest of the Woodmont Drive cul-de-sac to a point west of Conantville Brook ('Mansfield Variation') and another which extended from a point north of the Sawmill Brook Lane cul-de-sac to a point northwest of the Hawthorne Lane cul-de-sac ('Mount Hope Variation').

After reviewing the two variations, we believe that it would be in the best interest of the town to have the Mansfield Underground variation implemented as described in the application, and to have the Mount Hope Underground Variation implemented with the following modifications (as shown in Exhibit C):

- Relocate the western terminus of the Mount Hope variation to a point west of Sawmill Brook Lane (between Poles 66 and 67) to minimize the impacts of the transmission line on that residential neighborhood.

- Relocate the eastern terminus to west of Route 195/Storrs Road (near Pole 71) to minimize impacts on farmland located east of Route 195.

As part of the implementation of any underground variation, transition stations should be designed using the smallest footprint possible to reduce the amount of clearing needed for the stations. Additionally, these stations should be screened from surrounding properties by mature vegetation.

The benefits offered by placing the proposed transmission line underground in these locations include:

- Reduction of electrical magnetic field concerns for surrounding residential areas;
- Significant reduction in the amount of vegetation that must be cleared;
- Elimination of the visual impacts of the second overhead transmission line; and
- Reduction in impacts to residential property values based on the other benefits noted.

Use of these variations is consistent with Section 16-50(p)(i) of the Connecticut General Statutes, which addresses undergrounding of new 345 kilovolt facilities:

For a facility described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, with a capacity of three hundred forty-five kilovolts or greater, there shall be a presumption that a proposal to place the overhead portions, if any, of such facility adjacent to residential areas, private or public schools, licensed child day care facilities, licensed youth camps or public playgrounds is inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter. An applicant may rebut this presumption by demonstrating to the council that it will be technologically infeasible to bury the facility. In determining such infeasibility, the council shall consider the effect of burying the facility on the reliability of the electric transmission system of the state and whether the cost of any contemplated technology or design configuration may result in an unreasonable economic burden on the ratepayers of the state.

▪ **Use of EMF Best Management Practices Poles between Route 195 and Mansfield Hollow**

As noted above, the Town has recommended that the eastern terminus of the Mount Hope underground variation be moved to the west side of Route 195 to minimize impacts on the active farmland located east of 195. However, as the area between Route 195 and Mansfield Hollow contains childcare facilities as well as numerous homes, additional mitigation of EMF impacts is needed. Therefore, the Town recommends that the EMF Best Management Practices (BMP) Poles be implemented between the eastern terminus of the modified Mount Hope underground variation described above and Mansfield Hollow (Exhibit C).

The benefits offered by using EMF best management practices poles as described above include:

- Reduction of real and perceived electrical magnetic field concerns for surrounding residential areas and Green Dragon Day Care;
- Reduced impact to farmland soils located within the corridor due to monopole construction; and
- Significant reduction in the amount of vegetation that must be cleared.

▪ **Relocation of the Mount Hope Montessori School**

As noted previously, the public perception of the impacts of high voltage transmission lines can often be worse than the actual impacts. This is particularly true in the case of lines located near childcare facilities and schools. The Mount Hope Montessori School, located at 48 Bassetts Bridge Road, directly abuts the existing transmission line corridor. Due to its location on the northwest side of the existing line, the proposed transmission line would be located approximately 70 feet closer to the school than the existing line. Section 16-50(p)(i) of the Connecticut General Statutes includes a presumption that

the placement of a new overhead 345 kilovolt line adjacent to licensed school or childcare facility is presumed to be inconsistent with the purposes of state statutes regulating placement of transmission lines.

While undergrounding the lines is one option to address this inconsistency, in this particular location undergrounding would have significant impact on active agricultural uses. As such, the preferred alternative to mitigate impacts of the proposed line on the Mount Hope Montessori School is to relocate the school to another location in Mansfield, preferably within 5 miles of the University with areas for a playground and parking. Such relocation would eliminate any concerns regarding real and/or perceived EMF impacts. Without any mitigation, the future of the school is in doubt as some parents have already indicated that they would be reluctant to have their children attend school in that location if another high voltage transmission line is constructed in close proximity to the school. Relocation may also be a more cost effective option for Northeast Utilities than undergrounding.

