



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
New England District  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Comment Period Begins: August 28, 2012**  
**Comment Period Ends: September 28, 2012**  
**File Number: NAE-2011-154**  
**In Reply Refer To: Susan K. Lee**  
**Phone: (978) 318-8494**  
**E-mail: susan.k.lee@usace.army.mil**

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States as described below.

**APPLICANT:** The Connecticut Light and Power Company, 107 Selden Street, Berlin CT, 06037

**ACTIVITY:** The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) proposes permanent and temporary fills in wetlands/waters in association with the replacement of aging steel lattice structures along approximately 20 miles of existing 115-kV transmission line (the 1990 Line) located in the towns of Monroe, Oxford, Middlebury, Waterbury and Watertown, Connecticut. The existing steel lattice structures will be replaced with steel monopoles or H-frames. The replacement project (1990 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project (Project)) consists of two sections. The approximately 17-mile "Main Section" runs north to south between Frost Bridge Substation in Watertown and Stevenson Substation in Monroe. The approximately 3-mile "Baldwin Section" runs west to east from Baldwin Junction in Middlebury to Baldwin Substation in Waterbury. Total impacts to wetlands/waters (permanent and temporary) are approximately 1.07 acres (permanent) and 2.84 acres (temporary). The purpose of the replacement project is to enhance the reliability of electric supply in the area. A detailed description and plans of the activity are attached.

## **WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK**

This work is proposed in wetlands/waters in Watertown, Waterbury, Middlebury, Oxford, and Monroe, CT. The Project is located on the following USGS Quadrangle sheets: SOUTHBURY, NAUGATUCK, WOODBURY, WATERBURY, CONN. The site coordinates are: Main Section: Latitude 41.61156, Longitude -73.06127 (at Frost Bridge Substation) and Latitude 41.382166, Longitude -73.170764 (at Stevenson Substation, Monroe, CT); Baldwin Section: Latitude 41.522568, Longitude -73.096842 (at Baldwin Junction, Middlebury) and Latitude 41.523885, Longitude -73.040022 (at Baldwin Substation, Waterbury).

## **AUTHORITY**

Permits are required pursuant to:

- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899  
 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act  
 Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act).

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general

environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

#### **NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT**

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION**

The New England District, Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the project site. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which authorization is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect any Federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. By this Public Notice, we are requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency concur with our determination.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved **Coastal Zone Management Programs**. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- ( ) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

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In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Susan Lee at (978) 318-8494 or (800) 343-4789, or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

**THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.**



**Robert J. DeSista**  
**Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch**  
**Regulatory Division**

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at [bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil](mailto:bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil). You may also check here ( ) and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE**

The work includes the discharge of dredged or fill material in association with the replacement of aging steel lattice structures along approximately 20 miles of existing 115-kV transmission line (the 1990 Line). The existing structures along the 1990 Line primarily consist of double circuit steel lattice towers with a four-leg base. Many of the legs on these structures are significantly corroded, while others show signs of bending, indicative of structure fatigue. The existing steel lattice structures will be replaced with steel monopoles or H-frames. The purpose of the Project is to enhance the reliability of electric supply in the area.

Construction of the Project requires both temporary and permanent discharges of fill materials to Waters of the United States. Discharges will result from installation of the new transmission line structures (foundations), the construction of temporary access roads, the placement of temporary timber construction mats to serve as construction work/crane pad around structures in wetlands and floodplains, and the maintenance, improvement, or extension of permanent access roads. Fill materials include trap rock or gravel for permanent access road improvements; wood matting for temporary access roads or work areas (e.g. crane pads); and foundations consisting of concrete or casing tubes filled with rock for the transmission line structures. Project activities and associated permanent and temporary impacts are shown on the table below.

**Table 3.2-1: Estimated Surface Area of Impacts to Federal Jurisdictional Wetlands/Waters**

<b>Project Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Temporary Effect (Acres)</b>	<b>Estimated Permanent Effect (Acres)</b>	<b>Estimated Secondary Effect (Acres)</b>
<b>Main Section</b>			
Crane Pads			
Wetland	2.25	N/A	N/A
Watercourses	<0.01		
Access Roads*			
Wetland	0.34	0.96	N/A
Watercourses	0.01	<0.01	
Steel Pole Installation			
Wetland	N/A	<0.01	N/A
Watercourses		0.00	
Structure to be Replaced			
Wetland	0.01	N/A	N/A
Watercourse	0.00		
Wetland Tree Removal			
Wetland	N/A	N/A	0.10
Watercourses			0.00
<b>Baldwin Section</b>			
Crane Pads			
Wetland	0.22	N/A	N/A
Watercourses	0.00		
Access Roads*			
Wetland	N/A	0.10	N/A
Watercourses		<0.01	

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Steel Pole Installation Wetland Watercourses	N/A	<0.01 0.00	N/A
Wetland Tree Removal Wetland Watercourses	N/A	N/A	0.84 0.00
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>2.84</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>0.94</b>

\*Access road impacts include impacts from all roads that may be used for construction of the Project, including improvements to existing access roads, construction of proposed permanent access roads, and identified alternative and off-ROW access roads. These impacts also include an additional 0.34 acres of permanent impacts associated with the installation of proposed culverts.

This replacement project is located entirely within existing transmission line easements and/or CL&P-owned properties and, to the extent practicable, has been sited within the existing maintained portions of the ROW corridor. The Project consists of the following:

1. A 17-mile portion of the 1990 Line, the “Main Section”, extending from the Frost Bridge Substation in Watertown, Connecticut south-southwest to Stevenson Substation in Monroe, Connecticut. 147 steel lattice towers are proposed for replacement with a total of 152 new structures (149 steel monopoles; 3 H-frame structures) along this portion of the Project; and
2. A 3-mile portion of the 1990 Line, the “Baldwin Section”, extending from Baldwin Junction in Middlebury, Connecticut to Baldwin Substation in Waterbury, Connecticut. 23 steel lattice towers are proposed for replacement with 25 steel monopoles along this portion of the Project.

Access roads (for maintenance and for ingress/egress to existing transmission structures) already exist along portions of the existing overhead line ROWs. In selected locations along CL&P’s ROW, new access roads will have to be created to reach new structure locations and to remove/replace existing structures. These new roads have been designed to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. to the extent possible. Where alternative means of access across uplands does not exist, temporary matting (i.e., swamp mats) will provide temporary access across Waters of the United States to existing lattice structures for removal. For new pole locations, permanent access roads are required for construction and ongoing maintenance. Some existing access roads will require maintenance or upgrades (e.g. widened, filled, or graded) to allow safe passage of the necessary equipment to install the new structures.

Along the 17-mile Main Section of this Project, all work is proposed within existing maintained portions of CL&P’s ROW and will require no additional tree clearing. Vegetation maintenance in this area during this Project will be limited to trimming and “danger” tree removal as well as mowing of low-growth vegetation along the ROW as already authorized and conducted according to CL&P’s existing *Rights of Way Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)*.

Along the 3-mile Baldwin Section of the Project, the replacement of the existing steel lattice structures will require approximately 60 feet of new clearing width within CL&P’s easement to accommodate the one set of new steel poles. Within this area, forested wetland vegetation will require removal to

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construct and safely operate the new overhead transmission facilities. As a result, forested wetlands along the presently unmaintained portions of the existing ROWs will be converted to scrub-shrub or emergent marsh wetland habitat types. All clearing activities will take place within CL&P's existing 165-foot easement. In environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, clearing will be accomplished using low impact clearing techniques. Such techniques typically consist of cutting wetland vegetation by hand (chain or hand saw) and removing the felled trees with low ground pressure or tracked vehicles to minimize compaction and disturbance.

Construction of the Project is scheduled to begin in December 2012 with energization anticipated to occur in 2014.

The project location is shown on the enclosed Mapsheets ("Northeast Utilities 1990 Line Structure Replacement Project Topographic Overview"), seven (7) sheets, dated "July 2011".

