



**THE CONNECTICUT PORTION
OF THE INTERSTATE RELIABILITY PROJECT
BY
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY**

VOLUME 8: VISUAL RESOURCE ANALYSIS

DECEMBER 2011



Connecticut Siting Council Application
The Interstate Reliability Project

VOLUME 8: VISUAL RESOURCE ANALYSIS

Visual Resource Analysis Report

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INTERSTATE RELIABILITY PROJECT

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1. INTRODUCTION AND STUDY OBJECTIVES

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northeast Utilities (NU), along with The Narragansett Electric Company and New England Power Company, both of which are wholly-owned subsidiaries of National Grid USA (National Grid), propose to construct and operate new 345-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines and to make related modifications and improvements to existing 345-kV and 115-kV transmission lines and facilities in northeastern Connecticut, northwestern Rhode Island, and south central Massachusetts. These proposed electric transmission system improvements are referred to as the Interstate Reliability Project (the Project). This visual resource analysis addresses the Connecticut portion of the Project.

The Connecticut portion of the Project, which is illustrated on Figure 1-1, consists of the following proposed facilities:

- New 345-kV overhead electric transmission lines and associated facilities, extending between CL&P's Card Street Substation in the Town of Lebanon, Lake Road Switching Station in the Town of Killingly, and the Connecticut/Rhode Island border (in the Town of Thompson).
- Related additions within the existing fence lines at CL&P's Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and Killingly Substation.

The proposed 345-kV transmission lines between Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and the Connecticut / Rhode Island border would traverse approximately 36.8 miles, crossing portions of 11 towns in northeastern Connecticut. The new 345-kV transmission lines (designated by CL&P as the 3271 Line and the 341 Line) would be constructed overhead and aligned adjacent to existing 345-kV overhead transmission lines along existing CL&P rights-of-way (ROWs).¹ The existing 345-kV facilities were constructed in the early 1970s. Segments of the existing ROWs also include other overhead transmission lines (e.g., 69 kV and 115 kV) as well as local distribution lines (23 kV).

¹ The 3271 Line would extend from Card Street Substation to Lake Road Switching Station, adjacent to the 330 Line, whereas the 341 Line would extend from Lake Road Switching Station to the Connecticut/Rhode Island border, adjacent to the 3348 Line and then the 347 Line.

The majority of the new overhead 345-kV transmission lines would be supported on H-frame structures similar in appearance and height to the existing H-frame structures that support the 345-kV lines presently occupying the ROWs. However, along certain segments of the 36.8-mile Proposed Route, CL&P's proposed design incorporates steel-monopole structures, either to match the existing 345-kV structure appearance or for magnetic field mitigation.

The new 345-kV line structures would be aligned generally to the north or west (depending on the ROW segment) of the existing 345-kV transmission line structures. Except for 1.4 miles of the ROW through federally-owned lands in the towns of Mansfield and Chaplin (where the existing ROW is only 150 feet wide), the new transmission lines would be located within CL&P's existing ROWs, which are typically 300 feet or more wide. Across the federally-owned properties, CL&P proposes to acquire additional ROW to allow the development of the new 345-kV line using structures that match the existing 345-kV line structures in terms of appearance and height.²

1.2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL GUIDANCE REGARDING VISUAL RESOURCES

The Connecticut portion of the proposed Project is subject to the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council), which has established procedures for applicants to follow in applying for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. These procedures are detailed in the Council's *Application Guide for Electric and Fuel Transmission Line Facilities* (April 2010; *Application Guide*).

With respect to visual resources, the *Application Guide* requires applicants to identify scenic areas in relation to proposed projects and to describe the potential effect that proposed projects would have on such areas. The *Application Guide* also requires applicants to describe and evaluate the potential effects of proposed projects on Connecticut Heritage Areas (as designated by Connecticut General Statutes [C.G.S.] §16a-27) and Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) Scenic Lands (C.G.S. §13a-85a).

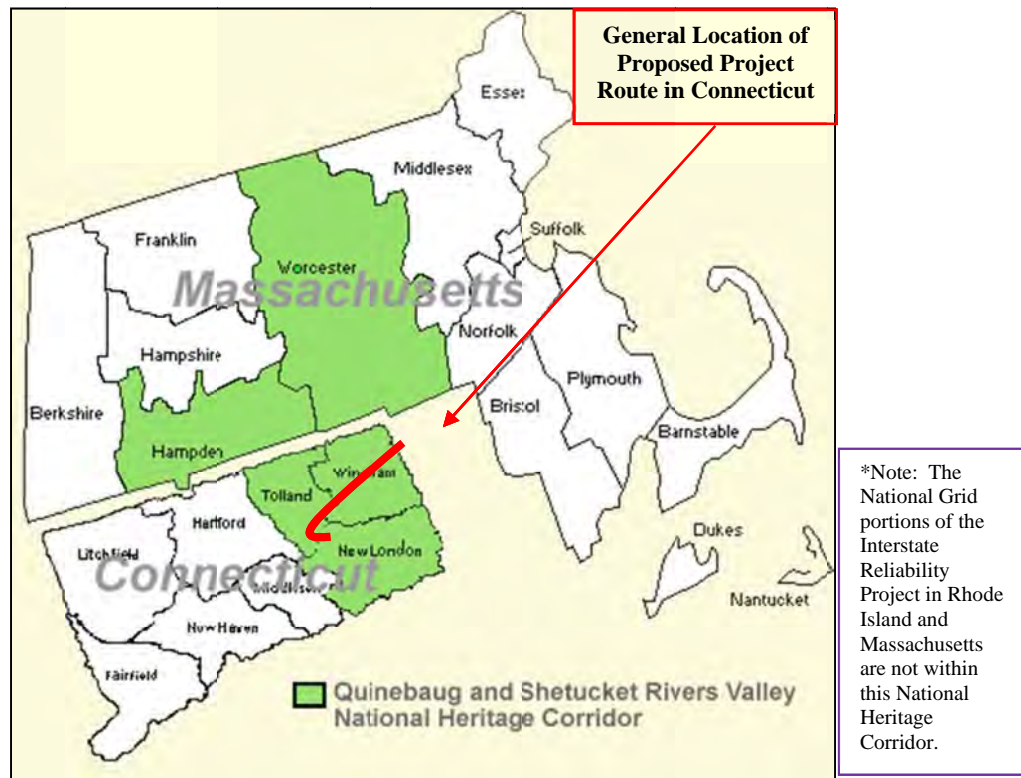
Prior to the issuance of the April 2010 version of the *Application Guide*, on December 23, 2009, the Council issued a memorandum to routine applicants / participants concerning, among other issues, the consideration of scenic quality and the aesthetic attributes of land that might be affected by projects under

² As discussed in Volume 1, Section 10 of the Supplemental Municipal Consultation Filing, for the alignment of the new 345-kV line across the federally-owned properties, CL&P also has identified two feasible design options: one that would not require any additional easement width and one that would minimize the amount of additional easement required.

the Council’s jurisdiction, and specifically referencing the consideration of Connecticut Heritage Areas and ConnDOT Scenic Lands as part of the project planning process. In the same memorandum, the Council advised applicants to provide photographs of aesthetic areas, particularly for use in photo-simulations, which depict “leaf off” conditions. In the absence of deciduous vegetative screening, such “leaf off” conditions would tend to represent “worst case” (or maximum) views of existing facilities (e.g., overhead transmission lines, ROWs) and of potential project facilities.

The Project is located within the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Area, which encompasses portions of eastern Connecticut and central Massachusetts and also is one of two Connecticut heritage areas, as designated in July 2009 pursuant to state Public Act No. 09-221. Except for the Town of Columbia, all of the 11 towns traversed by the proposed Project route are within this Heritage Corridor (refer to Figure 1-2). As detailed in Public Act No. 09-221, a heritage area is defined as a place within Connecticut that has historic, recreational, cultural, natural, and scenic resources that form an important part of the state’s heritage. State agencies must take the resources of the national heritage areas into consideration in planning and project decision-making.

