

Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Date: March 2, 2006

Inspector: Lee Curtis

Location: Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane) and (345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill)

Storm/

Rain Event: Approximately 0.36" of precipitation fell mostly in the form of snow on 3/2 as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
<p>Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Road by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and an area cleared from the station to the ROW. 3/2/06</p> <p>- Water levels at the 2nd wetland crossing on the access road have remained constant since the last inspection. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- Snow removal once again caused issues at the 2nd and 3rd wetland crossing along this access road 2/16/06. A skidder had slipped off the road into the 3rd wetland area. Haybales had been placed but ruts in the wetland remain. 3/2/06.</p>	<p>- With freezing and thawing periods, additional measures for stability should be considered for access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, it will have to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-3/2/06</p> <p>- Wetlands have not returned to the previous problem causing levels. Continue to monitor. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- Sediment was piled up and over the controls and needs to be removed from the wetlands. The damage should be repaired. See erosion control section for more details 3/2/06.</p>
<p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>- Work along the access roads continues in the vicinity of Hoyts Hill. Significant clearing continues at the Chestnut Ridge Rd. section</p>	<p>- Continue to maintain as needed. 2/2-3/2/06</p> <p>-Some brush could be removed from wetlands between poles #6 and #7 and some areas could use silt fence</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
	<p>and chips were placed along portions of the roads. 2/16-3/2/06.</p> <p>-Mats are in place in wetland locations in the Bethel Reservoir section. Watch the crossings for muddy conditions and monitor erosion controls. New wood chips were also placed to increase stability. 2/22-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Mats were removed from the stream crossing between poles#10-11 in preparation to build a stronger crossing for access to bring in the poles. All poles are currently being stored at Structure #10. 3/2/06</p> <p>- Access and clearing continue off John Todd Way. and Costa Drive. A stone dust access road is in place within the ROW. 2/22- 3/2/06.</p> <p>-Watch for sediment tracking at the various road/ROW intersections. 3/2/06.</p>	<p>along the road near the wetland edge between poles #5 and 6. 2/16-3/2/06</p> <p>- The crossings are well constructed and conditions were slightly improved with placement of wood chips on the access road. Continue to provide/extend silt fence- see the erosion control section for details. 2/16-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Make sure that the stream is not impacted in this new crossing construction. 3/2/06</p> <p>- Continue to install wetland crossings and erosion controls as needed. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor. Install stone at road access points or sweep the street as necessary. 3/2/06.</p>
<p>Foundation construction Composite</p> <p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>- Dumpsters were in place near the Archers Lane area to remove materials. 2/16-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Significant clearing was noted off Gallows Hill Rd. An additional structure has been installed immediately off Gallows Hill. 3/2/06.</p> <p>-All excavations for pole installation in the Bethel Reservoir and the Chestnut Ridge sections are complete. With the exception of structures #10, 9, and 8, all poles to be installed are wooden. 2/9-3/2/06. All previously existing structures</p>	<p>-None at this time. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- See clearing section for more detail. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 3/2/06.</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
	<p>and wire were down for both sections. The wooden poles for the Reservoir Section are currently stored at Pole #10. Installation of these poles will begin when the crossing is complete between pole#10 and #11. 3/2/06</p> <p>- Most of the structures for the Chestnut Ridge section have been placed along the ROW and are awaiting installation. 3/2/06</p> <p>- Access and clearing are now occurring off John Todd Way. Structure pre-drilling had begun at structure #22. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- Lines were taken down from structures along the Costa Lane, but the existing poles remained at the time of inspection. 3/2/06.</p>	<p>- None at this time. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- None at this time. 3/2/06.</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls (includes inspection within 24 hours of a storm event)</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>- Water levels appear to remain constant at the 2nd wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. Snow plowing issues remain with sediment still piled over the controls at both the 2nd wetland crossing 2/16-3/2/06</p> <p>- Haybales were installed at the 3rd wetland to repair the controls but the ruts in the wetland remain. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- The 1st wetland crossing, immediately within the Archers Lane site before the access road opens into the ROW continues to have increased sedimentation/turbidity issues from road run-off. Sediment accumulation in the wetland ranges from a thin layer on the leaves to several inches thick. 1/26-3/2/06.</p>	<p>- The effectiveness of these controls have been reduced due to this. Sediment/snow piles still need to be pulled back from the wetlands and the controls still need to be cleaned up at the 2nd crossing 2/16-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Damage to the wetland should be repaired. 2/16-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Solutions to prevent sedimentation and turbidity in the ponded water here need to be investigated and implemented. Cleaning out the sediment in the stone may help. 1/4-3/2/06.</p> <p>- In areas where sediment is substantial and feasibly removable, contractors should shovel it out carefully by hand. 1/26-3/2/06.</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
<p>Erosion controls continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The erosion controls had been repaired at the 2nd structure in from Gallows Hill and along the access road adjacent to the wetland. Due to snow cover, it was difficult to determine whether the soil was removed from the wetland. 3/2/06. - Wood chips were noted blown into the uplands off the ROW last week. This is probably not a good practice as this reduces natural habitat and may smother plants. 2/22-3/2/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It needs to be confirmed whether the soil was removed from the wetland. 3/2/06. -Make sure chips stay on the ROW or piles are removed. Consider asking contractors to remove the off ROW chips. We could not confirm this week due to snow cover. 3/2/06.
<p>345kV H-Frame Chestnut Ridge Section</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant clearing continues in the Chestnut Ridge section. Continue to provide good controls at the wetlands. Some silt fence could be installed adjacent to the access road between poles #5 and 6. Conditions were muddy and wetlands are adjacent. 2/16-3/2/06. -The silt fence at the pasture near pole #7 could use some repair. 2/22-3/2/06. - A portion of the sediment near structure #6 has been removed. Continue to work on the remainder as the pile is in a wetland area. 2/22-3/2/06. - The stockpile from structure #9 foundation installation was still present. The silt fence here has a gap in coverage. 1/26-3/2/06. - Conditions at all matted crossings appeared to improve as additional wood chips had 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to place controls at all four “corners” of the approach to the mats and crossings. Watch for increasingly muddy conditions on the mats and install silt fence along the road as needed. 2/16-3/2/06. - Repair as necessary. This is to prevent sedimentation to an adjacent landowners property rather than a resource area. 2/22-3/2/06 - Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-3/2/06. - The stockpile should be removed as soon as feasible to prevent run-off to the road. 2/16-3/2/06. - Continue to maintain erosion controls at the corners of the mats at the approach. 2/2-
<p>Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.</p>		