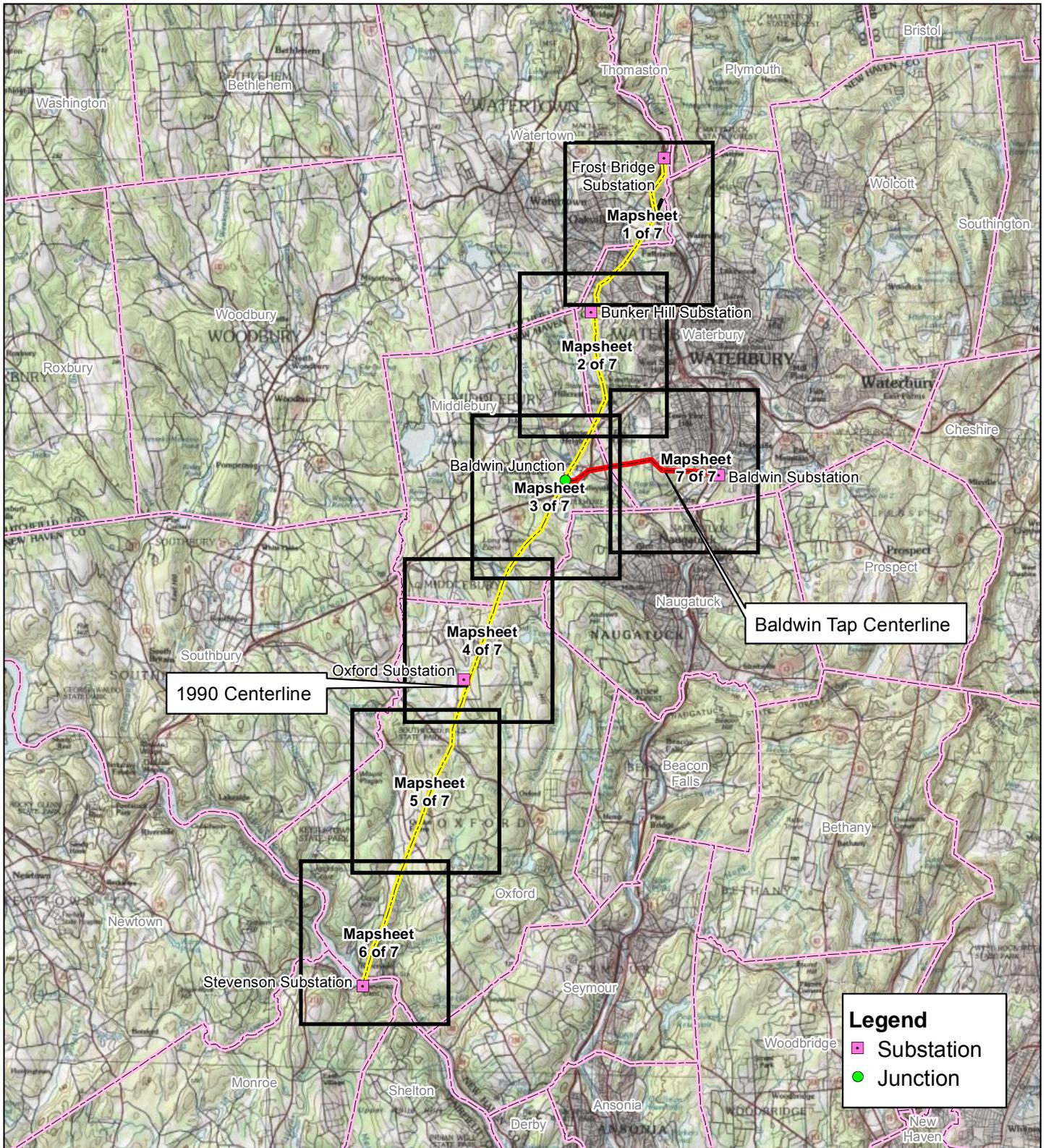
The proposed new structures are described and shown on the enclosed "Typical Cross Sections/Foundation Details", three sheets, dated "7/14/2010" (ROW CROSS SECTION) and "2/17/2005" (TYPICAL FOUNDATIONS).

**MITIGATION**

The proposed Project avoids and/or minimizes impacts to water resources to the extent practicable. The existing transmission line and the proposed replacement poles will be installed within an existing transmission line ROW that has been dedicated to, and vegetatively managed for the purpose of overhead electric transmission for over 80 years. The new structures will be placed outside of wetlands/waters, where feasible, and within the existing easement limits. Transmission lines will span most wetlands and all watercourses.

Due to constraints posed by adjacent land uses or by transmission line design requirements, some new poles are proposed immediately adjacent to, and three new poles are proposed within waters of the U.S., and nine lattice structures will be removed from wetlands. In these locations, the effects on wetlands will occur from temporary work areas and/or permanent structure foundations.

A mitigation plan consisting of land preservation is proposed as mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts. CL&P proposes placement of a conservation restriction on 26 acres of CL&P's 58.6-acre Cortland Place Property in Oxford, CT to permanently protect it as open space (see enclosed Figures 1,2,3 dated "September 2011" and "November 2011"). This proposed mitigation would offset impacts to wetland functions and values from the Project activities, and will also protect uplands documented as providing habitat for Eastern box turtle. A conservation easement for preservation of the 26 acres in perpetuity will be developed in accordance with the current *New England District Compensatory Mitigation Guidance*. The 26-acre conservation area includes approximately 8 acres of wetlands areas, 11 acres of 100-ft upland buffer, and 951 linear feet of perennial and intermittent watercourses.

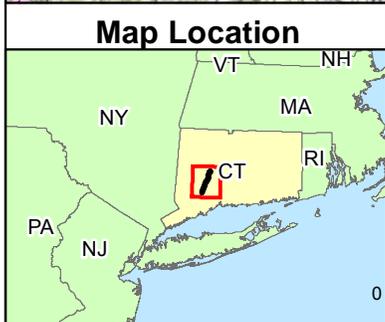


1990 Centerline

Baldwin Tap Centerline

**Legend**

- Substation
- Junction



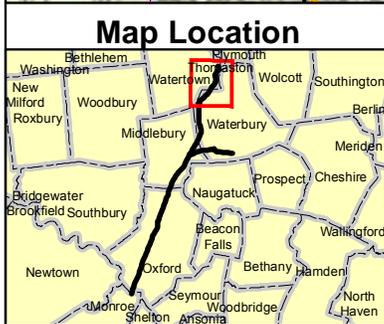
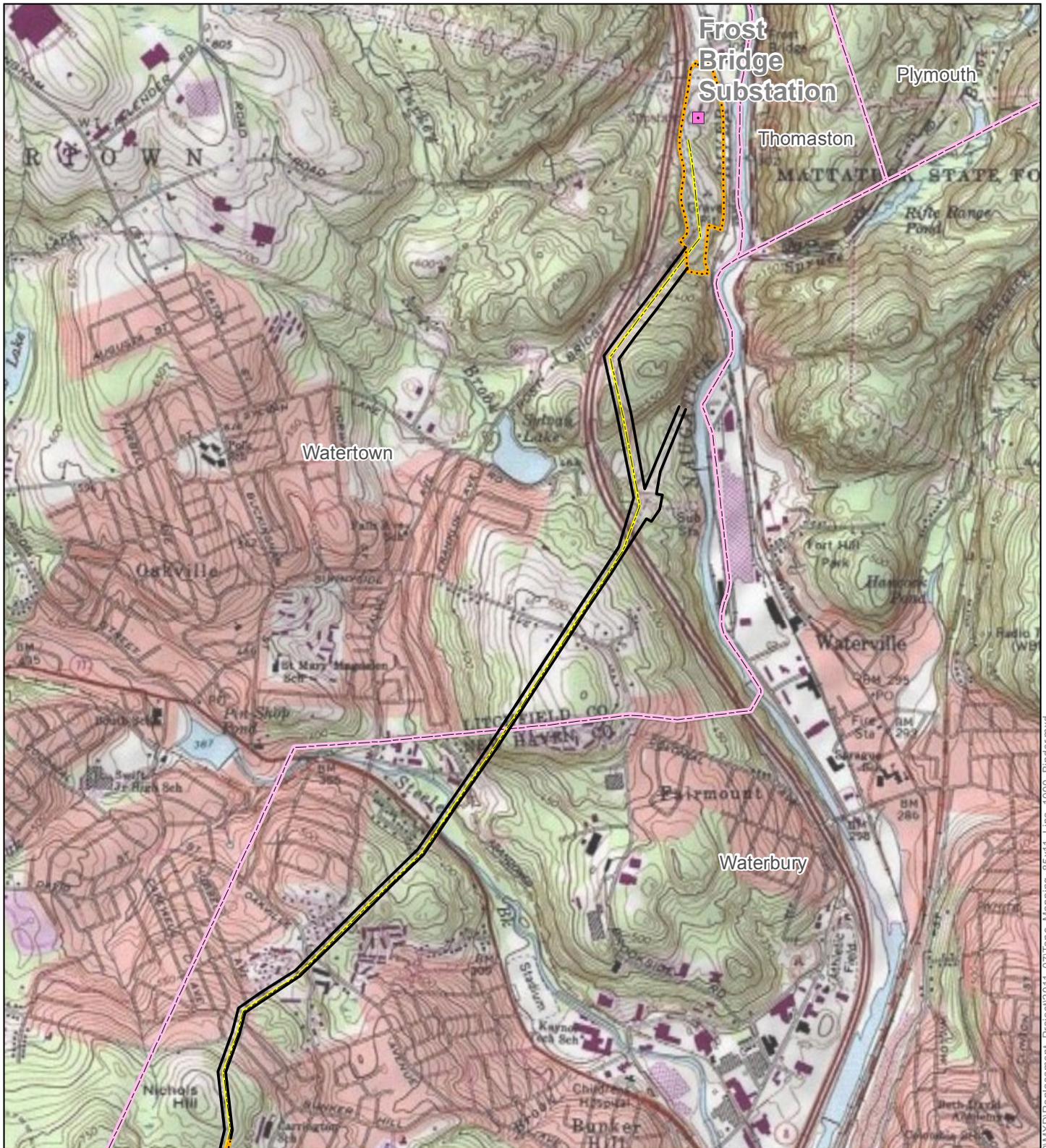
**Northeast Utilities  
1990 Line  
Structure Replacement Project  
Topographic Overview**