Figure 1-2: General Location of Project within Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National and State Heritage Corridor*



In addition, the proposed 345-kV line route is located approximately 0.7 mile north of two parcels of ConnDOT Scenic Lands located along Interstate 395 (formerly State Route 52) in the Town of Killingly. Such lands are state-owned properties located along highway ROWs that were purchased by the state approximately 40 years ago, using federal Highway Beautification Act funds. The original purpose of the parcels was to preserve the landscape along highway ROWs.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE VISUAL RESOURCE STUDY

Pursuant to the Council’s guidance regarding the consideration of scenic resources, including Connecticut Heritage Areas and ConnDOT Scenic Lands, the objectives of this visual resource study were to:

- Identify the relationship of the proposed Project to designated scenic areas near the proposed Project facilities, including the ConnDOT Scenic Lands in Killingly;
- Describe the proposed Project in relation to the visual resources in the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor (which corresponds to the state Heritage Corridor);
- Characterize the existing visual setting in the vicinity of the designated or potential scenic areas, including state recreational lands managed or owned by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) such as parks, forests, wildlife management areas and trails;
- Assess the potential effects of the Project on such areas, using photo-simulations of the proposed transmission line and of the associated expansion in the vegetatively managed portions of the ROW to illustrate the incremental changes to the visual environment that would be associated with the development of the new 345-kV transmission lines along the existing ROWs; and
- Prepare photo-simulations of the proposed Project facilities under both “leaf off” conditions, pursuant to the Council’s guidance, and “leaf on” conditions, which would be representative of views during the spring – fall months.

2. METHODS

The methods used to conduct the visual resource study involved baseline research, followed by field inspection to photo-document views of the existing CL&P ROWs in the vicinity of publicly-designated³ scenic, recreational, open space, and historic properties (collectively referred to herein as the “visual sites”). The photo-documentation subsequently was used to prepare photo-simulations.

CL&P first conducted research to identify visual sites crossed by or in the vicinity of the proposed 345-kV transmission lines and the existing CL&P substations and switching station that would be modified as a result of the proposed Project. These sites were identified based on the review of Project mapping, town plans, Internet research, and other published information, such as the CT DEEP’s data concerning state parks, forests, trails, and wildlife management areas (WMAs) and the National Park Service’s (NPS’s) data concerning natural resources and trails in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

To identify hiking trails and land trust parcels containing trails or publicly-accessible scenic areas, CL&P also consulted the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association’s (CFPA’s) *Walk Book East* (The Guide to the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails of Eastern Connecticut, 2005, 19th Edition) and the Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust Inc.’s *Joshua’s Tract Walk Book* (2005, 4th Edition). In addition to Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, Inc. (which owns properties in Lebanon, Coventry, Columbia, Mansfield, Chaplin, and Hampton), CL&P conducted research to identify parcels preserved by other land trusts in the Project region, including Wolf Den Land Trust (Brooklyn, Hampton, and Killingly) and Wyndham Land Trust (Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson). Data concerning CL&P-owned properties on which CL&P has established public hiking trails or other recreational uses also were reviewed.

In general, sites within approximately 1 mile of the proposed Project facilities were identified for initial evaluation. Field inspections then were conducted of each of the identified potential visual sites. The objectives of the field inspections were to:

- Assess the relationship of each potential visual site to the existing CL&P ROWs.

³ For the purposes of this study, “publicly designated” areas refer to locations identified by federal, state, or municipal governments, land trusts, or associations (such as the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association).

- Determine whether CL&P's existing overhead transmission lines are visible from each potential site.
- Photo-document views, if applicable, of the existing transmission lines in relation to the visual sites. Sites that were determined to be too geographically remote from the ROWs or from which views of the overhead transmission lines were blocked by intervening topography, vegetation, or land uses, were generally not photographed.
- Take photographs, under both "leaf off" and "leaf on" conditions for use in preparing photo-simulations to illustrate potential views of the proposed 345-kV transmission lines in the vicinity of visual sites.

Initial field inspections were conducted in early April 2010, with follow-up field visits performed in December 2010, as well as in March, April, May, June, and August 2011. The field visits in April and December 2010 and in March and April 2011 were conducted during "leaf off" conditions. The May, June, and August 2011 visits were performed to characterize "leaf on" conditions. Appendix A provides maps that identify the visual site locations photographed, while Appendix B includes representative photographs of the visual sites. Photo-simulations of the proposed 345-kV transmission lines at the visual sites, depicting both "leaf off" and "leaf on" conditions, are presented in Appendix C.

During deciduous vegetation "leaf off" seasons, all of the sites were visited on clear, sunny days. Thus, the field inspections were conducted under conditions during which the existing overhead transmission lines would be most visible. During the field visits conducted in December 2010 and April 2011, photographs of visual sites were taken for use in preparing simulations to depict views of the proposed 345-kV transmission line and ROW under "leaf off" conditions.

In mid-May 2011, CL&P made follow-up field visits to assess and photo-document conditions at the same sites when deciduous forest vegetation was leafed out. In general, such "leaves on" conditions are representative of the spring through fall seasons, when public use of most of the designated recreational or scenic areas near the ROWs is expected to be highest. Photographs taken during the mid-May field visits were used to prepare photo-simulations depicting the proposed 345-kV transmission lines during "leaf on" conditions. Follow-up visits were performed on June 27, 2011 and during the week of August 22, 2011 to verify views of visual sites under mid-summer "leaf on" conditions; photo-documentation of these field visits are included in Appendix B.

Using the "leaf off" and "leaf on" photographs, computer-generated photo-simulations were prepared to illustrate the expected changes to the visual environment as a result of the new 345-kV transmission line

(e.g., views of the new transmission line structures and conductors alongside the existing overhead transmission lines, increased width of forest vegetation removal along the existing ROWs). New transmission line structure heights and types depicted in these photo-simulations were based on the ROW segment cross-sections for the Proposed Route (refer to Volume 1, Appendix 3A, the Volume 9 maps, and the Volume 10 cross-sections and Plan and Profile drawings).

The photographs used to create the photo-simulations were taken using a 12-megapixel camera with an image stabilizer, mounted on a tripod. The photograph locations were geographically referenced using a sub-meter level accurate GPS unit. The site-specific data was then incorporated into a 3D model and the photo-simulations were developed using 3D software (Autodesk 3D Studio Max 2010-2011®). This software allows the 1:1 re-creation of site depicting the proposed 345-kV facilities, using as input the Project engineering design drawings and related information (e.g., transmission line structure types, line sag, land elevation data). A photo editing program (Adobe Photoshop CS4®) was used to overlay the rendered image on the site-specific photographs.

3. VISUAL SETTING AND RESOURCE SITES

3.1 PROJECT SETTING

The proposed Project would be aligned along existing CL&P ROWs through portions of 11 towns in northeastern Connecticut (refer to Table 3-1). Within CL&P's existing ROWs, lands along and in the vicinity of the existing transmission lines are managed to promote shrub or similar low-growth vegetation, consistent with utility use. Lands encompassing the unmanaged portions of the ROWs are undeveloped and consist of forested, shrub, and agricultural or other open lands.

Table 3-1: Proposed 345-kV Transmission Lines ROWs, by Town

Town	Proposed 345-kV Transmission Line (Miles)	Existing ROW Width Range (Feet, Typical)
Lebanon	0.6	350
Columbia	1.7	300-350
Coventry	1.2	300
Mansfield	6.4	150*-300
Chaplin	3.3	150*-300
Hampton	4.3	300
Brooklyn	7.2	300-360
Pomfret	1.7	360
Killingly	3.0	250-400
Putnam	5.6	340-400
Thompson	1.8	300
Total	36.8	

* The existing CL&P ROW is only 150 feet wide across 1.4 miles of federally-owned property through Mansfield Hollow State Park and the Mansfield Hollow WMA in the Towns of Mansfield and Chaplin.

Lands in the general Project region are characterized by a variety of uses and types, including undeveloped forest, agricultural areas, recreational areas, transportation corridors (state and local roadways), and residential, commercial, and industrial developments. However, forest land is the dominant landscape element. The regional topography is varied, and is characterized primarily by rolling

hills and valleys with associated wetlands and streams. The Proposed Route does not traverse or parallel any traprock ridges.

