

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE	:	
THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL'S	:	DOCKET 754
DRAFT ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS	:	
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	:	JUNE 5, 2007

**COMMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ON DRAFT EMF BEST MANNAGEMENT PRACTICES DRAFT**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Health ("Department"), hereby respectfully submits the following comments on the draft Electric and Magnetic Field best Management Practices for the Construction of Electric Transmission Facilities in Connecticut dated May 22, 2007.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has reviewed the May 22, 2007 draft document: "Electric and Magnetic Field Best Management Practices for the Construction of Electric Transmission Facilities in Connecticut". This is the critical guidance and policy document that will hopefully enable future upgrades and siting of transmission lines in an efficient manner that is protective of public health. The current draft is an improvement of one the Department reviewed and commented upon last fall. However, the current draft falls short of meeting the goals of ensuring efficient and public health protective line siting and differs substantially from the consensus proposal put forward by the Department and utilities this past January.

The greatest concern with the current draft is that it does not endorse the California approach as an important example of EMF mitigation that should be adopted, with appropriate Connecticut-specific provisions, here in our state. California is the only state which has developed MF mitigation measures that can address the uncertainties raised by the scientific literature and the concerns expressed by the Connecticut legislature. The California no cost/low cost approach that is tied to a 4% spending guideline has been in place since 1993; in 2006 the California authorities reviewed and re-endorsed this approach. The experience and success of California's approach is instrumental in providing a workable example to us in Connecticut; if followed, we will avoid a wasteful process of re-inventing the wheel. Developing a Connecticut BMP based upon an approach that works elsewhere will build confidence in the process for all parties involved, including most importantly the general public.

By leaving out a description and endorsement of the California approach, the current BMP draft is unnecessarily vague. This has the potential to lead to open-ended and adversarial debates about the meaning of the stated no cost/low cost approach. Such debate can be expected to occur at each new power line project. Given that there is no firm MF milligauss target level at the edge of the right of way, it is important for the BMP to include an indication of what is a reasonable level of investment in MF mitigation and what that investment should achieve. Lacking this, the draft BMP described on the bottom of Page 4 (applicant to propose cost effective changes to base design to lower MF levels and provide detailed rationale supporting these measures) lacks targets and specific guidance – what is enough MF mitigation near homes and

schools? By providing a cost basis or design standard gives some definition to the meaning of no cost/low cost (4% of total project costs). In doing so, the Council can lay out a spending range that is a reasonable and prudent guideline to be worked with on a site-specific basis. Applicants can provide written justification as to why spending this much is not warranted in a specific project and, conversely, the applicant, Council staff or other parties can also provide arguments as to why more than 4% may be needed to resolve a particular issue. However, having the normative cost baseline is key mitigation guidance, and one that the Department generally finds suitable. Our conversations with California officials at their Department of Health and Public Utilities Commission have indicated that the 4% guideline has been effective at yielding substantial reductions where they are most needed and mitigated not only MF exposures but also public concerns.

Therefore, the Department of Public Health requests that the Council improve the draft BMP by restoring the language submitted in the January 2007 consensus submittal covering the California no cost/low cost/4% benchmark approach that encompasses how to calculate the 4% benchmark, the target of at least 15% mitigation effectiveness, and the development of a MF Field Management Plan. By endorsing these key aspects of the California approach in Connecticut, we will be taking advantage of what has been learned in a state where MF mitigation has been formalized into a systematic framework that has worked well for the past 15 years.

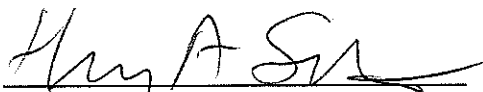
For the reasons set forth above, the Department of Public Health urges the Council to reinstate these key provisions of the original joint proposal between the utilities and the Department, one which faced no objections by all of the expert witnesses heard by the Council in order to assure that the public health and welfare are protected.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry A. Salton", written over a horizontal line.

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