1 inch equals 2.65 miles  
2.65 Miles

5.3 Source: USGS Topographical 24k (2008); AECOM 2010; CTGIS 2010

Date: July 2011



## Northeast Utilities 1990 Line Structure Replacement Project Topographic Overview

- Substation
- Junction

- Easement
- - - - - NU Property
- Baldwin Tap Centerline
- Town Boundary

- 1990 Centerline

1 inch = 2,000 feet

0      2,000      4,000 Feet

Source: USGS  
Topographical 24k (2008);  
AECOM 2010 ; CTGIS 2010

**Connecticut  
Light & Power**  
A Northeast Utilities Company

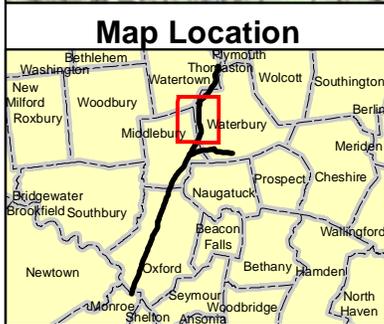
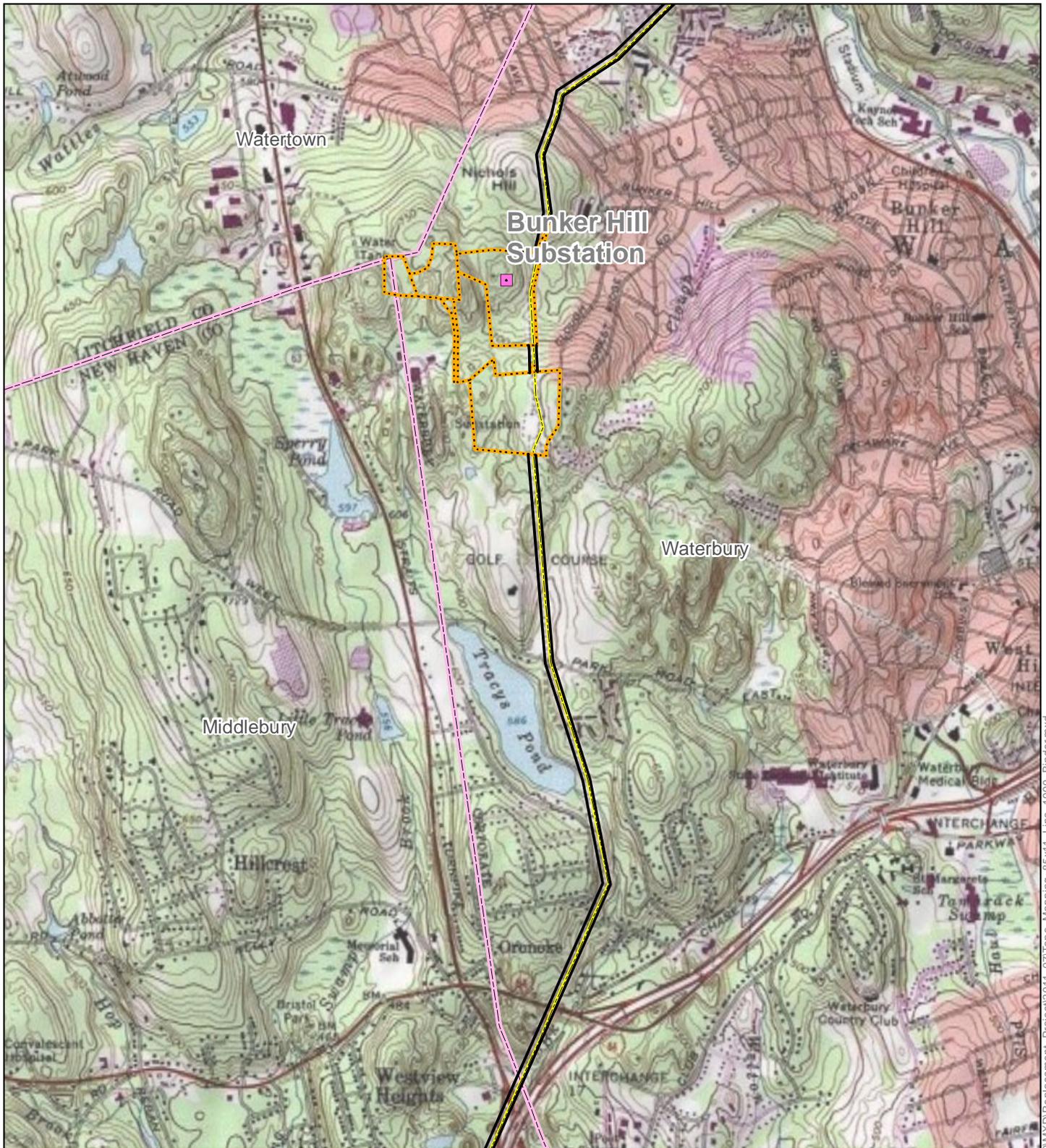
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Mapsheets 1 of 7

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Date: July 2011



## Northeast Utilities 1990 Line Structure Replacement Project Topographic Overview

- Substation
- Junction

- Easement
- NU Property
- Town Boundary

- 1990 Centerline
- Baldwin Tap Centerline

1 inch = 2,000 feet

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Source: USGS  
Topographical 24k (2008);  
AECOM 2010 ; CTGIS 2010

**Connecticut  
Light & Power**  
A Northeast Utilities Company

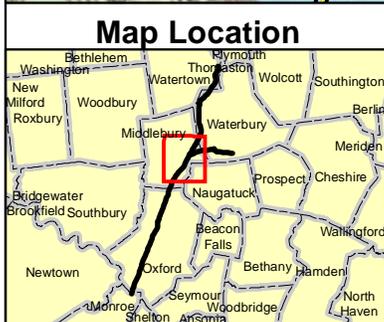
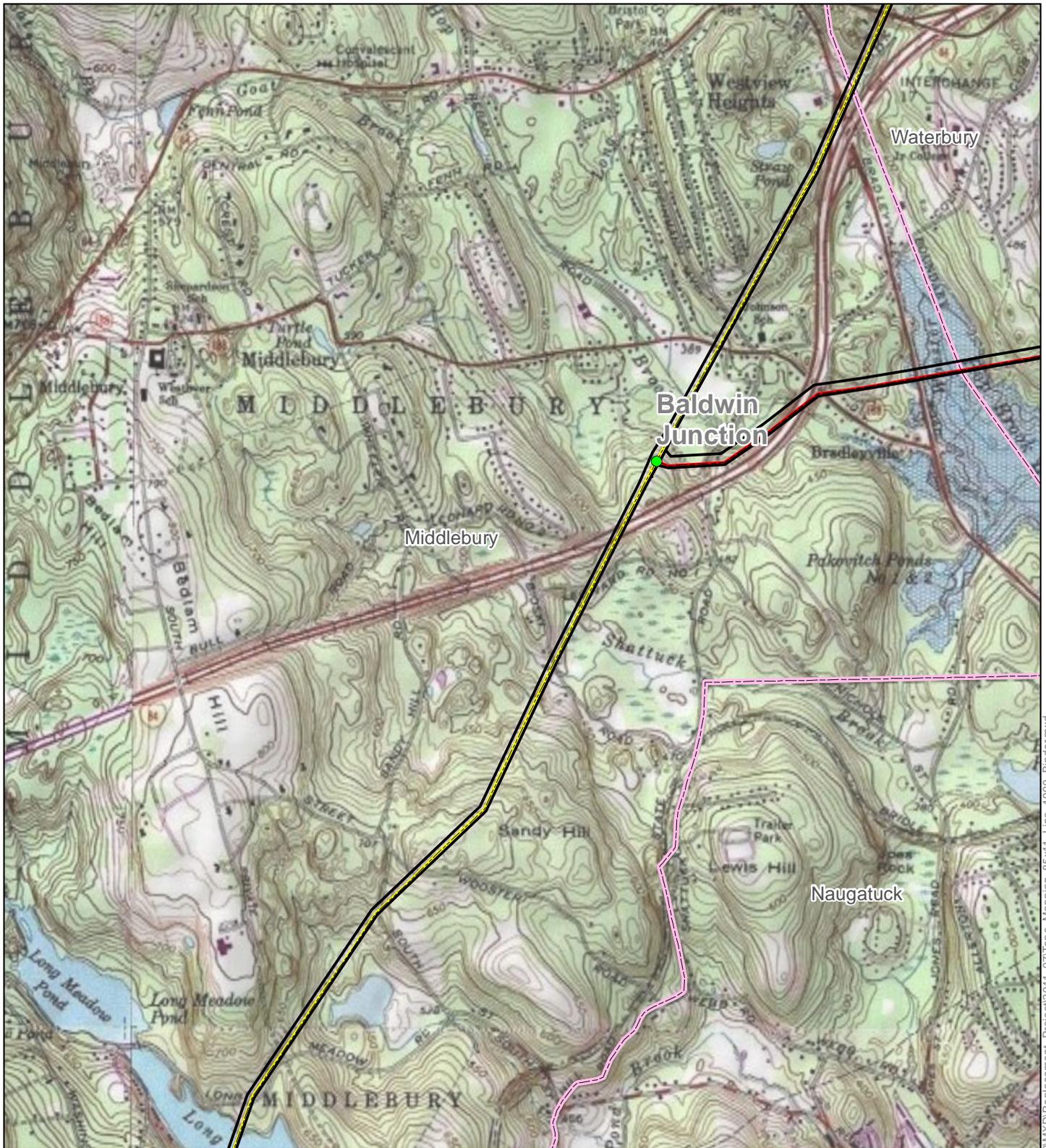
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Mapsheets 2 of 7