Major watercourses in the region include the Ten Mile, Hop, Willimantic, Natchaug, Quinebaug, and Fivemile rivers. The 460-acre Mansfield Hollow Lake, which was created as a result of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) flood control project that dammed the Mount Hope, Fenton, and Natchaug rivers, also is a major regional water feature. Following CL&P's existing ROW, the proposed 345-kV transmission line would span this lake adjacent to CL&P's existing overhead 345-kV transmission line.

Appendix D includes representative photographs of the general visual setting of the Proposed Route, as viewed from public roads traversed by the existing CL&P ROWs.⁴ These photographs illustrate the general landscape in the Project region, and also provide typical views of the existing transmission lines and ROW vegetative communities.

3.2 VISUAL SITES

The proposed 345-kV transmission lines would follow CL&P's existing ROWs across or near various areas that have scenic attributes. Such sites include designated recreational trails (e.g., Airline State Park Trail, Hop River State Park Trail, the CFPA's Nipmuck Trail, the Red Trail within Mansfield Hollow State Park, and the levee trail associated with Mansfield Hollow Dam); Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA; Mansfield Hollow Dam; State Route 169 (a designated National Scenic Byway); land trust parcels; and historic sites.

Table 3-2 (located at the end of this section) lists the potential visual sites identified in the general vicinity of the Proposed Route based on initial research and correlates the location of these sites to the location maps of the Proposed Route presented in Appendix A. Additional maps of the location of the ROW in relation to the CFPA's Nipmuck Trail and Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA are presented at the end of this section. The most prominent of the visual sites are described below.

- Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley (The Last Green Valley) National Heritage Corridor (All towns along Proposed Route, except for Columbia). In 1994, Congress designated the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley a National Heritage Corridor, recognizing the region as a unique national resource. In 1999, Congress enlarged the heritage corridor to include Quinebaug and

⁴ Appendix D also includes photographs of representative locations along the variations to the Proposed Route. The variations are described in Volume 1A, Section 15 and illustrated on the Volume 9 maps. Each of the variations was found to have overriding cost or environmental issues, compared to the portions of the Proposed Route that each would replace. As a result, no detailed visual studies were performed of these variations.

Shetucket River Valley towns in both Massachusetts and Connecticut. As a result, the heritage corridor now encompasses 35 municipalities (26 in Connecticut). In 2009, Congress reauthorized the heritage corridor designation through September 30, 2015. The heritage corridor is managed by a non-profit organization, The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV).⁵ According to the NPS, the National Heritage Corridor encompasses approximately 695,000 acres of land in northeastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts. Within the National Heritage Corridor, citizens, businesses, nonprofit cultural and environmental organizations, local and state governments, and the NPS work together to preserve the region's cultural, historical, and natural heritage (NPS, 2006).

Pursuant to Connecticut Public Act 09-221, state agencies, departments, boards and commissions are encouraged to consider Connecticut's Heritage Areas when developing planning documents and to partner with the managing entities on projects concerning, but not limited to, environmental protection, heritage resource preservation, recreation, tourism and trail development. Connecticut's designated Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor corresponds to the Connecticut portion of the nationally-designated heritage corridor, which encompasses the entire towns of Lebanon, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson. Thus, along the proposed 345-kV transmission line route, only the Town of Columbia is not within the designated heritage corridor.

- **Airline State Park Trail (Towns of Lebanon and Hampton)**. The Airline State Park Trail, a 50-mile multi-use trail aligned along the former Airline Railroad, was declared a national recreational trail in 2001. The trail, which provides hiking, biking and horseback riding opportunities, stretches across 11 towns in eastern Connecticut, extending from the Town of East Hampton to the Town of Thompson. The Proposed Route crosses the trail twice – once in Lebanon and once in Hampton.
- **Hop River State Park Trail (Town of Coventry)**. The Hop River State Park Trail is approximately 15 miles long, extending from the Andover town line to the Willimantic River in the Town of Windham. The trail, which is aligned along the Hop River through the towns of Coventry and Columbia, provides opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. The Proposed Route crosses this trail in the Town of Coventry.
- **Nipmuck Trail (Town of Mansfield)**. The 14-mile Nipmuck Trail is part of the CFPA's Blue Blazed Hiking Trail, a system of 800 miles of trails. The Proposed Route crosses two branches of the trail in the Town of Mansfield. The western branch of the trail crosses the ROW approximately 9.3 miles west of State Route 195 and 8.8 miles east of Mansfield City Road, while the eastern branch of the trail is traversed within the Mansfield Hollow WMA on the east side of Mansfield Hollow Lake. Figures 3-1 and 3-2 provide excerpts of the CFPA's Nipmuck Trail maps (from the CFPA's *Walk Book East*), illustrating the location of CL&P's transmission line ROW in relation to the trail crossings and CFPA-identified scenic vistas.

⁵ The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley of northeastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts also is referred to as "The Last Green Valley" in the sprawling metropolitan Boston-to-Washington corridor. This designation was coined because at night, the region appears distinctively dark amid the urban and suburban glow when viewed from satellites or aircraft. In the daytime, the green fields and forests confirm the rural character of the 1,085-square-mile area defined by the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers systems and the rugged hills that surround them. Forest and farmland make up approximately 78% of its 695,000 acres.

- **Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA (Towns of Mansfield and Chaplin).** Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA, which are owned by the federal government (USACE) but managed by CT DEEP, offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including fishing, hiking, biking, and picnicking, as well as – in the WMA – hunting and dog training. Mansfield Hollow Lake, located within the Park, is the result of the dam built by the USACE to control flooding in the Thames River Basin. The lake encompasses approximately 460 acres and offers public boating and fishing activities.

The proposed route follows CL&P's existing ROW across approximately 0.8 mile of the Park and 0.1 mile of the WMA within the Town of Mansfield, and approximately 0.5 mile of the WMA in the Town of Chaplin.⁶ Within the Mansfield Hollow State Park, the Proposed Route would span both the Mansfield Hollow Dam levee trail and the Red Trail. (Figure 3-3, located at the end of this section, provides a map of the State Park and WMA in Mansfield and Windham.) In the WMA on the east side of Mansfield Hollow Lake, the Proposed Route also would cross the Nipmuck Trail, East Branch (refer to discussion, above, and to Figures 3-2 and 3-3 at the end of this section).

- **Mansfield Hollow Dam and Levee Trail (Towns of Mansfield and Windham).** The paved levee trail, which extends both north and south-southeast of the dam, is a popular location for walking, jogging, and bicycling. From the trail, there are views of Mansfield Hollow Lake, Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA, U.S. Route 6, the Windham Airport, the Mansfield Hollow Historic District, and the hillsides to the west of Storrs Road (State Route 195). The Proposed Route crosses the northern portion of levee trail near Bassetts Bridge Road. However, the majority of the levee trail and the dam area located south of the Proposed Route.
- **Natchaug State Forest (Town of Chaplin).** The Natchaug River, located in the Natchaug State Forest is popular for fishing, and is also designated a “Trout Park” fishing area by the CTDEEP in the Town of Eastford (which is located approximately 4.5 miles north of the ROW). The Proposed Route crosses an undeveloped portion of the Natchaug State Forest in the Town of Chaplin, and is located within 400 feet of the state forest parcels in the Town of Killingly.
- **State Route 169 (Town of Brooklyn).** State Route 169 is identified as a National Scenic Byway. The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads based on their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. There are 125 such designated Byways in 44 states. The Proposed Route crosses State Route 169 in the Town of Brooklyn.
- **Quinebaug River Trails (Town of Brooklyn).** Hiking / recreational use trails on CL&P-owned property in vicinity of Quinebaug River and Day Street Junction. Trails are listed on the Town of Brooklyn web site. Public access to the trails is via Day Street, near CL&P's Brooklyn Substation, south of the Proposed Route. CL&P's existing 115-kV transmission line and

⁶ Because CL&P's existing ROW across these federally-owned properties is only 150 feet wide, CL&P proposes to acquire additional easements from the USACE in order to expand the ROW by 55 feet through Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA in the Town of Mansfield and by 85 feet through the WMA in the Town of Chaplin, thereby allowing the development of the new 345-kV transmission line adjacent to the existing 345-kV line. This proposed ROW expansion would involve the acquisition of an estimated 11 acres of additional easement from the USACE.

substation are visible from the beginning of the trail system. At Day Street Junction, multiple transmission lines (345-kV and 115-kV) extend north along the ROW. These lines are visible from certain portions of the trail system. The proposed new 345-kV would be located west of these existing transmission lines.