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Costa Lane	<p>been placed. Silt fence was also installed at the corners of the crossing between #17-18 3/2/06.</p> <p>- Conditions had been muddy on the access road near proposed pole #19 beyond the original mat at the crossing. Two additional mats have been installed to increase stability here as recommended. 3/2/06.</p> <p>-Silt fence was also installed at structure #19 now that foundation work is beginning here. 2/22-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Sediment had run-off the access road between poles #19 and 21 into some wetland pockets. Silt fence has been installed here to prevent further sedimentation as recommended. 3/2/06.</p> <p>-Mats have been installed at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #28. 3/2/06.</p>	<p>3/2/06.</p> <p>- Continue to monitor this crossing for increasingly muddy conditions on the mats. 3/2/06.</p> <p>-Continue to maintain fence as necessary due to the proximity of the wetlands. 2/22-3/2/06.</p> <p>-Continue to maintain fence as necessary. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- Erosion controls should be installed at the corners of the mats at the approach. Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions. 3/2/06.</p>
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p>Composite</p>	<p>-The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings had worked well, but at three areas near Archers Lane, turbidity issues have been present. Run-off from the road, the drainage pipe, and snow plow issues had led to sedimentation. 1/4-3/2/06.</p> <p>- New deposits of sediment were noted in the wetlands beyond the controls at the 2nd and 3rd wetland crossings due to recent snow plowing and direct damage was noted to the wetland at the 3rd crossing as a</p>	<p>- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Issues remain from the recent plowing. The sediment has to be carefully pulled back from the wetland.</p> <p>- The damage to the 3rd wetland should be repaired as well 3/2/06.</p>