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Date: July 2011



### Northeast Utilities 1990 Line Structure Replacement Project Topographic Overview

- Substation
 — Easement
 — 1990 Centerline
- Junction
 — NU Property
 — Baldwin Tap Centerline
- Town Boundary

1 inch = 2,000 feet

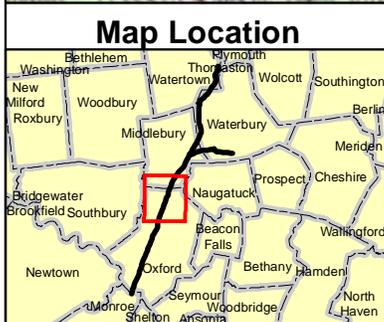
0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Source: USGS  
Topographical 24k (2008);  
AECOM 2010 ; CTGIS 2010



Mapsheet 3 of 7

Date: July 2011



### Northeast Utilities 1990 Line Structure Replacement Project Topographic Overview

- Substation
- Junction
- Easement
- 1990 Centerline
- - - - - NU Property
- Baldwin Tap Centerline
- Town Boundary

1 inch = 2,000 feet

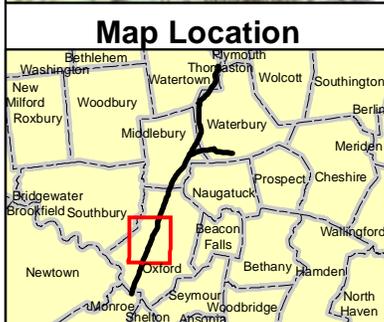
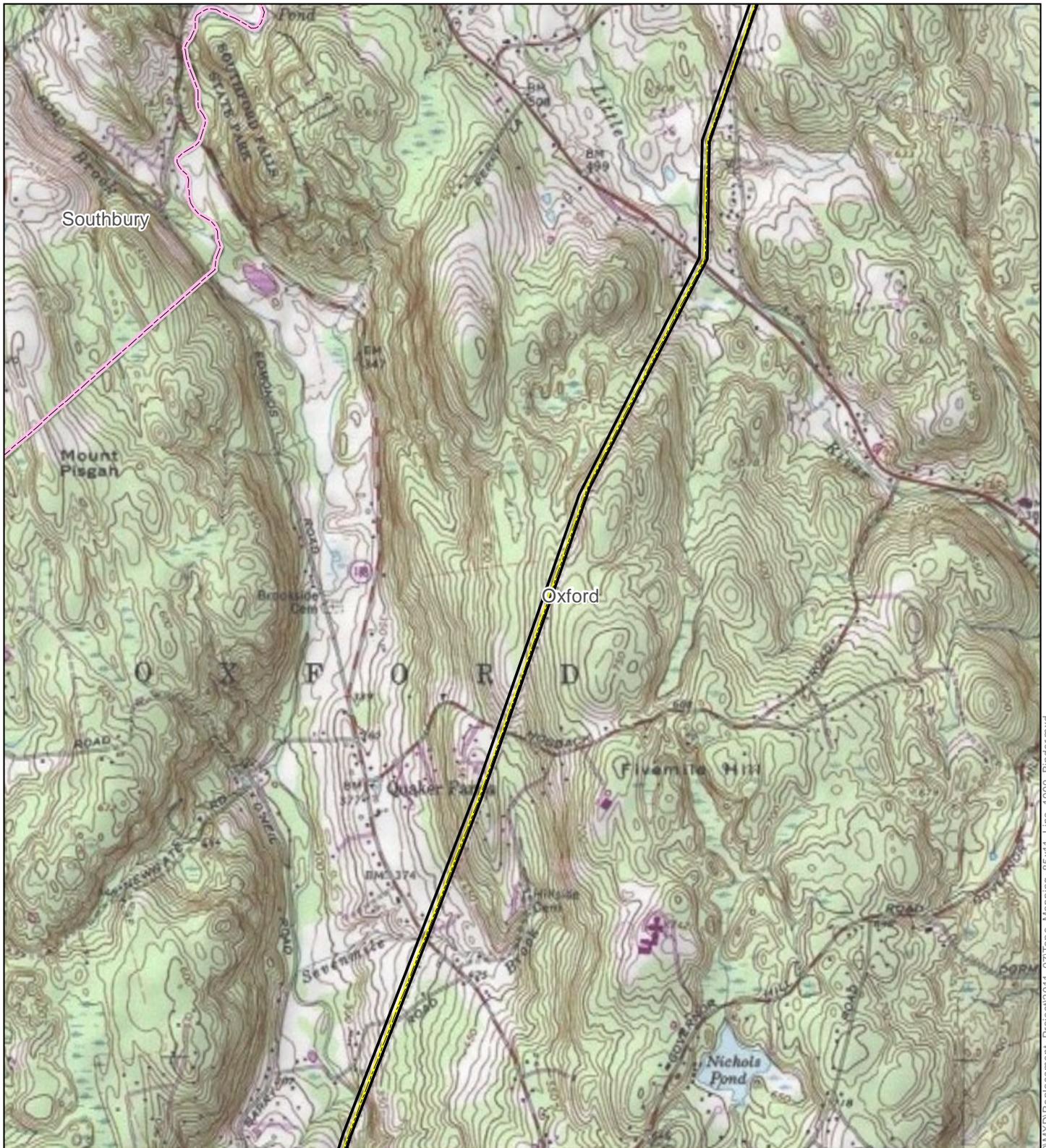
0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Source: USGS  
Topographical 24k (2008);  
AECOM 2010 ; CTGIS 2010



Mapsheet 4 of 7

Date: July 2011



### Northeast Utilities 1990 Line Structure Replacement Project Topographic Overview

- Substation
 — Easement
— 1990 Centerline
- Junction
 - - - - - NU Property
— Baldwin Tap Centerline
- Town Boundary

