

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:

THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY (UI)	:	
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF	:	
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC	:	DOCKET NO. 516
NEED FOR THE FAIRFIELD TO CONGRESS	:	
RAILROAD TRANSMISSION LINE 115-KV	:	
REBUILD PROJECT THAT CONSISTS OF THE	:	
RELOCATION AND REBUILD OF ITS EXISTING	:	
115-KILOVOLT (KV) ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION	:	
LINES FROM THE RAILROAD CATENARY	:	
STRUCTURES TO NEW STEEL MONOPOLE	:	
STRUCTURES AND RELATED MODIFICATIONS	:	
ALONG APPROXIMATELY 7.3 MILES OF THE	:	
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF	:	
TRANSPORTATION’S METRO-NORTH RAILROAD	:	
CORRIDOR BETWEEN STRUCTURE B648S	:	
LOCATED EAST OF SASCO CREEK IN FAIRFIELD	:	
AND UI’S CONGRESS STREET SUBSTATION IN	:	
BRIDGEPORT, AND THE REBUILD OF TWO	:	
EXISTING 115-KV TRANSMISSION LINES ALONG	:	
0.23 MILES OF EXISTING UI RIGHT-OF-WAY TO	:	
FACILITATE INTERCONNECTION OF THE	:	
REBUILT 115-KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION	:	
LINES AT UI’S EXISTING ASH CREEK, RESCO,	:	NOVEMBER 2, 2023
PEQUONNOCK AND CONGRESS STREET	:	
SUBSTATIONS TRAVERSING THE	:	
MUNICIPALITIES OF BRIDGEPORT AND	:	
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT	:	

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY STEPHEN OZYCK

Q1. Please state your name and address.

A1. Stephen Ozyck, 267 South Gate Lane, Southport, CT 06890.

Q2. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A2. I am testifying on behalf of the Sasco Creek Neighbors Environmental Trust Inc. (“Trust”), where I am a Co-Founder. The Trust was formed by myself, my wife Andrea Ozyck, and other neighbors who were directly impacted by the proposed project.

Q3. How close do you live to the United Illuminating Company’s (“UI”) proposed 115-kV Transmission Right of Way?

A3. My property directly abuts the Connecticut Department of Transportation (“CTDOT”) right of way in the vicinity of UI’s proposed structures P649S and P650S, as depicted on Sheet 1 of 7 of Attachment V2.3 of UI’s Project Mapping and Drawings.

Q4. Have you fully reviewed the Application (Docket 516) filed by UI?

A4. Yes. I learned about the documentation available at the Siting Council’s website in July 2023, and have read extensively about the project since then.

Q5. After reviewing the Application and conferring with your colleagues, does the Trust have any concerns about UI’s proposal?

A5. Yes. We have serious concerns about the Application. If the project goes forward, we believe it will profoundly and irreversibly harm my community.

Q6. Can you describe each concern that the Trust has about the Application?

A6. We are concerned about many issues, including but not limited to:

1. Environmental impact on inland and tidal wetlands.
2. Environmental impact on indigenous wildlife, including species designated on both the federal and state level as endangered, threatened or species of special concern.
3. Adverse direct and indirect impacts to the Southport Historic District, including the loss of its historic integrity and character.
4. Negative impact on my property value and that of my neighbors, including from easements and visual pollution.
5. Inconclusive health risks, including from EMF emissions.
6. Safety risks, including from extreme weather events which could damage the power lines and high monopoles.

Q7. Can you elaborate on these concerns, and explain how they came about?

A7. As I learned more about the project, it became clear that the need for easements and the visual appearance of the poles would change the character of many neighborhoods, including culturally significant areas like the Southport Historic District. Expert discussions and reports, however, have shown that the effects are much broader. Deforestation would impact protected wildlife and wetlands. And the lines themselves pose several risks. The risk of harmful EMF emissions might be significant in some areas, especially if the demands made on the power grid increase. Lastly, the risk of damage or failure of the poles and power lines poses major safety risks. A derailment or similar accident could seriously endanger neighboring properties, given the size of the poles. Given the increased risk of major hurricanes and tropical storms in the northeast due to climate change, the fact that the lines are protected only against Category 3 winds also seems inadequate. And the risk of wildfires may be serious in the long

term, especially given the role of similar power lines in starting wildfires on the West Coast, and given the higher risk of summer drought conditions due to climate change.

Q8. Based upon the information, evidence and testimony that you have observed so far, does the Trust think that the Connecticut Siting Council should approve or deny this application?

A8. Based on what we have observed so far, we think the Connecticut Siting Council needs to deny this application.

Q9. If the Connecticut Siting Council were to approve UI's application, does the Trust think that the approval should require any changes to what UI has proposed so far?

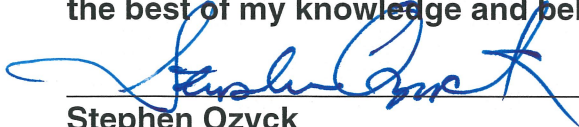
A9. Yes.

Q10. What changes do you suggest?

A10. If UI's application is approved, we think the Connecticut Siting Council should require the following conditions of approval:

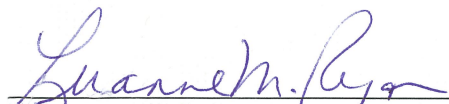
- a) The adverse visual impact of UI's proposed project on the Southport Historic District must be mitigated either through undergrounding (within the CTDOT right of way, U.S. Route 1 or within a new right of way further removed from the Historic District), installation of new transmission lines on existing or rebuilt railway catenary structures, or colocation on existing electric utility monopoles installed on the north side of the CTDOT railroad right of way.
- b) UI's proposed easement must be reduced in both size and scope so as not to negatively impact structures designated as historic or contributing on the State or National Register of Historic Places, or eligible for such designation.

I, STEPHEN OZYCK, duly sworn, hereby verify that this statement was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and is believed to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Stephen Ozyck

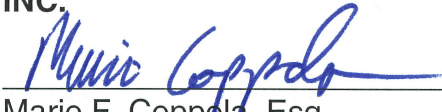
11-2-2023
Date

The above signed, Stephen Ozyck, personally appeared before me and verified that the above pre-file testimony for the Connecticut Siting Council is true and accurate and that he adopted it by his free act and deed on this 2 day of November, 2023.


Commissioner of Superior Court
Notary Public/
My Commission expires

LUANNE M. RYAN
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Connecticut
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES AUG. 31, 2027

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
STEPHEN OZYCK, ON BEHALF OF SASCO
CREEK NEIGHBORS ENVIROMENTAL TRUST
INC.

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