CL&P's consultants, Phenix Environmental, Inc. and Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., visited each of the sites listed in Table 3-2 to determine whether the existing ROW and transmission lines were visible under "leaf off" conditions. Through all of these areas, the proposed 345-kV lines would be located adjacent to CL&P's existing 345-kV lines and – along certain ROW segments – also adjacent to other CL&P overhead transmission and distribution lines.

Table 3-2: Location of Potential Visual Sites in Relation to the Proposed Route

Town	Location in Relation to Proposed Route (Map Number; refer to Appendix A)	Description of Feature (Photo-simulation [PS] No. in Appendix C, if applicable)
Lebanon	Crosses (1)	Airline State Park Trail (Southern Section)
Lebanon / Columbia	1,600 feet (1)	Ten Mile River Bridge (Village Hill Road)
Columbia	4,000 feet (1)	Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust, Inc. (Potter's Meadow off Commerce Drive)
Columbia	1,600 feet (1)	Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust, Inc. (1 Parcel North of Willimantic Road)
Coventry	Crosses (1)	Hop River State Park Trail (PS-1)
Coventry	Crosses (1)	Town Open Space (Flanders River Road) (PS-2)
Coventry / Mansfield	1,000 feet (2)	Flanders Road Bridge (Historic)
Mansfield	800 feet (2)	Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust, Inc. (1 Parcel west of Thornbush Road)
Mansfield	200 feet (2)	Town Open Space (Stafford Road)
Mansfield	Crosses (2)	Town Open Space (Highland Road) (PS-3)
Mansfield	Crosses (2)	Nipmuck Trail, West Branch (PS-4)
Mansfield	Crosses (2)	Town Open Space (Saw Mill Brook Lane)
Mansfield	1,500 feet (2)	Joshua's Tract Conservation & and Historic Trust, Inc. (Jacob's Hill Preserve)
Mansfield	500 feet (2)	Joshua's Tract Conservation & and Historic Trust, Inc. (Wolf Rock Nature Preserve)
Mansfield	4,000 feet (2)	Joshua's Tract Conservation & and Historic Trust, Inc. (Harriet Babcock Preserve)
Mansfield	800 feet (2)	Mansfield Center Historic District
Mansfield	2,500 feet (2)	Mansfield Center Cemetery
Mansfield	800 feet (2)	Mansfield Hollow Historic District
Mansfield	800 feet (2)	Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust, Inc. Wildlife Area (West of Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA – north of Proposed Route)
Mansfield	Crosses (2)	Mansfield Hollow State Park (PS-5, PS-6)
Mansfield Windham	2,000+ feet (2)	Mansfield Hollow Dam and Levee Trail (South of Dam) (PS-7, PS-8)

Town	Location in Relation to Proposed Route (Map Number; refer to Appendix A)	Description of Feature (Photo-simulation [PS] No. in Appendix C, if applicable)
Mansfield	Crosses (2)	The Red Trail (within Mansfield Hollow State Park)
Mansfield	1,400 feet (2)	Mansfield Hollow Lake Picnic Area
Mansfield	2,000 feet (2)	Mansfield Hollow Lake Boat Ramp (within State Park)
Mansfield	1,500-2,000 feet (2)	Town Designated Scenic Vistas ¹
Mansfield	Crosses (3)	Nipmuck Trail, East Branch (within WMA) (PS-9)
Chaplin	Crosses (3)	Mansfield Hollow WMA
Chaplin	Adjacent (3)	Natchaug State Forest
Chaplin	200 feet (3)	Airline State Park Trail (parallels)
Hampton	Crosses (3)	Airline State Park Trail (Northern Section)
Hampton	550 feet (3)	South Cemetery
Hampton	1,200 feet (3)	James L. Goodwin State Forest and Natchaug Trail (CFPA hiking trail)
Brooklyn	Crosses (4)	Milo Appley Conservation Showcase - Eastern CT Conservation District ²
Brooklyn	2,000 feet (4)	Brooklyn Green Historic District
Brooklyn	Crosses (5)	State Route 169 (National Scenic Byway) (PS-10)
Brooklyn	500 to 800 feet (4, 5)	Town Designated Scenic Vistas (Gray Mare Hill and Barrett Hill Road) ³
Brooklyn	Crosses (5)	Wolf Den Land Trust White Brook Sanctuary
Brooklyn	Adjacent (5)	Hiking trails (Quinebaug River Trail) on CL&P-owned property west of and parallel to the Quinebaug River; access off Day Street
Killingly	2,000 feet (5)	Rogers Village Historic District (across Quinebaug River and east of Proposed Route)
Pomfret	Crosses (6)	Town Canoe / Kayak Boat Launch and Town Open Space along Quinebaug River (PS-11)
Pomfret	2,400 feet (6)	Wyndham Land Trust (Tucker Preserve)
Pomfret	2,400 feet (6)	Wyndham Land Trust (Lyon Preserve)

Town	Location in Relation to Proposed Route (Map Number; refer to Appendix A)	Description of Feature (Photo-simulation [PS] No. in Appendix C, if applicable)
Pomfret	6,500 feet (6)	Wyndham Land Trust (Bosworth-Butts Preserve)
Killingly	700 feet (6)	Windham Land Trust (Dunn Preserve)
Killingly	6,000 feet (6)	ConnDOT Scenic Lands adjacent to Interstate 395
Killingly	Crosses (6)	Tracey Road Trail (urban trail)
Putnam	400 feet (7)	Wyndham Land Trust (Chaffee Preserve - off Route 44)
Putnam	1,100 feet (7)	Munyan Cemetery
Putnam/ Thompson	Crosses (7/8)	Wyndham Land Trust (Robbins Preserve)
Thompson	Crosses (8)	Wyndham Land Trust (Tamler Preserve)
Thompson	1,100 – 6,000 feet (8)	Quaddick Reservoir, State Park, and State Forest, including trails

Sources: CTDEP, Office of Information Management, GIS Data Guide DEP Property, August 2011. Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, and CTDEP Office of Information Management, GIS Data Guide Municipal and Private Open Space, 1997.

¹ Scenic vistas identified in the Mansfield Connecticut 1993 and 2006 Plan of Development (http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/1904/1932/2043/plan_of_development_1993.pdf) and (http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/1904/1932/2043/20060415_final_pocd.pdf).

² Names according to the Town of Brooklyn website (<http://www.brooklynct.org/ann/templates/?a=428&z=17>).

³ Scenic vistas identified in the 2011 Town of Brooklyn Plan of Conservation and Development (http://www.brooklynct.org/ann/articlefiles/2579-POCD_final11-11.pdf).

Note: Sites in proximity to the Proposed Route are illustrated on the Volume 9 maps.