1 inch = 2,000 feet

0

2,000 4,000  
Feet

Source: USGS  
Topographical 24k (2008);  
AECOM 2010 ; CTGIS 2010



**Connecticut  
Light & Power**  
A Northeast Utilities Company

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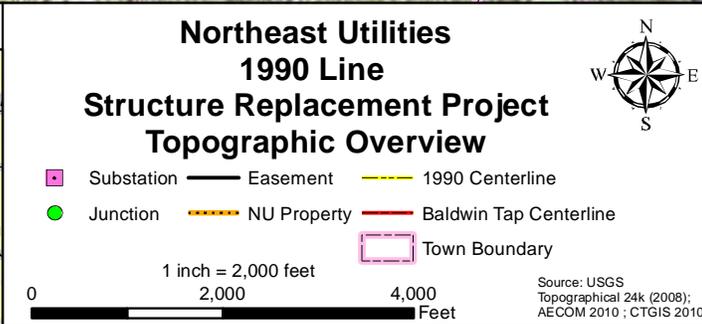
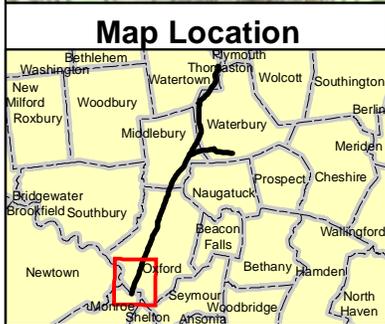
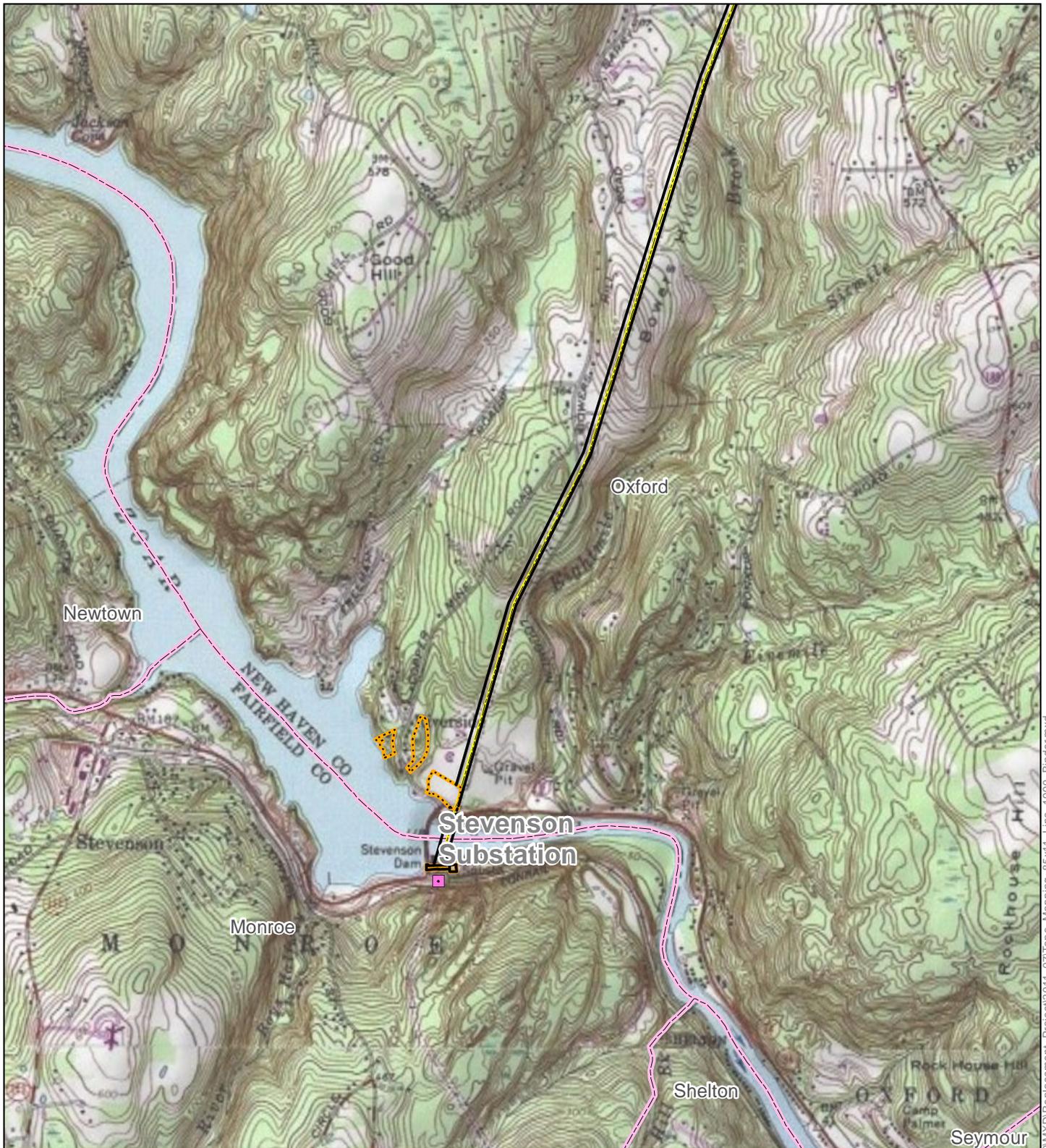


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Mapsheets 5 of 7

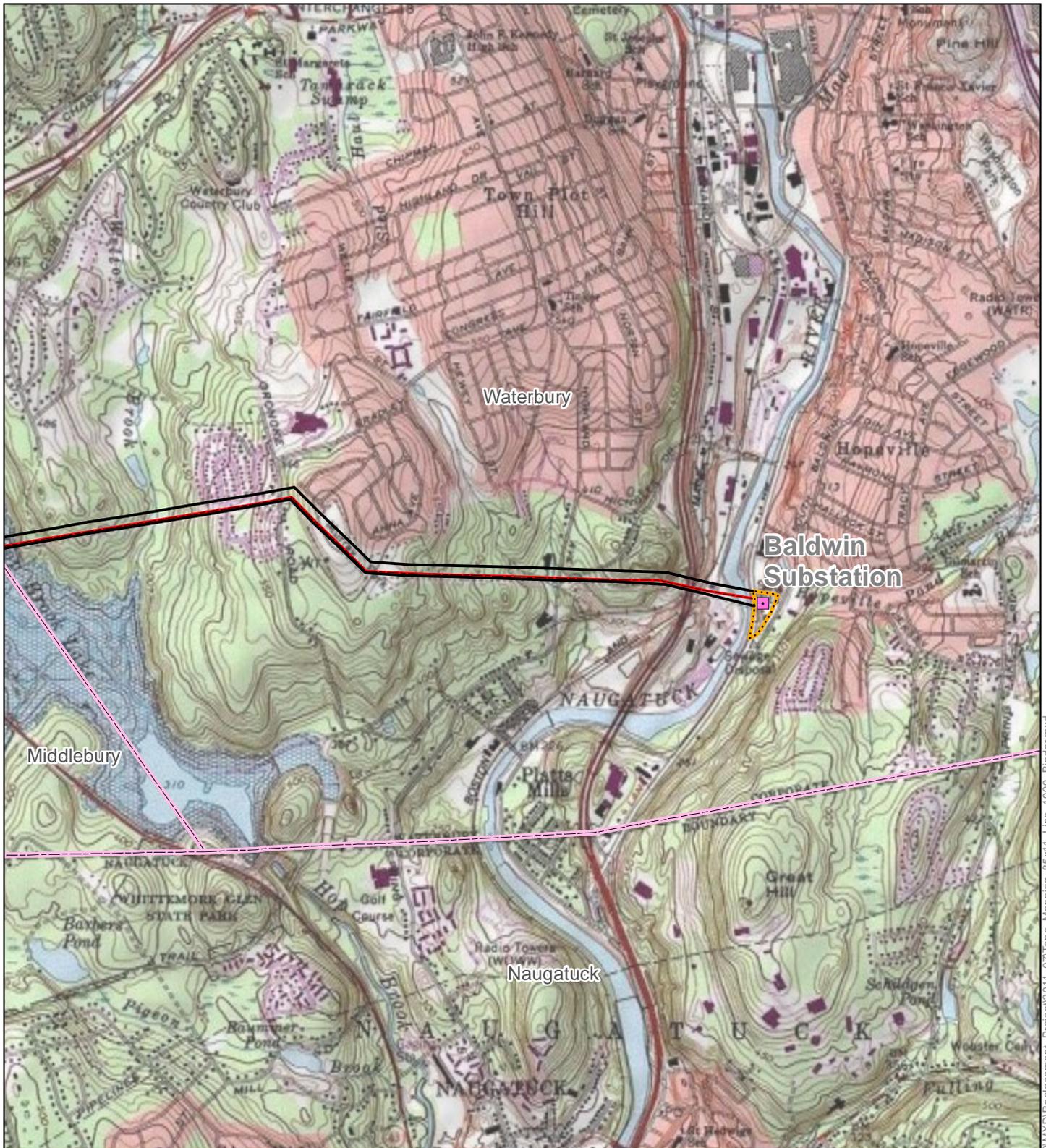
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Date: July 2011



Mapsheet 6 of 7

Date: July 2011



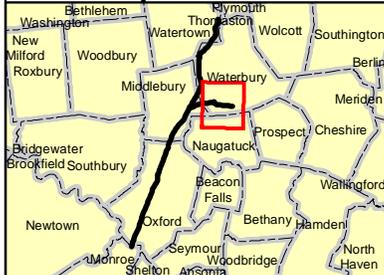
Middlebury

Waterbury

Baldwin Substation

Naugatuck

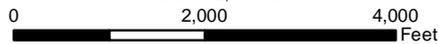
### Map Location



## Northeast Utilities 1990 Line Structure Replacement Project Topographic Overview

- Substation
- Easement
- 1990 Centerline
- Junction
- NU Property
- Baldwin Tap Centerline
- Town Boundary

