



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

January 20, 2017

Kathleen M. Shanley
Manager-Transmission Siting-CT
Eversource Energy
56 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: **DOCKET NO. 466** - The Connecticut Light & Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Frost Bridge to Campville 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project that traverses the municipalities of Watertown, Thomaston, Litchfield, and Harwinton, which consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kV overhead electric transmission line entirely within existing Eversource right-of-way and associated facilities extending approximately 10.4 miles between Eversource's existing Frost Bridge Substation in the Town of Watertown and existing Campville Substation in the Town of Harwinton; (b) related modifications to Frost Bridge Substation and Campville Substation; and (c) reconfiguration of a 0.4 mile segment of two existing 115-kV electric transmission lines across the Naugatuck River in the Towns of Litchfield and Harwinton within the same existing right-of-way as the new 115-kV electric transmission line.

Dear Ms. Shanley:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on January 19, 2017, the Council considered and approved the Invasive Species Control Plan submitted for this project on January 3, 2017.

This approval applies only to the Invasive Species Control Plan submitted on January 3, 2017. Requests for any changes to the Invasive Species Control Plan shall be approved by Council staff in accordance RCSA §16-50j-62(b). Furthermore, the Certificate Holder is responsible for reporting requirements pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-62.

Please be advised that changes and deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this Invasive Species Control Plan, dated January 19, 2017.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RDM/cm

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated January 19, 2017

c: The Honorable Michael R. Criss, First Selectman, Town of Harwinton
Michael J. Orefice, Planning Chairman, Town of Harwinton
The Honorable Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman, Town of Litchfield
Dennis Paul Tobin, Ph.D., Land Use Director, Town of Litchfield
The Honorable Edmond V. Mone, First Selectman, Town of Thomaston
Jeremy Leifert, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Town of Thomaston
The Honorable Thomas L. Winn, Town Council Chairman, Town of Watertown
Charles Frigon, Town Manager, Town of Watertown
Mark Massoud, Land Use Administrator, Town of Watertown



CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

<p>DOCKET NO. 466 - The Connecticut Light & Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Frost Bridge to Campville 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project that traverses the municipalities of Watertown, Thomaston, Litchfield, and Harwinton, which consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kV overhead electric transmission line entirely within existing Eversource right-of-way and associated facilities extending approximately 10.4 miles between Eversource's existing Frost Bridge Substation in the Town of Watertown and existing Campville Substation in the Town of Harwinton; (b) related modifications to Frost Bridge Substation and Campville Substation; and (c) reconfiguration of a 0.4 mile segment of two existing 115-kV electric transmission lines across the Naugatuck River in the Towns of Litchfield and Harwinton within the same existing right-of-way as the new 115-kV electric transmission line.</p>	<p>} Connecticut</p> <p>} Siting</p> <p>} Council</p> <p>} January 19, 2017</p>
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Development and Management Plan – Invasive Species Control Plan

Frost Bridge to Campville 115-kV Project

Staff Report

On September 15, 2016, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) approved a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for the above referenced project. The approved D&M Plan did not include an Invasive Species Control Plan (ISCP), as it was under review with both the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). On January 3, 2017 Eversource Energy (Eversource), consistent with the Council's April 14, 2016 Decision and Order Condition No. 2(k), submitted the final ISCP to the Council for inclusion within the D&M Plan for the project.

The ISCP contains provisions for the control of invasive vegetation both in upland and wetland areas. Upland areas would be managed in accordance with Eversource's existing right-of-way management plan. The plan includes a four-year rotation that manages the height of vegetation as well as targets a select list of invasive species that may occur along the right-of-way. The right-of-way management plan allows for safe operation and maintenance of the transmission lines as well as promoting species diversity and wildlife habitat by controlling invasive species.

As part of the ISCP, a Wetland Invasive Species Control Plan (WISCP) will be implemented to avoid or minimize the potential for the spread of invasive plant species in wetlands impacted by construction of the project. The overall goal of the WISCP is to protect the ecological conditions of the wetlands located within the project right-of-way by minimizing the spread of invasive plant species within affected wetlands and avoiding the introduction of invasive plant species in wetlands where they do not already occur. Within the project area, certain wetlands that contain invasive species extend well beyond the limits of the right-of-way. In these areas, Eversource would not attempt to eradicate invasive species since eradication efforts would most likely be unsuccessful.

As part of the WISCP, Eversource has conducted pre-construction wetland surveys to identify wetlands that already support invasive species. For this project, 13 of the 26 wetlands contain one or more invasive species. The invasive species of greatest concern is common reed (*Phragmites australis*) since it is the most abundant in the project area and is easily spread to disturbed areas.

The WISCP includes measures to ensure construction equipment required for the project do not contain invasive species prior to arrival at the construction site. Once equipment is used in project areas known to contain invasive species, measures will be implemented, such as cleaning of equipment and any other materials (including swamp mats) to eliminate excess soil, debris, and vegetation before being moved to other areas of the project right-of-way.

The WISCP also specifies the use of materials other than standard hay bales to establish erosion and sediment controls around wetland areas. Standard commercially available hay bales may contain seed stock of invasive species that could spread to adjacent wetland and upland areas.

Eversource will retain an environmental monitor to perform site inspections, contractor awareness, equipment inspections and report on the effectiveness of the WISCP.

Once completed, a post construction monitoring program will be implemented that includes field investigations by qualified personnel and annual reports. Field monitoring will occur during the first growing season and each year for four years thereafter. If invasive species are identified, control measures will be implemented as soon as practical and will be tailored to species type and specific site conditions. Annual ISCP monitoring reports will be submitted to DEEP and the USACE.