▪ **Facilitation of a Land Transfer between Diane Dorfer/Green Dragon Daycare and Northeast Utilities**

Diane Dorfer is the owner of Green Dragon Daycare, which is a home daycare facility located at 87 Bassetts Bridge Road. The existing transmission line corridor runs across the rear half of the property and due to prevalence of ground shocks, the garden in that area of the property cannot be used by the children. Northeast Utilities has granted a license for Ms. Dorfer to use approximately 1 acre of property located along the east edge of her property; however, this license can be terminated at any time and requires Ms. Dorfer to maintain \$2 million in liability insurance. A longer term solution would involve a land swap between Ms. Dorfer and Northeast Utilities, which would transfer the rear portion of her property to Northeast Utilities in exchange for property abutting her lot along Bassetts Bridge Road, away from the transmission line corridor (Exhibit D). While we understand that this process may be complex due to a right of first refusal guaranteed to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), such a land transfer would minimize the impacts of the project on the daycare facility and the residents of the property. Support of the land transfer from both Northeast Utilities and the Connecticut Siting Council may help to address DEEP concerns regarding a possible transfer.

▪ **Use of the Hawthorne Lane Alternative**

As proposed, implementation of the preferred alternative in the vicinity of the Hawthorne Park subdivision would result in the loss of the visual buffer currently screening the existing transmission line from the homes located to the north of the cul-de-sac. The affected homeowners have been working with Northeast Utilities for several years on an alternative that would shift both the existing and proposed lines to the south, allowing the existing mature trees and vegetated buffer to remain (Exhibit D). The Hawthorne Lane Alternative includes the relocation of the existing transmission line to the south, away from homes developed as part of the Hawthorne Park subdivision. As the preferred alternative would significantly degrade the properties located on the north side of the Hawthorne Lane cul-de-sac, the Town recommends that the Hawthorne Lane alternative be implemented in conjunction with the use of EMF BMP poles recommended above. To facilitate this alternative, the Town has amended an existing conservation easement to remove the area that would be crossed by the relocated transmission lines.

▪ **Use of Design Option 2 for Mansfield Hollow**

Due to the limited right-of-way through Mansfield Hollow (150 feet as compared to 300 feet elsewhere), Northeast Utilities included two design options in the application to reduce right-of-way acquisition and clearing through the Hollow. Use of Design Option 2 would eliminate the need for any additional right-of-way and restrict clearing required for the new transmission line to the existing

right-of-way. As this option is the least invasive, it should be required to protect the natural resources of the Hollow and minimize both the visual and physical impacts on the surrounding parkland and wildlife habitat.

▪ **Protection of Active Farmland**

As shown on the attached land use map and aerial photograph, the transmission route runs through active farmland. To minimize impacts on working farms, Northeast Utilities should be required to strictly adhere to various mitigation measures to minimize impacts on working farms. Such measures include but are not limited to: limiting construction to non-crop/harvest seasons, ensuring that any soils disturbed or compacted through the process are restored to pre-construction conditions, ensuring that erosion and sedimentation controls are installed and monitored during construction, minimizing use of herbicides and pesticides, and financially compensating farmers for impacts to crop production caused by project construction and maintenance activities.

▪ **Location of Construction Access Roads**

While the construction time frame will be limited, it is important to protect adjacent single-family homes from impacts. Therefore, construction access roads should be located as far from homes as possible. In particular, Volume 9, Mapsheet 9 identifies two construction access roads immediately adjacent to single family homes located at 87 and 107 Bassetts Bridge Road. Given the amount of property owned by Northeast Utilities in the immediate area, these access points could and should be relocated away from the homes. The home located at 87 Bassetts Bridge Road is also the location of Green Dragon Daycare, which makes it particularly vulnerable to construction noise.