1 inch = 2,000 feet



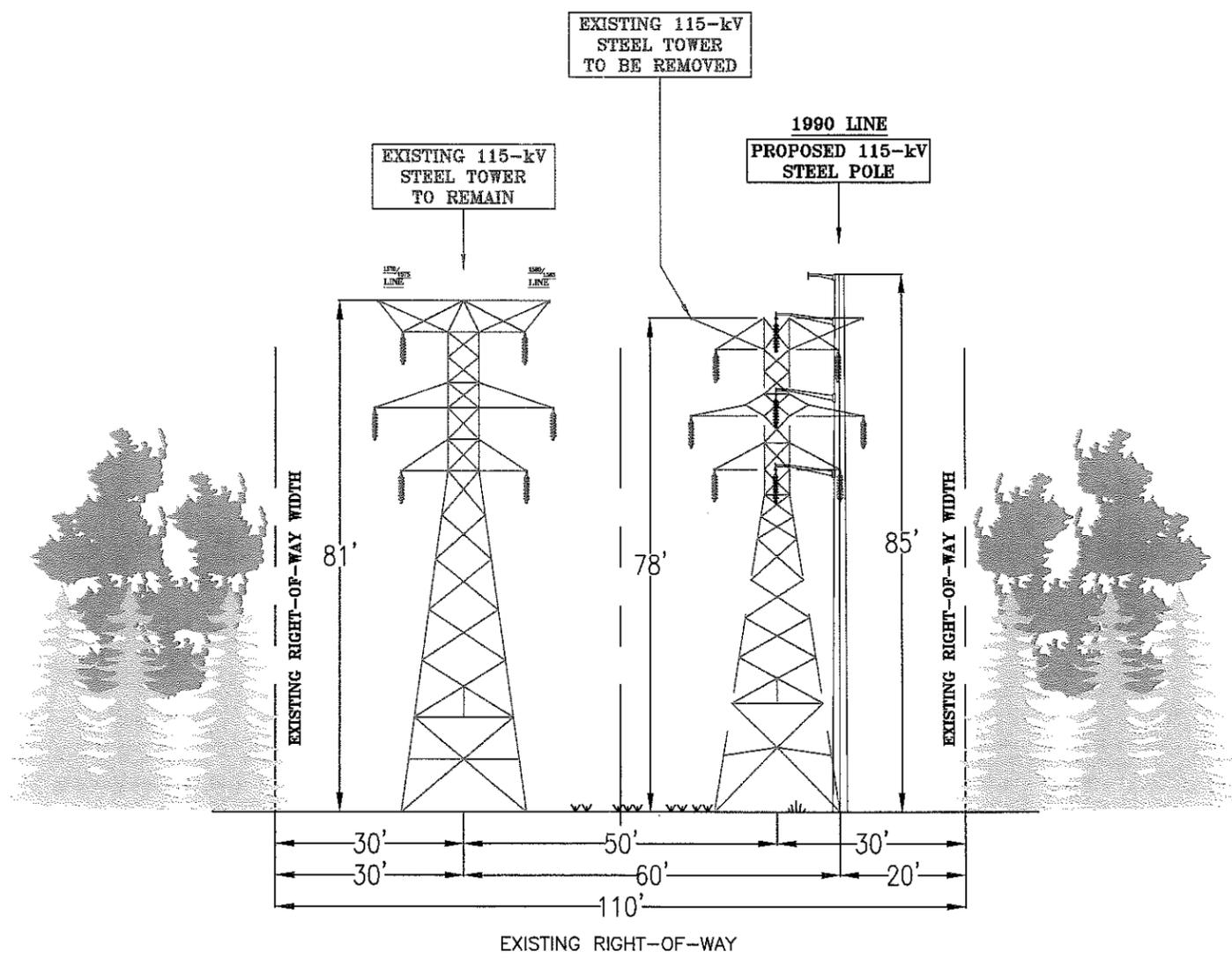
Mapsheet 7 of 7

Date: July 2011

Source: USGS  
Topographical 24k (2008);  
AECOM 2010 ; CTGIS 2010

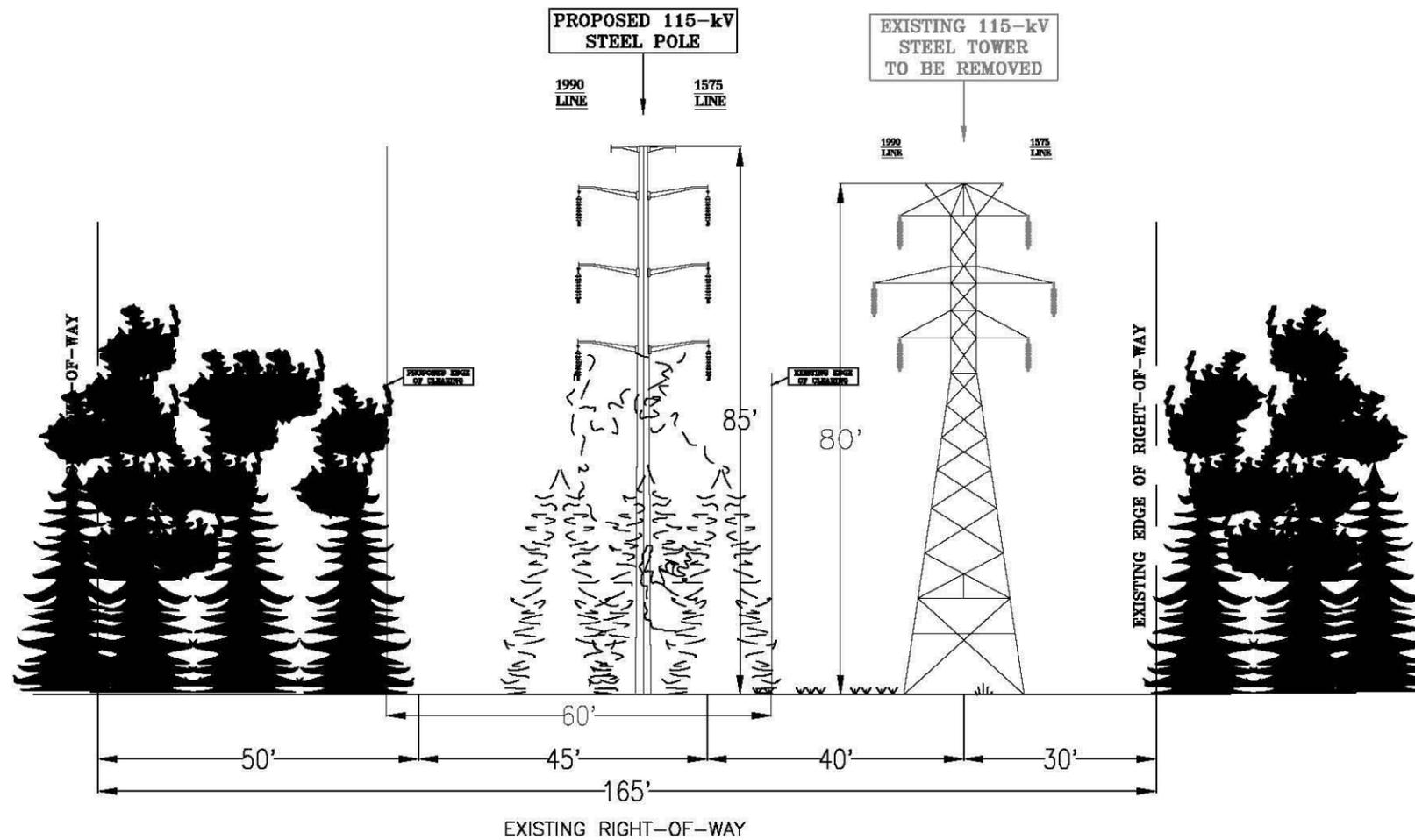
## **Typical Cross Sections / Foundation Details**

11/09/2010 10:58am - K:\Engineering\Transmission Engineering\TRANS\PROJECTS\1990 Line - Lattice Tower Replacement\OH\X SECTIONS\01236-85001.dwg



LOOKING NORTH FROM  
 STEVENSON S/S TOWARDS  
 FROST BRIDGE S/S  
 IN THE TOWNS OF  
 OXFORD, MIDDLEBURY,  
 WATERBURY & WATERTOWN

		<b>Northeast Utilities Service Co.</b>		
		FOR CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY		
TITLE STEVENSON - FROST BRIDGE 115-kV LINE LATTICE TOWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT ROW CROSS SECTION				
BY	CPS	CHKD	APP	APP
DATE	7/14/2010	DATE	DATE	DATE
H-SCALE	1":25'	SIZE	B FIELD BOOK & PAGES	
V-SCALE	1":25'	V.S.	R.E.DWG.	
R.E. PROJ. NUMBER			NUSCO	01236-85001p001



