



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Richard Sawitzke - Town Engineer, Director of Capital Projects

MEMORANDUM

To: Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman

From: Richard L. Sawitzke, P.E., Town Engineer/Director of Capital Projects

Subject: Northeast Utilities Substation Update

Date: August 8, 2013

Background

In order to increase the reliability of the Northeast Simsbury Substation, Connecticut Light & Power Co. (CL&P) submitted, and received approval for, plans to construct a major substation expansion, along with related improvements, and a control facility. This work is being completed in conjunction with installing new conductors (wires) on 115,000 volt transmission line #1784, which runs 2.6 miles between North Bloomfield and Northwest Simsbury substations. The new conductors will bring the transmission line into conformity with the new National Electric Safety Code and federal reliability criteria.

Both projects will result in much greater reliability and flexibility in supplying electric service to Simsbury.

Project Work and What will be accomplished

The project involves doubling the size of the substation through the installation of 6 capacitor coupled voltage transformers, along with 115,000 volt switches, circuit breakers, transmission towers, a control structure, lightning arresters, and connections for an emergency mobile transformer position.

What this means, is that high voltage power can be received from either the east or the west, so that if one side of the transmission line is damaged, power can feed the substation from the other direction. Switching will allow feeding power from either direction to either transformer bank. This allows a transformer to be serviced, without shutting down the facility. Quick connections and switching will allow a mobile transformer to be quickly put on-line in an emergency,

All these efforts will increase the substation's reliability to provide power to Simsbury, with robust backup; and to increase electricity supply to the Town.

Co-ordination

Special thanks are due to Director of Planning, Hiram Peck, who has been coordinating property exchanges and leases to effectively, and efficiently, meet the requirements of the Town's Route 10 Corridor Study, Dorset Crossing, LLC's development, CL&P and the State Dept. of Transportation.

These efforts resulted in revised substation configuration such that a portion of the Wolcott Road extension could be constructed by Dorset Crossing to serve their mixed use development. The new road will eventually extend to the signal at Wolcott Road and Route 10, resulting in less traffic congestion at the intersection of Route 10 and 315.

Schedule

The project is on schedule, with completion in the first half of 2014. The facility will be operational at that time.

Tax Revenue

In addition to increases electric system reliability and supply, value will be added to 2014 Grand List. At a cost of between \$7 and \$10 million, taxes between \$175,000 and \$180,000 will be paid.

Cc: Tom Cooke, Director of Administrative Services
Hiram Peck, AICP, Director of Community Planning
Tom Roy, P.E., Director of Public Works
David Gardner, Assessor