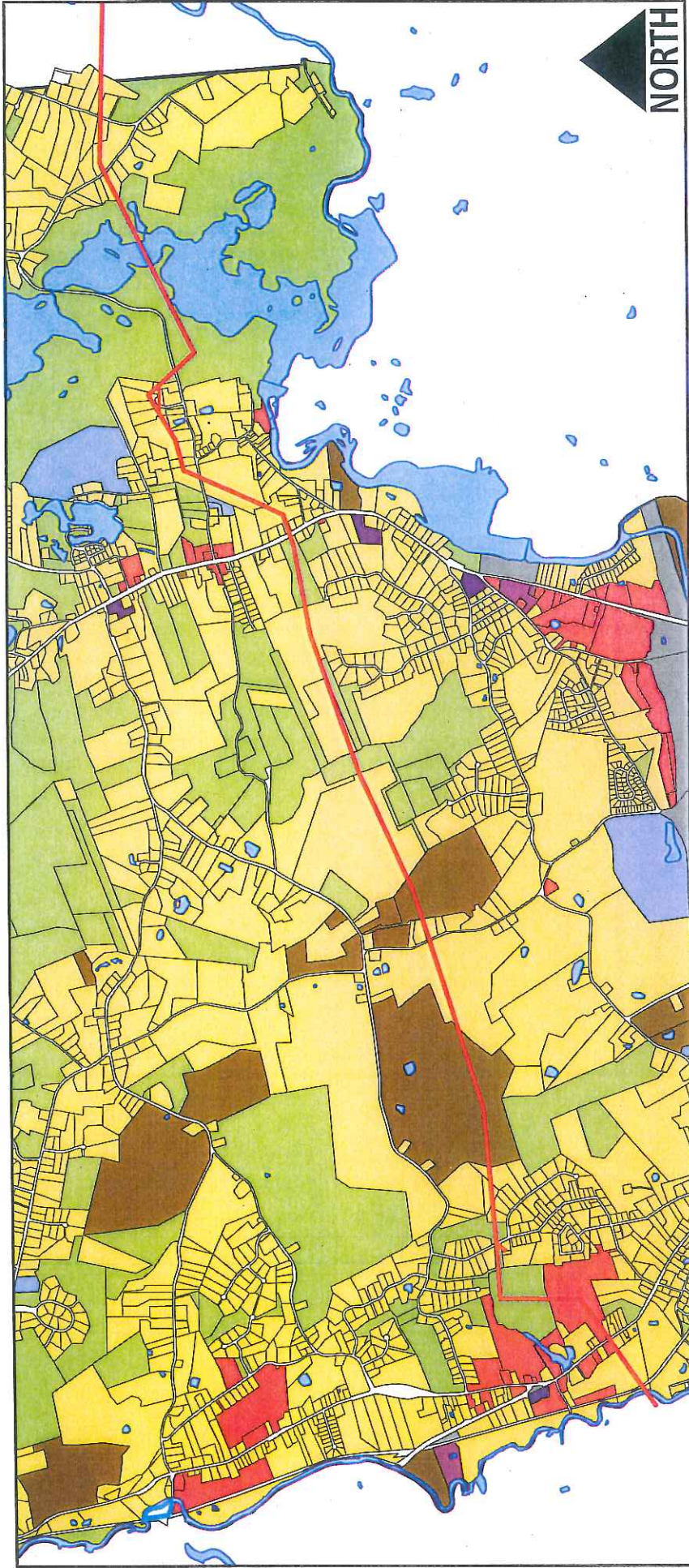
In closing, I would like to thank you and your colleagues on the Siting Council for consideration of our concerns regarding the proposed project. On behalf of the Mansfield Town Council, I hope that you will give our requested mitigation serious consideration if you find the proposed route to be acceptable. We believe that the requested mitigation measures are the minimum necessary to minimize the impact of the project on our community. If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact Linda M. Painter, Director of Planning and Development at (860) 429-3330 or painterlm@mansfieldct.org.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth C. Paterson
Mayor