**LOOKING EAST FROM  
BALDWIN JCT TOWARDS  
BALDWIN S/S  
IN THE TOWNS OF  
MIDDLEBURY & WATERBURY**

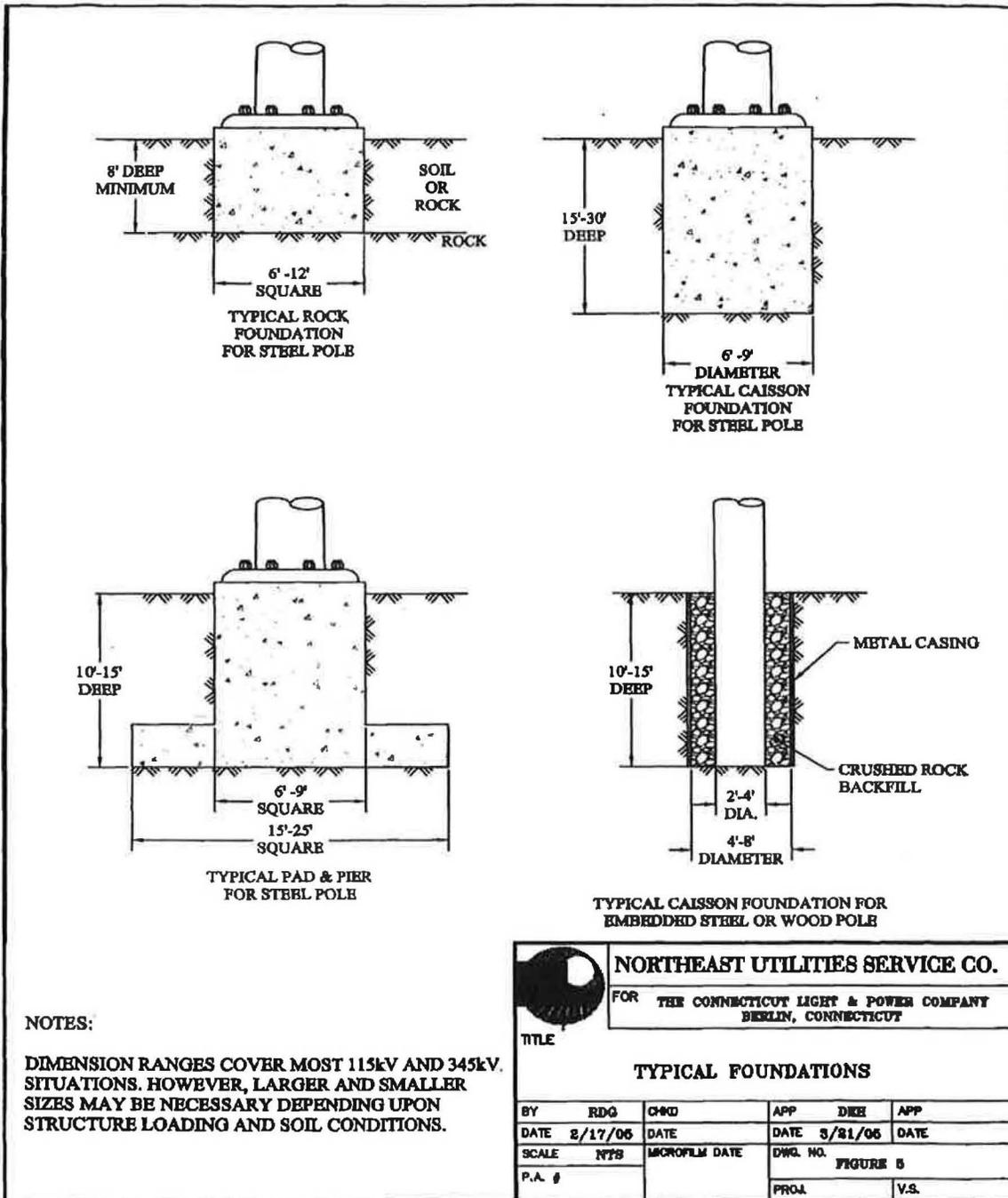
 <b>Northeast Utilities Service Co.</b>		FOR	
		CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY	
TITLE			
STEVENSON - FROST BRIDGE 115-kV LINE LATTICE TOWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT ROW CROSS SECTION			
BY	CPS	CHKD	APP
DATE	7/14/2010	DATE	DATE
H-SCALE	1"=25'	SIZE	B
V-SCALE	1"=25'	V.S.	FIELD BOOK & PAGES
R.E. PROJ. NUMBER		NUSCO 01236-85001p002	



Northeast Utilities



## Northeast Utilities Overhead Transmission Line Standards



E:\Engineering\Transmission Engineering\TRANS\PROJ\07\07 OF Proj\01\01 ACOR Permit

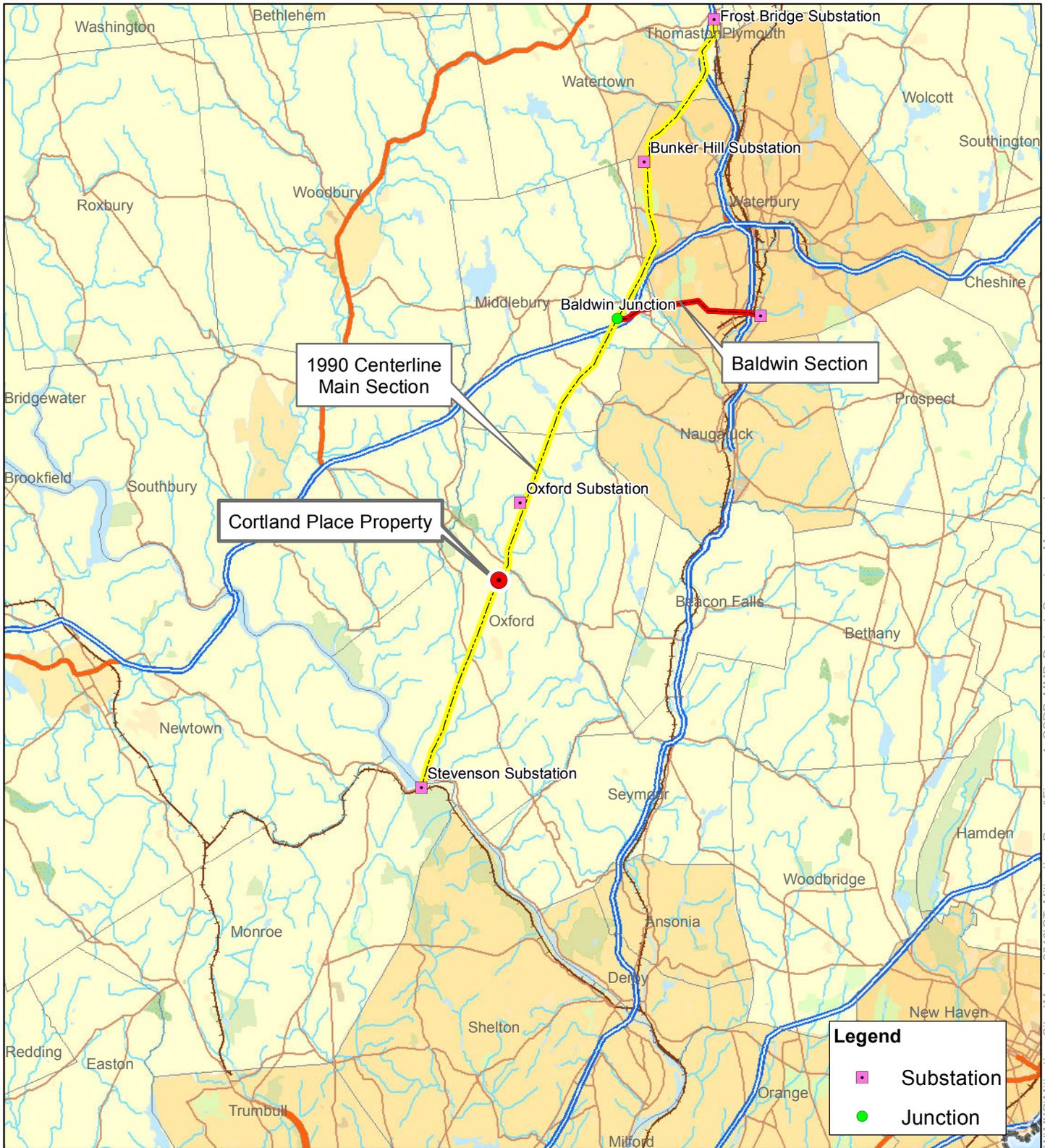
### Structure Worksite and Access Areas

Northeast Utilities  
Approved by: KMS (CT/MA), JJJ (NH)

Design

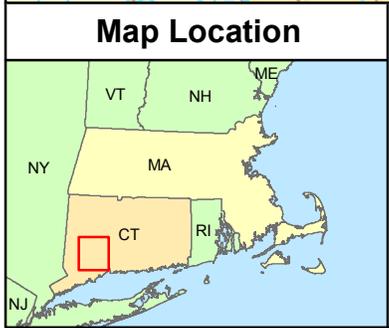
OTRM 031  
Page 7 of 7

Rev. 1  
01/28/2011



**Legend**

- Substation
- Junction



**1990 Line Project Locus Map  
Cortland Place Property**

1 inch = 15,000 feet

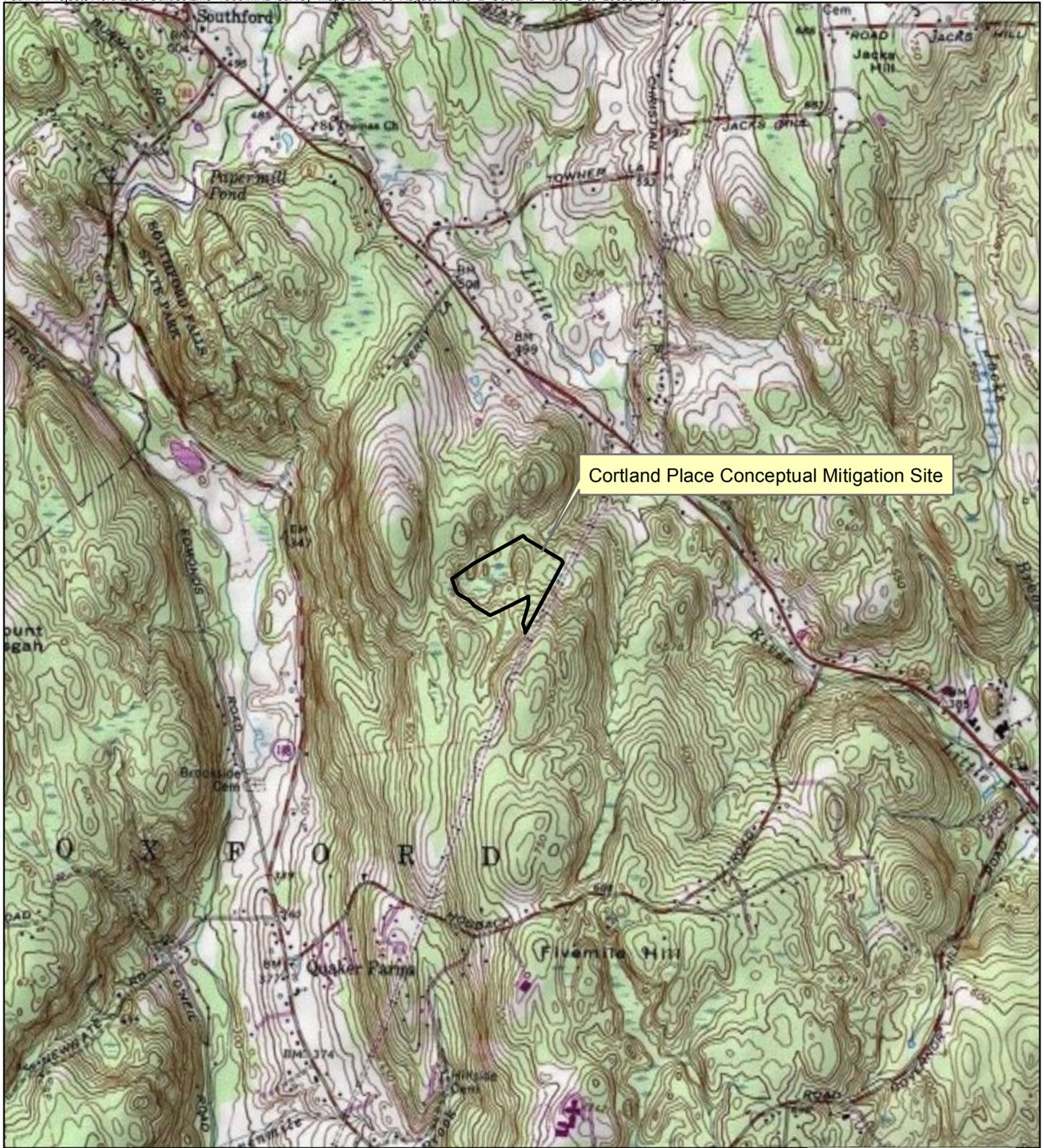
Source: ESRI Base Map; Burns and McDonnell

