

**Connecticut Siting Council**

*Pamela B. Katz, P.E., Chairman*

*S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director*

*Established: 1971*

*Statutory Authority: Chapter 277a, Chapter 445, Chapter 446a,  
Chapter 446d, and Chapter 446e*

*Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051*

*Number of Employees: 11*

*Recurring Operating Expenses: \$1,546,184.00  
(Energy, Telecommunications, and Hazardous Waste)*

**Agency Mission**

Regulation of facility siting to balance the need for adequate and reliable public services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state.

**Statutory Responsibility**

Although the Council has exclusive jurisdiction to regulate the siting of facilities under its jurisdiction, municipal zoning and inland wetland commissions may regulate and restrict electric generation facilities, and electric substations. Municipal planning, zoning, and inland wetland commissions may regulate hazardous waste management facilities and low-level radioactive waste management facilities. The Council may modify or overturn municipal orders by a vote of six members for electric generation facilities and electric switching and substation facilities. Municipal orders directed to hazardous waste and low-level radioactive waste management facilities may be modified or overturned by the Council by a vote of eight members.

**Public Service**

The agency continually measures its efficiency and effectiveness through public statements, memoranda of law and

informal comments received from persons who participate before the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council"). The Council also refines its service through recommendations by the State Auditors of Public Accounts and legislative committees, including the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee.

### **Improvements/Achievements 2004-2005**

In 2004-2005, the Council held 46 public hearing sessions, 26 energy and telecommunications meetings and there were no hazardous waste meetings. The Council ruled on 38 petitions for declaratory rulings for electric generators, electric substations, electric and fuel transmission lines, and telecommunications facilities. The Council issued certificates for 16 cellular telephone facilities and two substation facilities. The Council denied two telecommunications facilities. The Council denied one telecommunications petition; one telecommunications application was withdrawn; and one telecommunications application decision time frame expired.

Of particular note, the Council continued its adjudicatory review process in connection with an application for construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line facility and associated facilities between Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, including the reconstruction of portions of existing 115-kV and 345-kV electric transmission lines, and the reconfiguration of certain interconnections (referred to hereafter as Docket No. 272).

Docket No. 272 was filed with this agency on October 9, 2003; a final decision was issued on April 7, 2005. Forty-four parties and intervenors participated in the Docket No. 272 proceedings,

of which nine were legislators and 21 were municipalities. The Council conducted public comment sessions in Bridgeport, Westport, Milford, Weston, Wallingford, Woodbridge, Orange, and Middletown. Thirty-three days of hearings were held in New Britain to present and cross-examine evidence in the record.

The Council is permitted, under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50(v)(2), to retain independent consultants with technical skills whenever useful to the adjudication of a proceeding. The Council retained such an expert in high voltage electric transmission line planning, design, and construction, including underground transmission systems, to aid in the review of Docket 272.

The Council reviewed and acknowledged 154 modifications of existing telecommunications facilities. The Council also approved 12 requests for tower sharing at existing facilities to avoid the construction of new telecommunications towers. One request for tower sharing was denied. The Council acted on 23 Development and Management Plans to ensure compliance with its orders. The Council inspects all facilities after completion of construction to ensure compliance with its Decision and Orders.

On June 10, 2004, the Council held a hearing on the 2004 Ten-year Forecast of Loads and Resources of Electric Utilities. This forecast proceeding was held to assess existing and planned electric generation, substation and transmission facilities. The proceeding also analyzed historical trends, the projected outlook of load, demand and the effectiveness of conservation and load management programs. A detailed report of these forecasts is published by the Council annually.

## **Reducing Waste**

The Council worked to further improve the functionality of its website. [<http://ct.gov/csc>] The website now contains the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order for every Certificate issued by the Council - organized either by municipality, docket number, or jurisdictional subject matter. Moreover, every approval action taken by the Council is posted to the website and grouped by the municipality of concern. To avoid unnecessary photocopying and postage expenses, the entire record of the Docket No. 272 proceeding was maintained on the website during the 18 months that the application was pending.

## **Information Reported as Required by State Statute**

All certification proceedings of the Council are held as contested cases under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act and include a hearing with full opportunity for due process by all members of the public, parties and intervenors.

In compliance with Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec. 4-61 (k), the Council has adopted an Affirmative Action Policy and designated an Affirmative Action Officer. The Council has also adopted an AIDS policy.

## **Membership**

*Commissioner Gina McCarthy; Commissioner Donald W. Downes; Commissioner Arthur L. Spada; Commissioner J. Robert Galvin; Pamela B. Katz; Edward S. Wilensky; Philip T. Ashton; Colin C. Tait, Esq.; Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.; Barbara Currier Bell; James J. Murphy, Jr.*