Cc: Linda Roberts, Executive Director, Connecticut Siting Council
Anthony Mele, Northeast Utilities
State Senator Donald Williams
State Representative Gregory Haddad
United States Representative Joseph Courtney
Mark Paquette, Executive Director, Windham Region Council of Governments
Town Council
Planning and Zoning Commission
Conservation Commission
Agriculture Committee

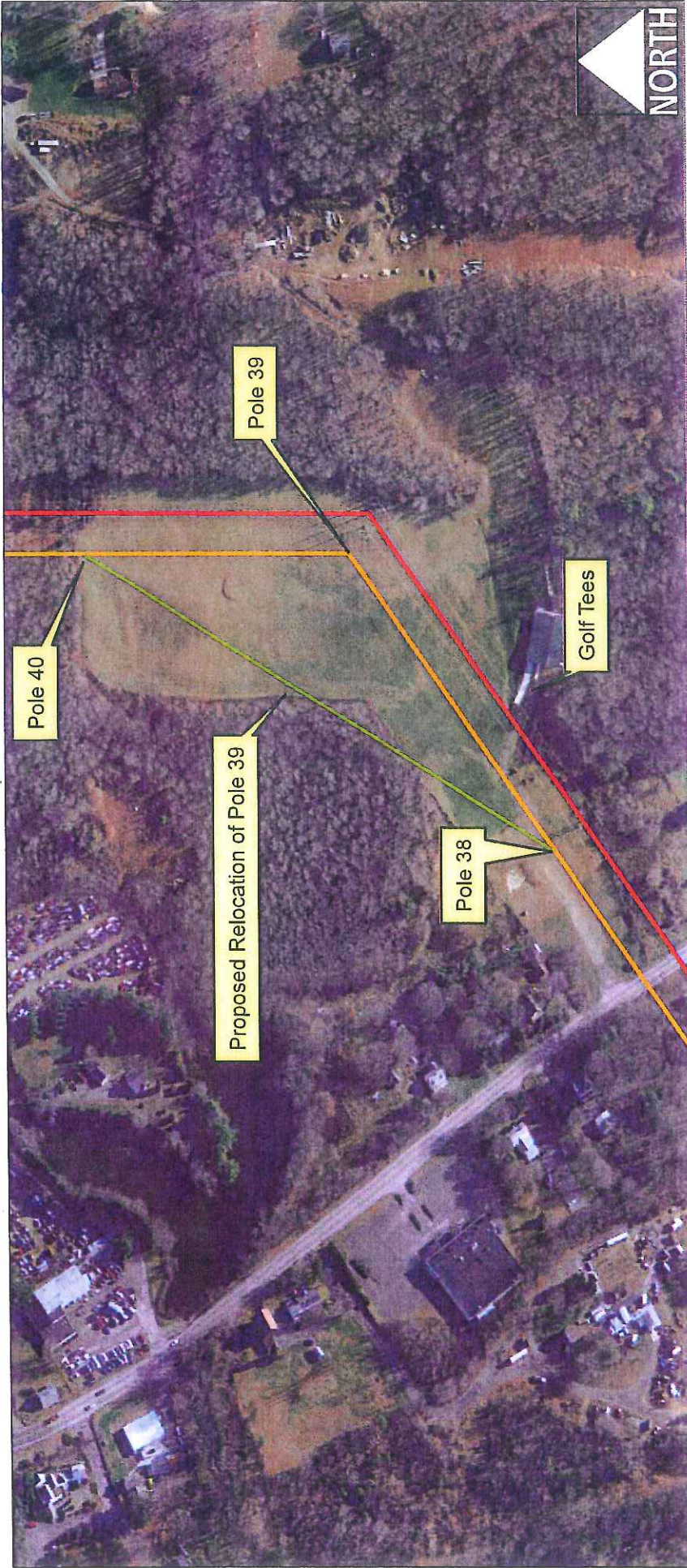


Mansfield Existing Land Use

(Based on Tax Assessor Data)

