



**Northeast
Utilities System**

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April 7, 2011

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

RE: Petition No. 980 - BNE Energy, Inc. Petition for a Declaratory Ruling That No Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is Required for the Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a 3.2 MW Wind Renewable Generating facility located at 178 New Haven Road, Prospect, Connecticut

Dear Chairman Stein:

The Connecticut Light and Power Company (“CL&P”) hereby supplements its position in this proceeding, pursuant to the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) ruling on March 31, 2011. CL&P respectfully requests that the Council take under consideration the following comments regarding CL&P’s interests in the referenced Petition.

CL&P has reviewed BNE Energy, Inc.’s (“BNE” or “Petitioner”) original and revised site plans for this project, in light of the recent realization that CL&P has telecommunications infrastructure sited on CL&P property at 18 Kluge Road in Prospect, CT, which is adjacent to the proposed project site. CL&P met with representatives of BNE on April 1, 2011 to review the coordinates and site plans in relation to CL&P’s telecommunications infrastructure. Specifically, CL&P’s telecommunications infrastructure¹, which supports CL&P’s field operations and equipment operation and control, on the adjacent property consists of:

¹ Although CL&P filed the request for Intervenor status, its other NU system operating affiliates may also utilize this telecommunications infrastructure.

a. Existing Facilities:

Field Operation Communication Equipment:

- Radio transceiver in the 37 megahertz (“MHz”) range for mobile communications and meter and service operations;
- Radio transceiver in the 48 MHz range for mobile communications and meter and service operations; and
- Radio transceiver in the 154 MHz range for internal paging of employees;

Equipment Operation, Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA):

- Radio transceiver in the 450 MHz range used for remote control of the electrical system;
- Radio transceiver in the 935 MHz range used for remote control of the electrical system;

Systems Operation Control:

- Two microwave paths in the upper 6 gigahertz (“GHz”) band (around 6.7 GHz) which carry administrative and electrical system operational information, as well as information provided to the Independent System Operator of New England (“ISO-NE”) for regional system operations.

Public Safety Equipment:

- Town of Prospect Fire Department radio equipment is also installed on its telecommunications infrastructure.

The antennas for all of these applications are mounted on CL&P’s 150 foot self-supporting tower on our property. Within the enclosed fence line, CL&P also has two equipment shelters to house the radios and associated equipment.

b. Planned Facilities:

CL&P is in the planning stages to install a 220 MHz transceiver used for remote controlled SCADA, which is scheduled to be in service by the end of 2011.

CL&P must ensure that the Petitioner’s project does not have any negative or degrading impact on CL&P’s present communications, or diminish CL&P’s ability for future modifications or expansion of its non-line-of-sight radio or microwave communications. If the Petitioner’s project impacts CL&P’s SCADA, microwave and/or mobile communications, which are essential communications for safe and reliable electric service, operations, restoration and field operation communications, the Petitioner should be held financially responsible for such impact. CL&P’s customers should not bear any incremental or additional costs associated with any repair, replacement or relocation of its telecommunications facilities or degradation of existing communication services levels caused by the Petitioner’s project.

I. Background:

CL&P is a specially chartered corporation and an electric distribution company which operates and maintains electric distribution and transmission facilities throughout the State of Connecticut, providing distribution service to approximately 1.2 million customers. On January 10, 2011, CL&P intervened in this proceeding on the basis of the Petitioner's proposal which specifically states that upon completion of the Project, the facility will be interconnected to CL&P's distribution system in accordance with CL&P technical standards as well as the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control, ISO-NE and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requirements.

Although two public service companies, CL&P and the Connecticut Water Company ("CWC"), own parcels that are adjacent to the proposed site only CWC was specifically mentioned within the body of the Petition. No reference to either CL&P or its telecommunications facility on the adjacent property was identified within the body of the Petition. CL&P was identified in Exhibit D of the Petition, among the list of abutting property owners to whom the Petitioner sent a certified notice of the filing of the petition. In the case of CL&P, the notice was apparently sent to CL&P's general post office box: P.O. Box 270, Hartford, CT 06141.

II. Impact of Proposed Project on CL&P Telecommunications Facilities at 18 Kluge Rd., Prospect, CT

Based on CL&P's review of its telecommunications facilities, in relation to the proposed locations of the two wind turbines on the Prospect parcel², CL&P respectfully submits the following for consideration by the Siting Council:

- a. The Project is not in the existing microwave paths of CL&P's telecommunications facilities. However, CL&P reserves the right to hold the Petitioner responsible for any repair, replacement or relocation of its microwave paths in the event the existing paths are subsequently impacted (e.g., by future installations on the property or modifications of equipment proposed under this petition).
- b. The location and expected operation of the Northern Turbine, as identified in the revised plans CL&P reviewed with BNE, is outside of the microwave path of CL&P's telecommunications facilities, but whether the wind turbine will cause interference to our microwave path cannot be known until the project is built.
- c. The location and expected operation of the Southern Turbine as identified in the revised plans CL&P reviewed with BNE, is well beyond the microwave path of CL&P's telecommunication facilities.

² The Company's evaluation and review is based on the proposed locations identified during the April 1, 2011 meeting with BNE and filed for Council consideration.

d. It remains undetermined whether CL&P's non-line-of-sight communications will be negatively impacted, and perhaps degraded or unusable when the wind turbines are in operation.

e. The rough topography in this area causes many of CL&P's reception signals, in the various radio bands that are utilized, to be at a very low level, such that any amount of interference could have a significant impact on NU/CL&P's communications and therefore disrupt equipment operations and field communications.

f. CL&P is concerned the wind turbines will diminish or impact CL&P's ability to expand the utilization of the telecommunication tower, to maximize use of the facility in the future.

g. CL&P's telecommunications engineers' group have been unable to conclusively determine whether the project will present reflective/multipath interference problems for non-line-of-sight frequencies. In the case of CL&P this would include its frequencies from 37 MHz through 935 MHz. Therefore, the potential and possibility for interference remains a serious concern for CL&P.

h. Since projects and configurations such as that proposed in this Petition are new in Connecticut, and the amount of interference, if any, to CL&P's low band frequencies is not yet thoroughly understood, additional study is required. CL&P is retaining the services of an independent telecom/technology firm to perform a study of possible interference with CL&P's communications. CL&P would be willing to submit the results of that study to the Council.

i. CL&P believes that the Petitioner should be responsible to bear the cost of the interference study described above, since but for the Petitioner's project, CL&P would not have to perform such analysis. CL&P must receive the Petitioner's cooperation in assembling data necessary for completion of the study.

j. The Petitioner has not performed any analysis or cited to any studies that are conclusive that there will be no interference or impact on CL&P's telecommunications.

k. CL&P is not aware of technical data submitted by the Petitioner or any other party on Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI) emissions from the generator, and therefore, CL&P remains concerned about how this may effect operation of CL&P's telecommunications facilities.

l. As a conditional approval of the project, the Council should require BNE, during an emergent circumstance involving CL&P operations which may be affected by operation of the wind turbines, to shut down operation of the wind turbines upon notice by CL&P, until the emergent or other operational circumstances, are resolved to CL&P's satisfaction.

m. The Petitioner should be required to provide industry safety standards, procedures and training to CL&P for the benefit of its employees and agents, who will have to work in proximity to the wind turbines.

CL&P further respectfully requests that the Council allow it to review and comment on any further revised site plans, and to participate in the design and management phase of this project, in the event the Petition is conditionally approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATION

A copy of the foregoing was sent by first class mail to the following parties of record on this 7th day of April, 2011:

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