Connecticut Light & Power  
The Northeast Utilities System

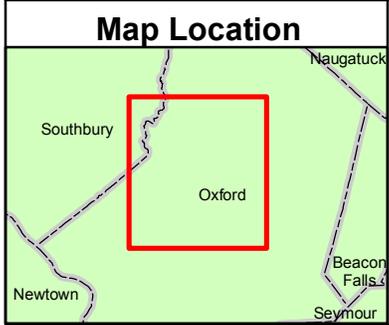
**AECOM**

Figure 1  
Date: September 2011

Y:\Projects\NorthEast\_Uilities\GSRP\_NEWMXDMitigation\_Sites\March\_2010\CT\_Mitigation\_Report\Figure\_1\_GSRP\_MMP\_Project\_Overview\_Map.mxd



Cortland Place Conceptual Mitigation Site



**Map Location**

**Cortland Place Conceptual Mitigation Site  
1990 Line Project  
Site Locus Map**



1 inch = 2,000 feet

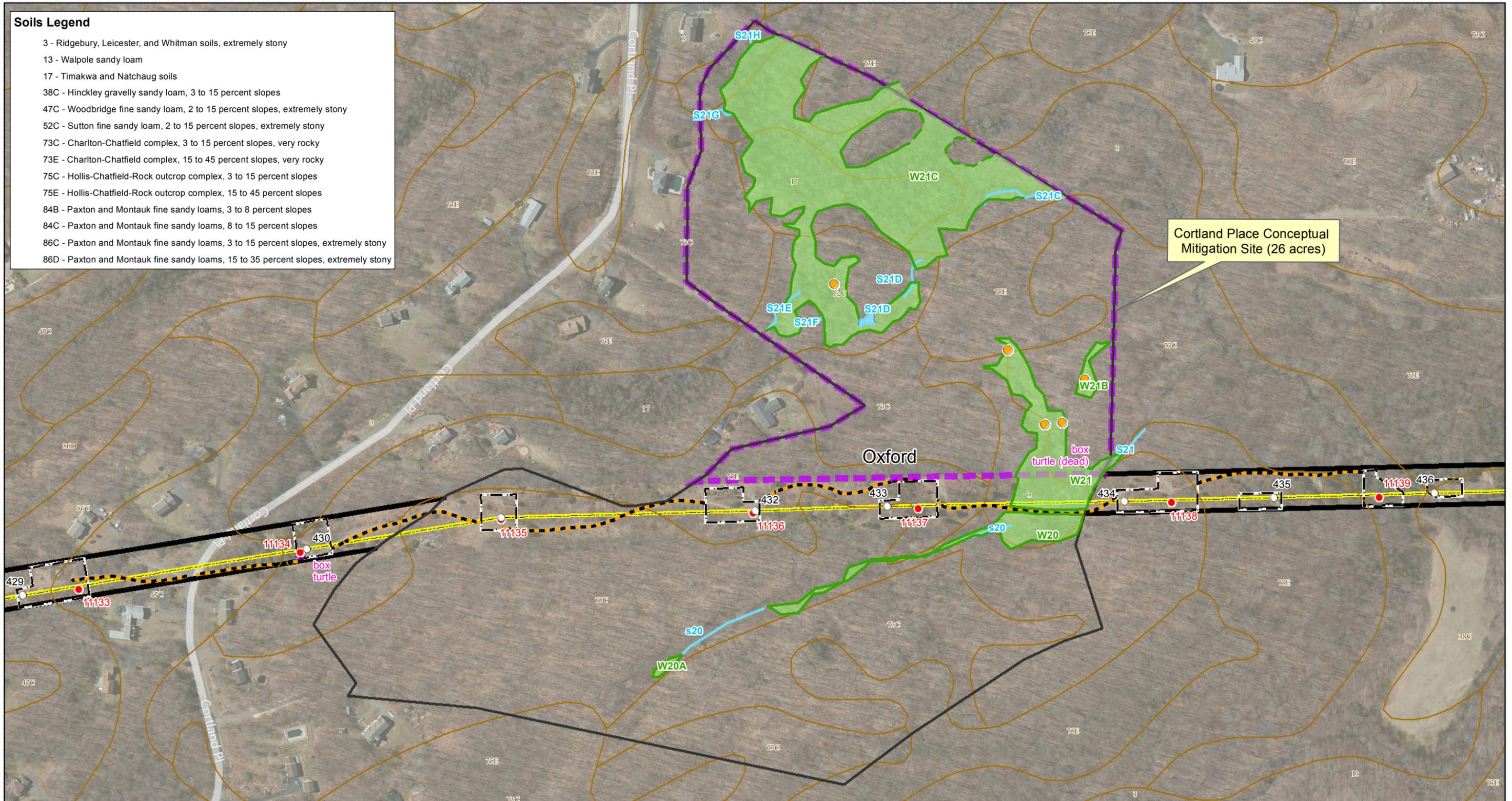


Source: USGS Topographic Map  
Southbury Quadrangle

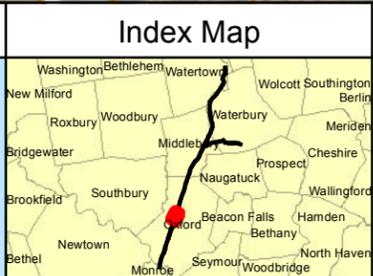
**Figure 2**  
Date: November 2011

### Soils Legend

- 3 - Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony
- 13 - Walpole sandy loam
- 17 - Timakwa and Natchaug soils
- 38C - Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes
- 47C - Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- 52C - Sutton fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- 73C - Charlton-Chatfield complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, very rocky
- 73E - Charlton-Chatfield complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes, very rocky
- 75C - Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes
- 75E - Hollis-Chatfield-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes
- 84B - Paxton and Montauk fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- 84C - Paxton and Montauk fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- 86C - Paxton and Montauk fine sandy loams, 3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- 86D - Paxton and Montauk fine sandy loams, 15 to 35 percent slopes, extremely stony



Cortland Place Conceptual Mitigation Site (26 acres)



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Centerline</li> <li> Easement</li> <li> Cortland Place Conceptual Mitigation Site</li> <li> NU Property</li> <li> Surveyed Access Road Flag</li> <li> Surveyed Access Road Line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Structure to be Replaced</li> <li> Proposed Structures</li> <li> Man Made Feature</li> <li> T&amp;E Observation</li> <li> Photo Location</li> <li> Generic Point Location</li> <li> Existing Access Road</li> <li> Proposed Access Road</li> <li> Soils</li> <li> Crane Pad</li> <li> SCEC Boundary</li> <li> Town Boundary</li> <li> Potential Vernal Pool</li> <li> Surveyed Wetland Boundary</li> <li> Approximate Wetland Boundary</li> <li> Surveyed Stream</li> </ul>
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Data Source: CT 2004 Aerial Imagery; AECOM Survey: 2010-2011  
Soils: NRCS SSURGO Soils

0 100 200 400 600 Feet      1 in = 267 ft      1:3,200

**Northeast Utilities**  
**1990 Line**  
**Structure Replacement Project**  
  
**Potential Preservation Area**  
**Cortland Place Property**



**Connecticut Light & Power**  
A Northeast Utilities Company



Figure 3

Date: November 2011