Legend

- Residential
- Agriculture
- Hospitals & Nursing Homes
- Open Space, Forest, & Timber
- Education
- Office, Commercial & Industrial Uses
- Churches, Cemeteries, & Charitable Uses
- Transportation & Water Supply Infrastructure
- Town Boundary
- Powerlines
- Water



Mansfield Mitigation-Highland Ridge



Legend

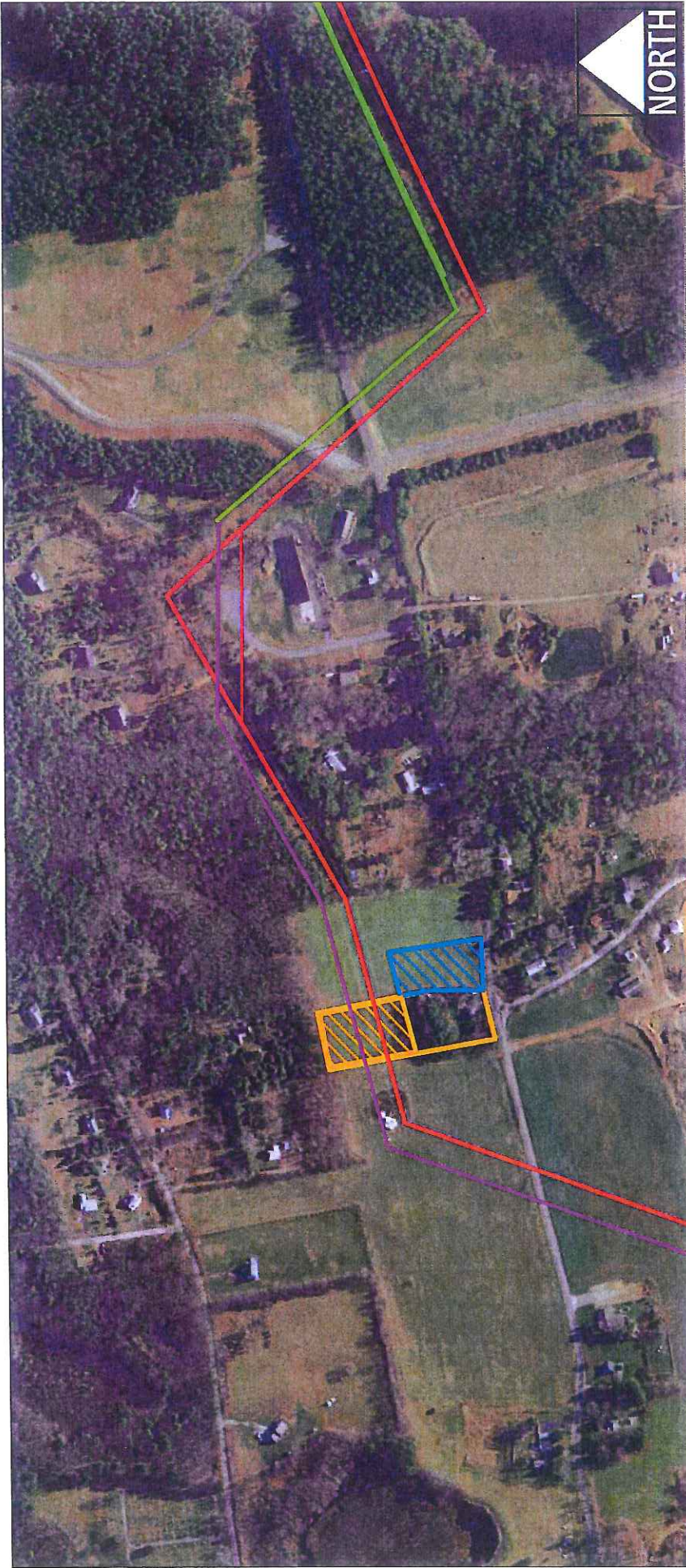
- Existing Powerlines
- Approximate Location-Proposed Transmission Line
- Approximate Location-Proposed Transmission Line



