

APPENDIX J PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

A Northeast Utilities Company

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October 21, 2010

Dr. Doug Smith
Chairman, Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
407 Woodbridge Street
Manchester, CT 06042

**Re: Development and Management Plan
Manchester to Meekville Junction Project**

Dear Dr. Smith:

It was a pleasure to meet with the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee ("Committee") on September 10, 2010 to introduce Connecticut Light and Power's ("CL&P") Manchester to Meekville Junction Project ("MMP") and provide the draft project Development and Management (D&M) plan for your review and comment. Thank you for your comments provided on September 22, 2010.

Below, please find the Committee's recommendations (in bold), and CL&P's responses below each recommendation. We trust that our responses reasonably address the Committee's concerns. This correspondence will also be included in the final draft D&M plans to be submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council in mid-October.

"First, we ask that every measure be taken to try to keep our trails open during your construction or that detour signs be erected to guide hikers around on some of our alternate trails."

CL&P will work with the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee during pre-construction and construction activities to minimize the impacts on the Hockanum River trail system. For public safety, some trails will need to be temporarily closed or re-rerouted during construction. Detour or trail-closed signage will be erected at trailheads and parking areas during construction periods.

"Second, we ask that as many trees be preserved as possible, especially evergreen trees, under and adjacent to your lines. We have noticed that most evergreens including red cedars have been cut down or sprayed with herbicide along the transmission line running behind the K-Mart store, now vacant, off Spencer Street, Manchester. We hope that White Pines can be topped and preserved under your lines."

As described in the Northeast Utilities "Tree and Shrub Planting Guide" that was forwarded to you on September 14, 2010, CL&P generally cannot approve of tall-growing tree species within the right-of-way. White pines pose a real challenge as they are grow tall very quickly and do not adapt well to topping. However, CL&P's Transmission Vegetation Management department will continue to work with you to trim/top pines and to allow some of these to remain within the right-of-way. We can continue to do this with existing trees but strongly request that the Committee not plant any more of these types of trees within the right-of-way.

"Third, if herbicide is needed to clear vegetation under lines, then we recommend Triclopyr be used, and not Round Up, Triclopyr is our favorite since it only eradicates broad leaf weeds and does not harm grass."

CL&P can use triclopyr or discuss other options with respect to the types of herbicides to use or to modify the application methods and treat during times of the year when non-target species are dormant and not susceptible to herbicide damage - such as a winter time treatment period.

"Fourth, reseeding should be used to restore ground cover, and we highly recommend Perennial Rye Grass to preserve a green cover year-round. A seed mix to include a variety of wild flower seeds is recommended."

CL&P will use a wetland seed mix within the wetlands and a perennial rye seed or local seed mix for uplands. No annual grass seed will be used unless there is a circumstance when annual seed is needed as a temporary Fall cover until the perennial mix is applied in the Spring.

"Fifth, a variety of shrubs with berries is highly recommended, like High Bush Blueberries, High Bush Cranberries, Winterberries and Winterberries are recommended under your transmission lines to enhance wildlife habitat especially adjacent to our Hockanum trails and the river."

To help enhance wildlife habitat in areas adjacent to the trails where vegetation clearing is required for MMP, CL&P will provide twenty-five (25) berry bushes which are listed in the Northeast Utilities "Tree and Shrub Planting Guide". These shrubs will be provided to the Committee for planting and long-term care.

"Sixth, fabric erosion control fencing should be removed when grading is stabilized and ground cover is well established, I assume within one year, after grading work is done in the vicinity of our hiking trails."

CL&P will be required by permit conditions to leave these controls in place until restoration is deemed "complete" by the project's permitting agencies. At that time, CL&P will remove the silt fence.

"Seventh, we request that \$1000 in funding or like value in 2 to 3 foot evergreen tree plantings be forwarded to our Committee - Hockanum River Linear Park Committee, Park Department, Town of Manchester, CT - to support replacement plantings where evergreens have been removed during"

transmission construction near trails.”

For each memorial white pine tree which was planted by the Committee that must be removed for the MMP project, CL&P will supply a 2- to 3-foot white pine tree for planting outside of the right-of-way. As an alternative, if preferred by the Committee, CL&P will provide a 2- to 3-foot tree or shrub listed within the Northeast Utilities “Tree and Shrub Planting Guide” if planting inside the ROW is preferred. These trees or shrubs will be provided to the Committee for planting and long-term care.

”Eighth, disturbed hiking trails should be regraded with topsoil and perennial Rye Grass seed when heavy traffic is complete.”

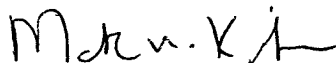
CL&P will re-grade disturbed hiking trails with topsoil and either a perennial rye grass seed or local perennial mix when construction traffic is complete. Additionally, trail signage that is removed or damaged will be replaced with new signage.

”Ninth, the gate and Hockanum River Hiking Trail sign be replaced with same combination lock, as before, at the entrance adjacent to the Cheney technical School. The gate should allow pedestrian hiking around the gate but not allow vehicles without unlocking the gate.”

To deter motorized vehicles from the access road adjacent to the Howell Cheney Technical High School, CL&P will install a gate and double lock so that only CL&P and town officials (typically fire, police, etc.) can open the gate when required. The town’s lock can be a combination lock as requested. This gate will be closed and locked outside of construction periods.

As stated previously, Connecticut Light and Power will work closely with the Committee during pre-construction and construction activities to minimize any impacts to the Hockanum River trail system. Please feel free to call me at any time with questions or concerns at (860) 665-2440 or (860) 754-6566 (cell).

Sincerely,



Mark W. Kimball
Project Management Specialist
NU Transmission Projects

cc: Matt Bordeaux, Manchester Environmental Planner/Wetlands Agent
Beverly Peters, NU Project Manager, Manchester to Meekville Junction Project