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<p>345kV H-Frame</p>	<p>result of equipment slipping. 2/16-3/2/06.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The rocks at the 1st crossing remain clogged with sediment and noticeable deposits were in the wetland. 1/4-3/2/06. - Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. Clearing was noted along the wetland near Gallows Hill. Adjacent homeowners reported machinery in the wetland 3/2/06. - Use caution in removing trees from wetland areas or adjacent to streams in this section as well. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 1/19-3/2/06. - Some brush was piled in the wetland between pole #6-7 due to the clearing activities. 2/16-3/2/06. -A significant amount of brush was also noted within the wetland at Costa Lane near structure #28. 3/2/06. - At the excavation for proposed structure #6, some of the mud was removed from the wetland but they will continue to do so.3/2/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 1st crossing could also use some clean stone. Sediment will have to be carefully removed. 1/4-3/2/06. - Use mats to access and skid out trees. Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible. 3/2/06. -See recommendations in clearing section. 3/2/06. - If damage is noted during the spring, the previously created ruts should be repaired if possible. Try to leave shrubs and low growth where possible, especially at stream buffers. 2/2-3/2/06. -Carefully remove brush piles and trees from wetland areas. 2/16-3/2/06 -Carefully remove brush piles and trees from wetland areas. 3/2/06 - The entire pile should continue to be pulled back/removed and controls reinstalled closer to the pole. Conditions may be too muddy at this time. 2/16-3/2/06.
<p>State species of concern, threatened and endangered species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-3/2/06. -The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and is likely hibernating. 3/2/06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Turtles would no longer be active at this time of year. 3/2/06.

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<p>Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)</p>	<p>-Significant clearing was noted in the composite section near Gallows Hill Rd. This includes work in wetlands. Adjacent homeowners mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs and also noted machines in the wetland. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- A significant amount of chips were blown into the upland area off the cleared ROW. This could smother plants and reduce habitat. 2/22-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Significant clearing continues in the Chestnut Ridge Rd. to Hoyts Hill section. Chips were being spread on the ROW in this area. 2/16-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Efforts have been good to keep chips out of wetlands and placing them on the access road helps increase stability. 3/2/06.</p> <p>- Carefully remove any larger branches or brush strewn in streams and wetlands. This was noted in a number of locations. 2/9-3/2/06.</p> <p>-Clearing also continues near Costa Lane and John Todd Rd. 3/2/06</p>	<p>- Take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Chips need to remain on ROW or be removed. Chips currently off ROW should be removed. 2/22-3/2/06.</p> <p>-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-3/2/06. Makes efforts to retain shrubs. 2/22-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Chips spread on the ROW should not be to a depth of more than 3” by the time the growing season is about to begin. 1/4-3/2/06.</p> <p>- Efforts to retain shrubs were noted in some sections. Attempt to retain buffers, especially at streams and wetlands. 2/2-3/2/06.</p>
<p>Dewatering</p>	<p>- Active dewatering was not noted at a particular structure this week. 3/2/06.</p>	<p>- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. (Make sure to check downgradient for these areas- i.e. as in pole #6) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment. 3/2/06.</p>
	<p>-No blasting has been</p>	<p>-None at this time. 3/2/06.</p>

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Blasting	necessary at this time on the ROW. 3/2/06.	
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment had leaks noted at the time of inspection. 3/2/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Take care not to get carried away and to be vigilant when refueling. Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.
Additional Observations		

Next likely scheduled inspection: Thursday, March 9, 2006

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Inspector's Signature: Diana Walden for Lee Curtis



(Composite Section): Photo on the left shows a view of the 2nd crossing along the road from Archers Lane. Snow/sediment piles from the last storm still need to be removed. Photo on the right shows a spot where haybales were installed at the damaged silt fence at the 3rd crossing. 3/2/06



Photo on the left shows the wetland crossing near the 2nd structure within the Gallows Hill Section. Erosion controls have been repaired at the structure and along the access road. Photo on the left shows where soil had been pushed over the fence but controls were repaired. It should be confirmed that all soil has been removed from the wetland. 3/2/06



Photo on the left shows the ongoing clearing activities and piling of trees at Gallows Hill. (345kV H-Frame): Photo on the right shows pre-drilling for structure installation within the Costa Lane Section. 3/2/06.



(345kV H-Frame): This photo shows the wetland crossing near structure #28 along Costa Lane. Brush should be removed from the wetland and silt fence installed at the corners of the crossing, upon approach. 3/2/06



Photo on the left shows pre-drilling for structure installation at pole #22, off John Todd Way. Photo on the right shows a view of the clearing taking place at the adjacent structure. 3/2/06.



Photo on the left shows a view of the wetland crossing at structure #19 within the Bethel Reservoir section. Additional mats have been placed in this area. Photo on the right shows a view of the silt fence installed between structure #19 and #21 as recommended. 3/2/06.



Photo on the left shows a view along the access road in the Bethel Reservoir section with erosion controls in place at the approach as recommended. Photo on the right shows pole placed for installation along the Chestnut Ridge section. 3/2/06.



Both photos show ongoing activities at the Chestnut Ridge Road section. The photo on the left shows excavation for poles and the photo on the right shows ongoing clearing activities. 3/2/06.