Mansfield Mitigation: Pole/Transmission Line Types

Legend

-  Existing Powerlines
-  Town Boundary
-  EMF Best Management Practices Poles (Monopoles)
-  H-Frame Pole Structures
-  Underground Transmission Lines
-  Mansfield Hollow-Design Option 2



Mansfield Mitigation-Green Dragon Daycare & Hawthorne Park

Legend

-  Green Dragon Daycare (Dorfer Property)
-  Green Dragon License Area (Owned by NE Utilities)
-  Proposed Land Swap Area (Dorfer)
-  EMF Best Management Practices Poles
-  Proposed Relocation of Existing Line-Hawthorne Park
-  Mansfield Hollow-Design Option2

LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-Mail	NRG continued...	<p>Judith E. Lagano NRG Energy, Inc. Manresa Island Avenue South Norwalk, CT 06854 Judith.Lagano@nrgenergy.com</p> <p>Raymond G. Long NRG Energy, Inc. P.O. Box 1001 1866 River Road Middletown, CT 06457 Ray.Long@nrgenergy.com</p> <p>Jonathan Gordon NRG Energy, Inc. P.O. Box 1001 1866 River Road Middletown, CT 06457 Jonathan.Gordon@nrgenergy.com</p> <p>Peter Fuller NRG Energy, Inc. 270 Cherry Street Bridgewater, MA 02324 Peter.Fuller@nrgenergy.com</p>
<p align="center">Party (granted 02/16/12)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	<p>Victor Civio 160 Beech Mt. Road Mansfield, CT 06250 (860) 456-2022</p>	

LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Party (granted 03/01/12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	EquiPower Resources Corp., Lake Road Generating Company LP, and Milford Power Company LLP (collectively, EquiPower)	Donna Poresky Senior Vice President and General Counsel EquiPower Resources Corp. 100 Constitution Plaza, 10 th Floor Hartford, CT 06103 (860) 656-0814 DPoresky@eqpwr.com
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail		Jim Ginnetti EquiPower Resources Corp. 100 Constitution Plaza, 10 th Floor Hartford, CT 06103 jginnetti@eqpwr.com
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E- Mail		David W. Bogan, Esq. Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq. Robinson & Cole LLP 280 Trumbull Street Hartford, CT 06103 (860) 275-8200 (860) 275-8299 – fax dbogan@rc.com kbaldwin@rc.com
Party (granted 03/15/12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E- Mail	The United Illuminating Company (UI)	Bruce L. McDermott, Esq. UIL Holdings Corporation 157 Church Street P.O. Box 1564 New Haven, CT 06506-0901 (203) 499-2422 (203) 499-3664 Bruce.mcdermott@uinet.com
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail		John J. Prete The United Illuminating Company 157 Church Street New Haven, CT 06506-0901 (203) 499-3701 (230) 499-3728 – fax uiregulatory@uinet.com

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Party (granted 04/12/12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	Richard Civie 43 Main Street East Haven, CT 06512 (203) 795-3604 Kccasey3@hotmail.com	
Party (granted 04/12/12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	Edward Hill Bullard 42 Shuba Lane Chaplin, CT 06235 (860) 455-0003 Hbull39@hotmail.com	
Party (if granted 04/26/12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	The Office of Consumer Counsel	Elin Swanson Katz Consumer Counsel Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051 Elin.katz@ct.gov Victoria Hackett Staff Attorney III Office of Consumer Counsel Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051 Victoria.hackett@ct.gov
Party (if granted 04/26/12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail	Richard Cheney and the Highland Ridge Golf Range, LLC (Highland Ridge)	Eric Knapp, Esq. Branse, Willis & Knapp, LLC 148 Eastern Boulevard, Siute 301 Glastonbury, CT 06033 (860) 659-3735 (860) 659-9368 fax eknapp@bransewillis.com