



**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**
Monday, November 10, 2008
Council Chamber
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Work Session

1. Presentation on the Connecticut Light and Power Interstate Reliability Project

Adjournment

Initial Questions to be raised at 11/10/08 Special Mansfield Town Council Meeting

Need Related Questions

1. Does the proposed project address any specific needs in Mansfield or other Eastern Connecticut municipalities? Does the project provide any direct or indirect benefits to the Town of Mansfield?
2. What are the primary justifications for proposing at this time an increase in inter-state transmission capacity when other states have focused on integrated resource planning, energy conservation and localized generation alternatives to address existing and future needs?
3. To what extent have energy conservation measures been studied as primary means to reduce current and future electricity needs?
4. Why can't alternative forms of localized energy generation, such as solar, hydro, wind, tidal, fuel cells and co-generation facilities (for example, the co-generation plant recently built at UConn) be relied upon to meet future needs.?

Alternative Route Related Questions

5. With the use of current installation technology, why can't the entire transmission line through Eastern Connecticut be installed underground? It is understood that other countries (and perhaps other states) have required new electric transmission lines to be installed underground to increase reliability, to reduce maintenance costs and to reduce potential impacts on public health and safety.
6. Can the Mansfield route be utilized without approval by the Army Corp of Engineers of an expanded right-of-way through Mansfield Hollow State Park? When is an Army Corp of Engineers decision expected? Will Northeast Utilities incorporate the Windham alternative if Army Corp of Engineers approval is not obtained or will other alternative routes be pursued?
7. Assuming an increase in interstate transmission capacity can be justified at this time, why was the eastern Connecticut route selected when alternatives, such as C1 and C2 appear feasible? These alternative routes would utilize existing transportation corridors that link existing and anticipated concentrations of development. Connecticut's Polices Plan for Conservation and Development does not recommend intensive growth along the proposed eastern Connecticut route.
8. If other interstate transmission projects are approved, will this alter the need for the proposed eastern Connecticut project? Please explain!

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Local Design/Construction Questions

9. What alternatives or mitigation measures is Northeast Utilities willing to incorporate to eliminate or significantly reduce potential impacts for statutory identified facilities located along the proposed route in Mansfield? These statutory facilities include:

- The Mount Hope Montessori School and Green Dragon Day Care Center on Bassetts Bridge Road
- The S. Charron Home Daycare Center on Storrs Road
- Mansfield Hollow State Park with multi-use fields and trails on Bassetts Bridge Road
- Residential uses on Bassetts Bridge Road, Highland Road, Stone Ridge Lane and Hawthorne Lane

Specific responses for each statutory facility would be appreciated! Potential alternatives or mitigations that should be considered include:

- Underground service for all or portions of the Mansfield segment
- Funding of School relocation
- Relocation/redesign of support structures and existing and proposed lines
- Use of single pole support structures for existing and/or proposed transmission lines
- Establishment of new vegetative buffers
- Reduction of tree removal

10. What alternative strategies or designs have Northeast Utilities incorporated or would consider to reduce the strength of and potential impacts of electric magnetic fields (EMF's)?

11. Is Northeast Utilities willing to incorporate design alternatives and construction procedures to reduce impacts on existing farmland and areas with prime farmland soils within and adjacent to the proposed route through Mansfield? Some specific examples are cited in a September 3, 2008 letter from Mansfield's Agricultural Committee.

12. Is Northeast Utilities willing to incorporate blasting procedures including pre and post blasting inspections of neighboring properties and a commitment to address any problems that arise due to blasting?

Other

13. Have comments or concerns been requested and/or received from organizations that have a primary mission of protecting the natural environment (such as The Nature Conservancy, The Green Valley Institute, The Naubesatuck Watershed Council, Joshua's Land Trust and municipal Conservation Commissions)? Please address any issues raised by these organizations.