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Ansonia Capacitor Bank Project: FAQ's

What is the Ansonia Substation Capacitor Bank Project?

The Ansonia Substation Capacitor Bank Project involves the addition of two 115kV capacitor banks, and associated equipment, inside the existing substation fence line. The proposed addition of these capacitor banks is to mitigate low voltage conditions in the Naugatuck Valley/Frost Bridge corridor.

Why is UI proposing a 115kV Capacitor Bank addition at Ansonia Substation?

As part of the continuing effort to maintain a reliable electric power system in the Naugatuck Valley/Frost Bridge corridor, regional system studies have identified the need for two 25 MVAR 115 kV transmission capacitor banks at UI Ansonia substation. This project is necessary to meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation reliability compliance requirements.

What is a Capacitor Bank?

A capacitor is a passive two-terminal electrical component used to store energy. A capacitor bank is a grouping of several identical capacitors interconnected with one another. Capacitor banks are typically used to correct low system voltage conditions on the bulk electrical system.

Why now?

The low voltages, identified in the Southwest Connecticut (SWCT) Needs Assessment updated in June 2014, identified that the low voltage issues exist today and must be remediated as soon as possible.

Will there be any additional visual impacts to the abutters?

There will be minimal visual impacts to abutters.

Will there be any environmental impacts as a result of the project?

There will be no substantial adverse environmental impact associated with the proposed project. The upgrades will take place adjacent to the existing Ansonia facility.

What is the project schedule?

The planned construction start date is January 2017 with completion estimated in September 2017 pending approvals from the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC).

Will there be a loss of power during construction?

No power outages are anticipated during construction.

Will there be additional noise during construction activities?

There will be a temporary increase in noise levels as expected with typical civil construction activities. Construction hours will be between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday excluding some holidays. The proposed work hours may include evening and weekend hours on a temporary and case-by-case basis in order to complete critical installations.

Will there be permanent additional noise due to the additional equipment?

The noise emitted from the new substation equipment will have no appreciable impact on nearby properties.

Will there be an increase in the Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) generated by the substation?

The increase in EMF generated by these upgrades will be negligible, and well within the established best management practices established by The Connecticut Siting Council.

Which agencies review this project?

The Connecticut Siting Council, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, New England Power Pool, ISO New England, City of Ansonia

How much will this project cost? Who pays for it?

The total project cost is estimated at \$8.0 million. Because this project impacts the Northeast US bulk transmission system the cost of the upgrade is shared by customers all across New England, not just UI customers.

Can this upgrade be installed at another UI Substation location?

The low transmission voltage issue that was identified centered around contingencies involving the Naugatuck Valley/Frost Bridge transmission corridor. Because of this, the most effective solution is to install new equipment at the Ansonia Substation.

Would conservation programs help alleviate the demand in this area?

UI has a very aggressive conservation and load management (CLM) program that has been very successful in deferring capital investments. The analysis that determined the need for this equipment did take into account all current and predicted future CLM efforts, but the need still presents itself.

What will the final fence height be?

The new substation fence will be 14 feet high.

Will the site be lit at night?

General area lighting will be provided for security of equipment and personnel. Additional task specific lighting will be provided, but will remain off when the station is unoccupied.