Figure 3-1: Nipmuck Trail, West Branch: Location along CL&P ROW, Town of Mansfield

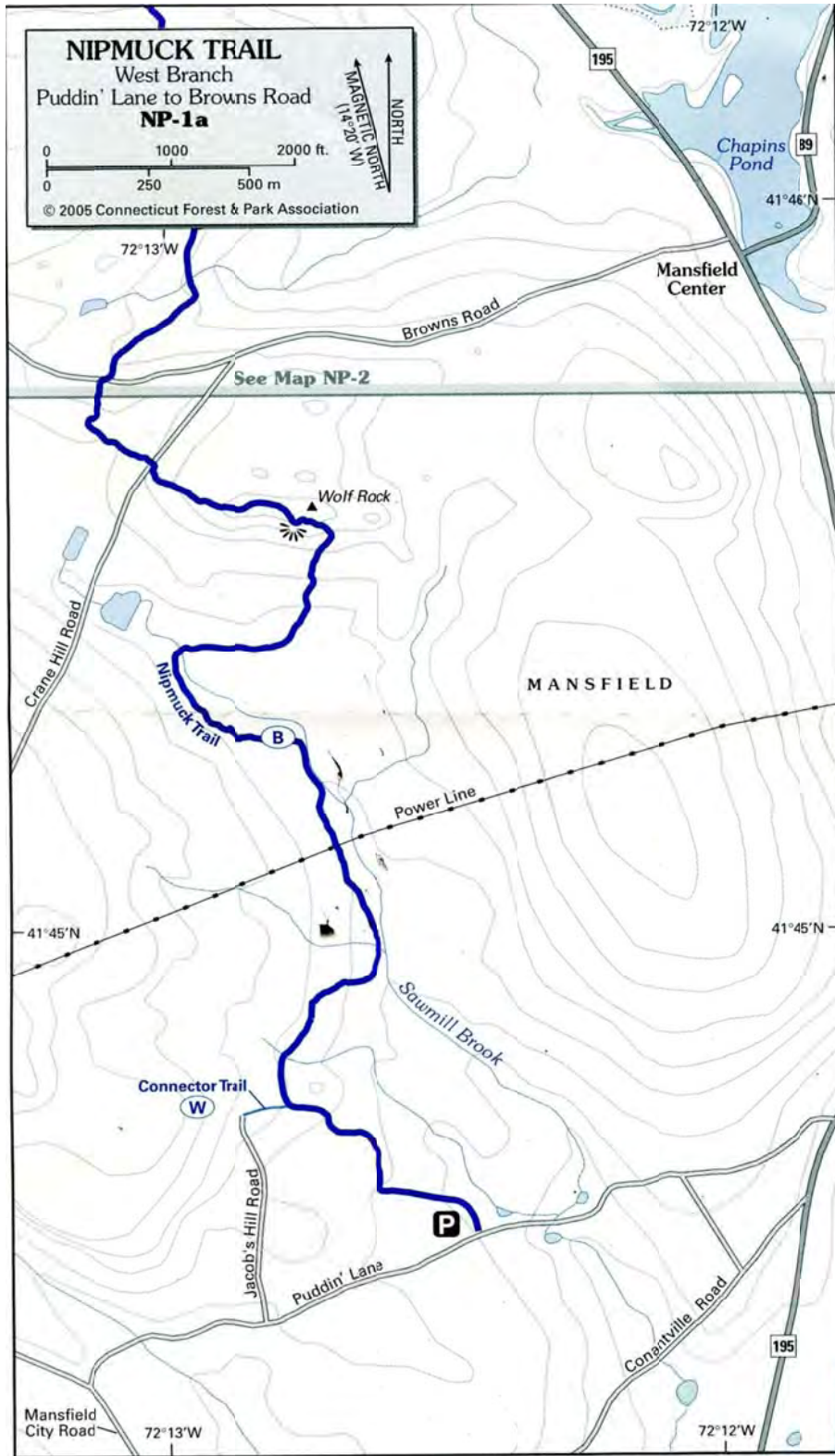


Figure 3-2: Nipmuck Trail, East Branch: Location along CL&P ROW, Town of Mansfield

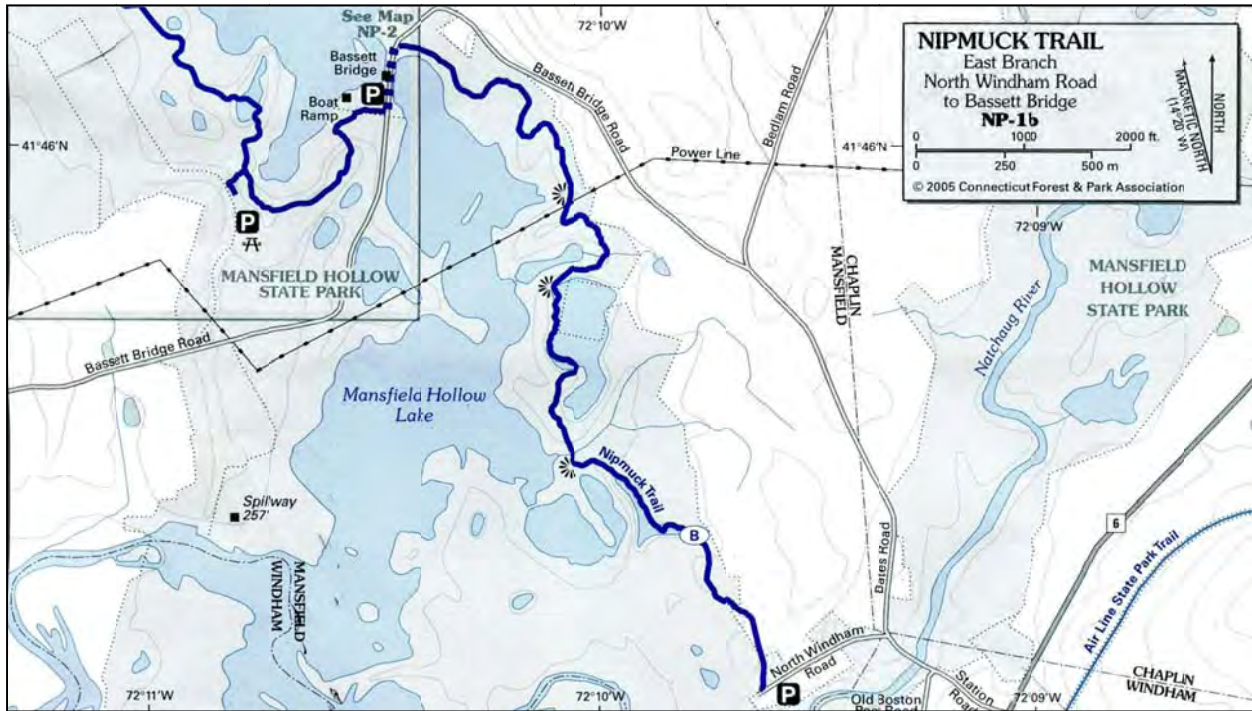
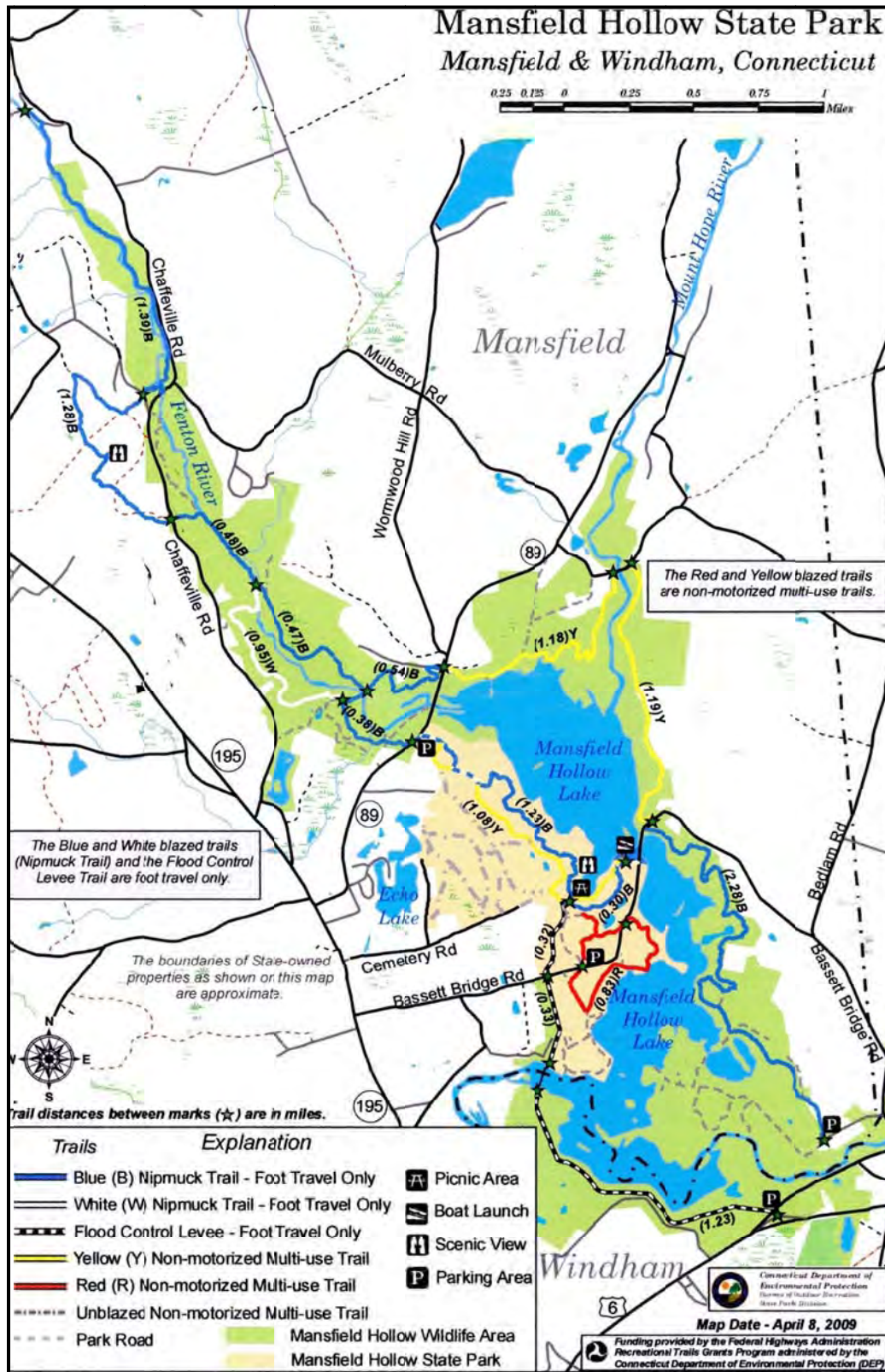


