

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCKET NUMBER 2001- 07

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A

20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINT AGAINST

HARTFORD, CT 06106

NORTHEAST UTILITIES

MAY 31, 2001

COMPLAINT

COUNT ONE

1. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Respondent Northeast Utilities ("NU") was a client lobbyist registrant as those terms are defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-91(q) and (u).

2. Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-97(a), NU cannot give to any state employee, public official, or member of his or her staff or immediate family food and drink worth fifty dollars or more in the aggregate in any calendar year.

3. On August 14, 2000, during the National Convention in Los Angeles, the Respondent NU, along with United Technologies Corporation and UDV North America, Inc., paid for a Luncheon honoring the Connecticut Delegation at a restaurant in Santa Monica, California (the "Luncheon"). NU determined that twelve state employees, public officials and/or members of a public official's staff or immediate family attended the Luncheon. Of these twelve reported persons, two reimbursed NU for their share of the cost of the Luncheon.

4. NU was unable to substantiate that the per person cost of the Luncheon was less than the fifty dollar limit allowed by law. Based on the number of people who had responded to the Luncheon invitation, the per person cost was \$54.59.

5. NU's provision of food and drink in excess of the fifty dollar limit violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-97(a).

COUNT TWO

1. Paragraph One of Count One is hereby incorporated as Paragraph One of Count Two.

2. Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-96(a) and (e), a client registrant is required to report all expenditures made for lobbying and in furtherance of lobbying during the time period covered by the report, including, pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §1-92-49(a)(4), an aggregate statement of all expenditures for entertainment (e.g., food and drink) whenever the aggregate exceeds fifty dollars in a calendar year. In addition, each client registrant is required to file an accurate itemized statement of each expenditure of ten dollars or more per person per occasion made by the reporting registrant for the benefit of a public official, a member of his or her staff and /or a member of his or her immediate family.

3. Although NU did provide an itemization of the Luncheon, it relied on an unsubstantiated number of attendees to calculate the per person cost. Therefore, NU cannot establish that the amount reported per person, \$41.39, is accurate.

4. NU also failed to report any portion of the aggregate cost of the event.

5. The failure of NU to file a financial report for the 3-4th quarter of 2000 which accurately reflected these expenditures violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-96.


COUNT THREE

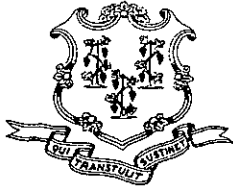
1. Paragraph One of Count One is hereby incorporated as Paragraph One of Count Three.

2. Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-96a(a), a registrant is required to obtain all documents necessary to substantiate the financial reports required by Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-96 for a period of three years from the date of the filing of such reports.

3. NU violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-96a(a) by failing to maintain records to substantiate the financial reporting made in connection with the Luncheon.

5/31/01
Dated


Brenda M. Bergeron
Commission Attorney



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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF A) 20 TRINITY STREET
COMPLAINT AGAINST) HARTFORD, CT 06106
NORTHEAST UTILITIES) JUNE 1, 2001

STIPULATION AND ORDER

1. The Commission finds that the Respondent Northeast Utilities ("NU") violated the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-91 et seq., as alleged in the attached Complaint, dated May 31, 2001.

2. NU states that any violations were the inadvertent result of imperfect record-keeping, in that it obtained a written estimate of the number of persons who attended the Luncheon from the organizer of the event, and relied on that estimate of 300 persons to calculate a per person cost of the Luncheon that was below the legal limit. NU, however, was subsequently unable to substantiate the number of attendees to the satisfaction of the Commission.

3. NU waives any rights it may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-93, 1-93a, 1-98 and 1-80, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c).

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent agree to settle this matter in the manner described below:

1. The Ethics Commission orders, and NU agrees to pay to the Commission, a civil penalty of \$3000 within thirty days, and henceforth to commit no further violations of the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists.
2. The Ethics Commission orders and NU agrees to submit to the Commission within thirty days, an accurate amended financial report for the 3-4th Quarter of 2000.

Margaret L. Morton V.P.
Respondent Northeast Utilities
By: MARGARET L. MORTON, V.P.

5/31/01
Date

Rosemary Giuliano
Rosemary Giuliano, Chairperson
State Ethics Commission

1 JUNE 01
~~31 MAY 01~~
Date