Figure 3-3: Mansfield Hollow State Park



4. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 SUMMARY OF FIELD VISITS AND PHOTO-SIMULATIONS

CL&P's consultants visited to each of the visual sites identified in Table 3-2. CL&P photographed each site from which the existing ROW or transmission lines were visible. Appendix B includes representative photographs (under both "leaf off" and "leaf on" conditions) of the sites from which the existing transmission lines are visible, either in foreground or background views.

Table 4-1 (located at the end of this section) identifies the sites from which the existing CL&P transmission lines are visible during "leaf off" and "leaf on" conditions, based on the 2010-2011 field visits. In most cases, distant views of the existing transmission lines from sites remote from the ROWs were found to be precluded by intervening topography, vegetation, and land uses. An exception is the Mansfield Hollow State Park and Mansfield Hollow WMA, where distant views of the existing transmission lines are apparent from the Mansfield Hollow Dam and levee trail in Windham.

For each site with views of the existing transmission line, Table 4-1 (located at the end of this section) identifies its location in relation to the existing CL&P ROWs and summarizes its known aesthetic, recreational, or cultural attributes. Overall, the primary scenic areas from which the existing transmission lines are visible include the Airline State Park Trail (two locations), Hop River Trail, Nipmuck Trail (West and East Branches), Mansfield Hollow Dam and levee system, Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA, and State Route 169 in Brooklyn (a National Scenic Byway).

At each location where views of the transmission line were identified as a potentially dominant component of the local viewscape, CL&P prepared photo-simulations depicting views of the ROW (illustrating the new and existing transmission lines) under two conditions:

- (1) During the late fall through late winter/early spring, when no deciduous vegetation was present (i.e., "leaf off" conditions); and
- (2) During the late spring/summer, when deciduous vegetation had leafed out (i.e., "leaf on" conditions).

While the "leaf off" conditions would represent the time periods when the ROWs and transmission lines would be most visible, the "leaf on" conditions would be more representative of the seasons when the

public is most apt to utilize the public recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Route. Table 4-2 identifies the areas for which photo-simulations were prepared. The photo-simulations are included in Appendix C.

Table 4-2: List of Locations of “Leaf Off” and “Leaf On” Photo-Simulations

Town	Location of Photo-Simulation / Photo-Simulation Number (Appendix C)	General View
Coventry	Hop River / Hop River State Park Trail (PS-1)	Looking south from the Hop River Trail, located south of U.S. Route 6.
Coventry	Flanders River Road Town Open Space (PS-2)	View from Flanders River Road of transmission line structures and ROW
Mansfield	Highland Road Town Open Space (PS-3)	View from road looking east along ROW
Mansfield	Nipmuck Trail, West Branch (PS-4)	Looking east along ROW from the Nipmuck Trail – West Branch, toward Sawmill Brook
Mansfield	Mansfield Hollow State Park Levee Trail (PS-5)	View from the Levee Trail north of Bassetts Bridge Road, looking south toward the ROW and state park
Mansfield	Mansfield Hollow State Park Levee Trail (PS-6)	View from the Levee Trail north of Mansfield Hollow Dam, looking northeast toward the ROW, state park, and Bassetts Bridge Road
Mansfield	Mansfield Hollow Dam (PS-7)	Looking west from the Mansfield Hollow Dam, toward the ROW west of Storrs Road.
Windham	Mansfield Hollow Levee Trail south of dam (PS-8)	Looking northeast across Mansfield Hollow Lake from the Levee Trail, located north of Boston Post Road / U.S. Route 6.
Mansfield	Nipmuck Trail, East Branch (PS-9)	Looking southwest from the Nipmuck Trail – East Branch, located west of Bassetts Bridge Road.
Brooklyn	State Route 169, Scenic Road (PS-10)	View from road looking east along ROW
Pomfret	Quinebaug River, Vicinity of Canoe/Kayak Boat Launch, State Route 101 (PS-11)	View from boat launch vicinity, looking north along ROW, across State Route 101 and toward the Quinebaug River

4.2 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the field inspections and photo-simulations, the majority of the proposed Project would not affect the visual environment near most visual sites. For the most part, views of the proposed transmission facilities from visual sites, like the views of the existing ROWs and overhead transmission lines, will be limited as a result of combinations of distance from the ROW, topography, dense vegetative cover, and/or intervening land development.

At certain visual sites traversed by the CL&P ROWs, the new transmission lines would be visible at or in the immediate vicinity of the ROW crossing. The photo-simulations show that the new transmission line would have a focused, incremental effect on the visual environment in these areas. This effect would result from both views of the transmission lines and additional removal of forested vegetation along the ROW near the new 345-kV lines.

Because of topography and vegetation, the new transmission lines would be most apparent in the foreground at the actual ROW crossing locations. Distant views of the new transmission lines would generally be limited by the juxtaposition of the ROW, topography, and vegetation. Vegetation particularly limits view of the ROW and transmission lines during “leaf on” conditions, but also provides effective screening from most locations during “leaf off” conditions (due to the density of deciduous vegetation [i.e., tree trunks] or the presence of coniferous vegetation that provides year-round visual screening). In addition, at some visual sites (e.g., the Airline State Park Trail, Hop River State Park Trail, and Nipmuck Trail crossings), the alignment of the features (e.g., bends in the trails) precludes long views of the ROW and transmission lines except at the actual ROW crossings

In the Mansfield Hollow area, the new transmission line would be evident (either as foreground or distance views) within portions of Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA, particularly to users of the Levee Trail and Red Trail and to travelers along Bassetts Bridge Road within the park. However, the existing CL&P transmission line has been aligned across the park and WMA for over 40 years and thus represents a part of the baseline scenic quality. Although the proposed 345-kV line would represent a change to the visual environment in the park and WMA, this change would be incremental.

Table 4-1: Summary of Potential Visual Sites Traversed by or in the Vicinity of the Proposed Route with Views of the Existing CL&P Transmission Lines

Town / Scenic Feature	Volume 9 Map Sheet No. / Relation to ROW	Feature Information	Summary Results of Field Review
Lebanon			
Airline State Park Trail (Southern Section)	1 Crosses	The Airline State Park Trail is a national recreational trail that is being developed along an abandoned railroad ROW. The trail provides hiking, biking and horseback riding opportunities.	<p>The Airline State Park Trail is well marked and is easily accessible via both Kingsley Road and Village Hill Road. Adjacent land uses consist principally of forest land, with some residences and open fields near the roads, and visible from the trail.</p> <p>At the ROW crossing, the trail is slightly below the surrounding grade and traverses a wet area. Shrubby deciduous vegetation borders both sides of the trail at the ROW crossing. The existing transmission line conductors span the trail: an H-frame structure is located immediately to the northeast of the trail and is visible from it. The transmission line conductors and structures are visible only in the immediate vicinity of the trail. This is due to the dense deciduous forested vegetation that borders either side of the trail leading to the ROW, and also because the trail crosses the ROW at a bend.</p> <p>In this area, the trail is relatively wide and well-maintained, with a gravel and sand base. There was evidence of use by hikers, horseback riders, and bikers.</p>
Coventry			
Hop River	3 Crosses	The Hop River extends through and is bordered by the Hop River State Park Trail (see below). In the vicinity of the Proposed Route, the river forms the town boundary between Columbia and Coventry.	The ROW spans the river between State Route 66 in the Town of Columbia and U.S. Route 6 in the Town of Coventry. In this area, the Hop River State Park Trail is aligned north of and upslope of the river. Outside of the managed ROW, lands adjacent to the river consist of undeveloped deciduous forest, which can be expected to screen long views of the transmission line structures and ROW. From the river at the ROW crossing, the predominant views are to the north, where conductor spans, the transmission line structures, and managed ROW are visible. Long views to the south are screened by topography and vegetation.
Hop River State Park Trail	3 Crosses just north of Hop River	The Hop River State Park Trail, which is on an old railroad bed, connects the state's Charter Oak and Airline trails and is approximately 15 miles long, extending from the Town of Bolton to the Willimantic River in the Town of Windham. The trail is a designated Connecticut Greenway and is used by hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Along the 5.4-mile section of the trail in Columbia and Coventry, the trail meanders adjacent to the Hop River.	<p>The ROW traverses the trail perpendicularly, directly north of the Hop River. Except at the ROW crossing and in the immediate vicinity, views of the transmission lines are limited by both vegetation and topography. On either side of the ROW, the trail is bordered principally by deciduous forest lands. In addition, both to the west and the east of the ROW, bends in the trail preclude long views.</p> <p>Where the ROW crosses the trail, the principal viewpoint is to the south, where the dominant views are of the Hop River (foreground views) and the transmission line structures, extending beyond the river and State Route 66 (long views).</p>
Flanders River Road Town Open Space	5 Crosses, both sides of Flanders Road	The municipal open space extends along both sides of Flanders Road, with the eastern boundary abutting the Willimantic River (which forms the town boundary with Mansfield).	<p>The ROW extends across the open space property on both sides of Flanders Road. The property is undeveloped and consists of a mix of deciduous forest, shrubland, and open fields. Portions of the property on the southwest side of Flanders Road appear to have been previously used for parking, sand/gravel pile storage, etc. There are no signs indicating the property is town open space and no designated trails or other recreational areas. Land uses along Flanders Road generally include scattered rural residential development and agricultural and forest land.</p> <p>The transmission line structures and ROW are prominent at and in the vicinity of the road crossing. At the crossing, there are long views of the ROW extending down a slope to the southwest. At other locations along Flanders Road, views of the ROW are blocked by topography and vegetation.</p>
Mansfield			
Joshua's Tract	5 800 feet to south	This parcel is identified on Mapsheet 5, but is not recorded in the <i>Joshua's Tract Walk Book</i> . The ROW is located to the north/northwest of the parcel.	<p>This parcel is located on the west side of Thornbush Road, adjacent to the Willimantic River. Thornbush Road, which is bordered by scattered mobile homes and small houses, dead ends about 500 feet to the north of the land trust parcel. The land trust parcel does not include any trails and is apparent only due to small signs on some of the trees identifying the area as a wildlife preserve. The parcel itself is characterized by relatively dense deciduous forest vegetation.</p> <p>Under leaf off conditions, the transmission line conductors are visible to the northwest from certain locations on the parcel. However, these views are not a predominant part of the visual environment, which is oriented instead on the river and on the wooded areas of the parcel. In addition, there are no designated trails on the parcel.</p>

Town / Scenic Feature	Volume 9 Map Sheet No. / Relation to ROW	Feature Information	Summary Results of Field Review
Highland Road Town Open Space	6 Crosses and to the north	This town open space extends along and north of the ROW in the vicinity of several newer residential areas, including Stone Ridge Lane, Highland Road, Stearns Road, and Woodmount Drive. The parcel abuts an area of CL&P-owned land to the east, along the ROW.	<p>This open space does not include any designated trails, and no markers indicating the designation of the property were evident.</p> <p>With the exception of the shrub type vegetation along the ROW, the parcel is characterized by mature deciduous forest vegetation. Several wetlands are located along the ROW within this open space, and a small stream, within a ravine meanders toward the ROW within the portion of the open space that is situated to the east of Woodmount Drive.</p> <p>The ROW and transmission line structures are evident from the open space parcel (and nearby homes) along Stone Ridge Lane (which back up to the ROW), as well as at the ROW crossing of Highland Drive. However, due to topography and vegetation (mostly forested), these views are limited to the immediate vicinity of the ROW. The transmission line structures are not evident from the open space areas adjacent to the cul-de-sac along Woodmount Drive, but would be visible to those hiking south (to the ROW) within this parcel. (However, there are no designated hiking trails in this area.)</p>
Nipmuck Trail (CFPA): West Branch	7 Crosses west of Sawmill Brook	The Nipmuck Trail is a CFPA blue-blazed hiking trail that extends across the ROW and north through the Wolf Rock Nature Preserve (owned by Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust). The existing transmission line crossing is mentioned in CFPA's <i>Walk Book East</i> (p. 148).	The trail extends perpendicularly across the ROW, just west of Sawmill Brook. The trail extends through hilly topography and dense deciduous forest vegetation on either side of the ROW. As a result, views of the ROW and existing transmission line from the trail are limited except in the areas immediately across and adjacent to the ROW. At the trail crossing, the ROW extends up hills both to the west and, after spanning Sawmill Brook, to the east. As a result, long views of the ROW and structures on the ROW also are limited. The CFPA has not identified any vistas along the trail in the vicinity of the transmission line ROW.
Mansfield Hollow Dam	9 About 4000 feet south of ROW	Dam and levee system that forms Mansfield Hollow Lake	<p>The transmission line extends across the levee system, south of Bassetts Bridge Road, and its structures are visible from both the levee and from the top of the Mansfield Hollow Dam. The levee system extends both north and south of the dam. Access to the levee system from the south (in the Town of Windham) is via a parking lot adjacent to U.S. Route 6. The levee extends for approximately 1.2 miles from the parking lot to the dam, traversing adjacent to Windham Airport and Mansfield Hollow Lake. From certain segments of the levee trail, and from the dam, the existing transmission line structures are visible over the tops of the trees within Mansfield Hollow State Park and WMA</p> <p>From the top of Mansfield Hollow Dam, the ROW also is visible as it extends down the wooded slope west of Storrs Road (State Route 195).</p> <p>The areas in the immediate vicinity of the levee are maintained in grassy vegetation, making the existing transmission line structures visible from various locations on the levee, from Bassetts Bridge Road, and from trails. The Mansfield Hollow Dam area and levee system appears to be well utilized for outdoor recreational purposes, including hiking and biking.</p>
Mansfield Hollow State Park	9 Crosses for 0.5 miles	The park is multi-seasonal recreational area, with fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, boating, ice boating, x-country skiing, dog training, and picnicking.	The transmission line structures and ROW are visible from Bassetts Bridge Road, the levee, the Red Trail, and Mansfield Hollow Lake. However, long views of the structures and ROW generally are precluded by bends in the transmission line ROW, topography, and dense forested vegetation (consisting of a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees) that borders the ROW.
Mansfield Hollow State Park Red Trail	9 Crosses and extends along ROW for short distance	The trail crosses and also extends for a short distance along the transmission line ROW. (See map of trail p. 81 <i>Joshua's Tract Walk Book</i> and also on CTDEEP state park and WMA map).	At the Bassetts Bridge Road crossing of Mansfield Hollow Lake, some of the existing transmission line structures are noticeable above the treetops in views to the south across the lake.
Mansfield WMA / Nipmuck Trail (East Branch)	9/10 Crosses WMA 0.4 miles Crosses trail adjacent to east side of lake	Through the WMA, this trail section extends from the North Windham Road CTDEEP parking area trailhead to the Bassetts Bridge parking lot in the park. Along this segment, there are three CFPA-identified vistas, all extending west across the lake.	In this area, the trail extends primarily through dense forest vegetation (consisting of a mix of coniferous and deciduous species). Although the trail parallels Mansfield Hollow Lake, in most areas, it does not directly border the lake. The trail extends perpendicularly across the existing transmission line ROW. At the trail crossing, there are no views of the lake. Although the CFPA has identified two vistas, looking west toward the lake from the trail (refer to Figure 3-2), the existing transmission lines were either not visible from these areas or not dominant landscape elements. For example, the CFPA vista along the trail to the north of the ROW crossing is oriented to the northwest, toward Bassetts Bridge Road, away from the transmission line ROW. The CFPA vista to the south of the ROW crossing is also oriented to the northwest, but is toward the transmission line ROW across the lake. However, the dense vegetation and orientation of the trail preclude dominant views of the transmission lines from this area.

Town / Scenic Feature	Volume 9 Map Sheet No. / Relation to ROW	Feature Information	Summary Results of Field Review
Chaplin			
Mansfield Hollow WMA	11	Portion of WMA that extends along either side of the Natchaug River. There is no public access to this portion of the WMA	There are no designated trails or public access points associated with this portion of the Mansfield Hollow WMA. The eastern portion of the WMA abuts privately-owned land near U.S. Route 6, as well as a state park-and-ride lot. Views of the WMA and the transmission line ROW from U.S. Route 6 are limited by a bend in the transmission line ROW and by dense forest cover.
Chaplin / Hampton			
Airline State Park Trail (Northern Section)	12/13 Crosses in Hampton Parallels in Chaplin	Trail parallels ROW on the south for about 1.9 miles, before crossing the ROW north of Parker Road (just south of US Route 6) in Hampton.	In general, this portion of the trail appears less well maintained than the western portion (i.e., near Lebanon). However, the trail was well marked. The ROW crossing of the trail is not visible from Parker Road, due to topography, vegetation, and a curve in the trail. In this area, the trail extends through a rock cut and is below the surrounding grade. Groundwater seeping out of the rock layers has made this section of the trail very boggy. At the ROW crossing, an H-frame structure is visible to the west, as are the conductors. However, views of the transmission line are limited by the curve of the trail (when approaching from either side of the ROW crossing) and – at the crossing – are limited because the trail is in a deep cut. There are no long views of the ROW from the trail. To the west, a portion of the trail extends parallel to and south of the ROW. Under “leaf off” conditions, certain of the transmission line structures are visible from the trail. However, for the most part, the trail is bordered by dense deciduous vegetation, which effectively screens primary views of the transmission structures. Under “leaf on” conditions, these structures are not visible through the trees.
Brooklyn			
Milo Appley Conservation Showcase (Wolf Den Land Trust)	20 Crosses	The ROW extends across a portion of this designated open space for approximately 800 feet, southwest of and adjacent to Wolf Den Road. In this area, lands adjacent to Wolf Den Road consist of undeveloped forest.	This undeveloped open space property consists predominantly of deciduous forested areas, intermixed with some open field, shrubland, and wetlands. The ROW / transmission lines are visible at and in the vicinity of the Wolf Den Road crossing, particularly across the open space parcel, where the maintained open field/shrub vegetation on the ROW allows views of lands to the south and west that are otherwise blocked by the forested vegetation and topography on the rest of the open space parcel.
State Route 169 National Scenic Byway	21/22 Crosses	State Route 169 (Pomfret Road) is a National Scenic Byway. The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads based on their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities.	State Route 169 is bordered by various historic structures and settings, including a mix of agricultural / open space lands and forested areas bordered by stone walls. The ROW crosses State Route 169 approximately 0.5 miles north of the northern boundary of the designated Brooklyn Green Historic District. The ROW also is directly south of the Herrick Road “T” intersection with State Route 169. The ROW traverses State Route 169 at an angle, extending through sloped deciduous forested areas to the southwest of the crossing and through flatter terrain in open field and wetlands to the northeast. A low, historic-appearing stone wall extends across the ROW bordering the northeast side of the road. For travelers along State Route 169, the ROW is most visible at the road crossing; terrain and forested vegetation otherwise limit long-distance views. In addition, as a result of the open fields, stone wall, and wetlands, the principal view along the ROW is to the northeast. Views of the ROW (to the northeast) also are evident from the Herrick Road intersection.
White Brook Sanctuary (Wolf Den Land Trust)	24 Crosses	Undeveloped open space. White Brook traverses through this parcel	The ROW extends for approximately 1,100 feet through this parcel, which does not include any trails. Existing transmission line structures are visible from Darby Road under “leaf off” conditions. Land uses in the vicinity consist of rural residences and forest land. Under “leaf on” conditions, the existing transmission line structures are much less visible from Darby Road, due to dense shrub type vegetation.
Hiking trails (Quinebaug River Trail) on CL&P-owned property	24, 25 Crosses and parallels	Public hiking trails (identified on Town of Brooklyn web site) on CL&P-owned property accessible from Day Street.	The CL&P-owned property extends along and east of the ROW, generally extending to the Quinebaug River. The property consists of a mix of forested and agricultural areas, and includes public hiking trails, which are used by off-terrain vehicles as well. The multiple existing transmission lines on the ROW are visible from certain locations along the trail, and the new line also will be visible, but will be on the opposite side (i.e., west) of these existing lines.

Town / Scenic Feature	Volume 9 Map Sheet No. / Relation to ROW	Feature Information	Summary Results of Field Review
Pomfret			
Quinebaug River Town Boat (Canoe / Kayak) Launch	27 Adjacent to ROW	Canoe / kayak boat launch and parking area located adjacent to and within existing ROW.	The canoe / kayak launch and parking area are located on CL&P-owned property adjacent to the State Route 101 (Killingly Road) and the Quinebaug River, and along the existing ROW. The existing transmission lines span the parking area. The multiple overhead transmission lines along this segment of ROW are dominant elements of the landscape at the ROW crossing of State Route 101, as well as from the boat launch.
Killingly			
Tracey Road Trail	32 Crosses	Urban bicycle / hiking trail that extends along Tracy Road (in Killingly) and Park Road (in Putnam)	The existing ROW spans this trail, which consists of a paved bicycle / walking trail located on the east side of Tracy and Park roads. At the crossing, the trail extends across CL&P-owned property. Nearby land uses consist of CL&P's Tracy Substation and various commercial and light industrial facilities.
Thompson			
Baker Preserve (Lower Pond) (Wyndham Land Trust)	38 Crosses	Protected open space encompasses portions of Lower Pond and the Fivemile River.	The existing ROW extends along the southern boundary of this parcel, which is located south of Elmwood Hill Road and west of Quaddick Town Farm Road. The parcel does not include any hiking trails or designated visual areas.
Tamler Preserve (Wyndham Land Trust)	39 Crosses	Largely undeveloped forested open space, accessible off Elmwood Hill Road.	The ROW extends across the northwestern portion of the Tamler Preserve. This portion of the Preserve does not include any designated hiking trails. A short trail is located on the eastern portion of the property; however, there are no views of the ROW from this trail.