

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3
4 Docket No. 508

5 The United Illuminating Company (UI) application
6 for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility
7 and Public Need for the Milvon to West River
8 Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project
9 that consists of the relocation and rebuild of its
10 existing 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission
11 lines from the railroad catenary structures to new
12 steel monopole structures and related
13 modifications to facilitate interconnection of the
14 rebuilt 115-kV electric transmission lines at UI's
15 existing Milvon, Woodmont, Allings Crossing,
16 Elmwest and West River substations along
17 approximately 9.5 miles of the Connecticut
18 Department of Transportation's Metro-North
19 Railroad corridor traversing the municipalities of
20 Milford, Orange, West Haven and New Haven,
21 Connecticut.

22 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

23
24 Public Comment Session held on Thursday,
25 April 28, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
via remote access.

H e l d B e f o r e:

JOHN MORISSETTE, Presiding Officer

Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2
3 **Council Members:**

4 **KENNETH COLLETTE, Designee for Commissioner**
5 **Katie Dykes, Department of Energy and**
6 **Environmental Protection**

7 **QUAT NGUYEN, Designee for Chairman Marissa**
8 **Paslick Gillett, Public Utilities Regulatory**
9 **Authority**

10 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**
11 **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**
12 **LOUANNE COOLEY**
13 **MARK QUINLAN**

14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**
16 **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

17 **MICHAEL PERRONE**
18 **Siting Analyst**

19 **LISA FONTAINE**
20 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

21 **For the Applicant, The United Illuminating**
22 **Company:**

23 **MURTHA CULLINA LLP**
24 **One Century Tower**
25 **265 Church Street, 9th Floor**
 New Haven, Connecticut 06510-1220
 BY: BRUCE McDERMOTT, ESQ.

26 **For Party, City of Milford:**

27 **HURWITZ, SAGARIN, SLOSSBERG & KNUFF, LLC**
28 **147 North Broad Street**
29 **New Milford, Connecticut 06460**
30 **BY: JOHN W. KNUFF, ESQ.**

1 MR. MORISSETTE: This remote public
2 hearing is called to order this Thursday, April
3 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. My name is John
4 Morissette, member and presiding officer of the
5 Connecticut Siting Council.

6 Other members of the Council are
7 Kenneth Collette, designee for Commissioner Katie
8 Dykes of the Department of Energy and
9 Environmental Protection, Quat Nguyen, designee
10 for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public
11 Utilities Regulatory Authority, Robert Silvestri,
12 Louanne Cooley, and Mark Quinlan.

13 Members of the staff are Melanie
14 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
15 Michael Perrone, siting analyst; Lisa Fontaine,
16 fiscal administrative officer.

17 If you haven't done so already, I ask
18 that everyone please mute their computer audio and
19 their telephones now.

20 This is a continuation of the remote
21 public hearing that began at 2nd p.m. this
22 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
23 available on the Council's Docket Number 508
24 webpage, along with the record of this matter, the
25 public hearing notice, instructions for public

1 access to this remote public hearing, and the
2 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
3 Procedures.

4 This hearing is held pursuant to the
5 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
6 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
7 Procedure Act upon an application from The United
8 Illuminating Company for a Certificate of
9 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
10 the Milvon to West River Railroad Transmission
11 Line 115-kV Rebuild Project that consists of the
12 relocation and rebuild of its existing
13 115-kilovolt electric transmission lines from the
14 railroad catenary structures to the new steel
15 monopole structures and related modifications to
16 facilitate interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV
17 electric transmission lines at UI's existing
18 Milvon, Woodmont, Allings Crossing, Elmwest and
19 West River Substations along the approximately 9.5
20 miles of the Connecticut Department of
21 Transportation's Metro-North Railroad corridor
22 traversing the municipalities of Milford, Orange,
23 West Haven and New Haven, Connecticut. This
24 application was received by the Council on
25 February 28, 2022.

1 The Council's legal notice of the date
2 and time of this remote public hearing was
3 published in The New Haven Register on March 26,
4 2022. Upon this Council's request, the applicant
5 erected signs at conspicuous locations along the
6 route so as to inform the public of the name of
7 the applicant, the type of facility, the remote
8 public hearing date, and contact information for
9 the Council, including the website and phone
10 number.

11 The locations of the signs are as
12 follows: The Milford Train Station located at 1
13 Railroad Avenue in Milford.

14 The intersection of Marsh Hill Road and
15 Metro-North Railroad in Orange.

16 The UI operations building located at
17 100 Marsh Hill Road in Orange.

18 The West Haven Train Station located at
19 20 Railroad Avenue in West Haven.

20 And the West River Substation located
21 at 255 Ella T. Grasso Boulevard, also known as
22 Route 10, in New Haven.

23 This public comment session is reserved
24 for the public to make brief statements into the
25 record. These public statements are not subject

1 to questions from the parties or the Council, and
2 members of the public making statements may not
3 ask questions of the parties or the Council.

4 These public statements will become part of the
5 record for the Council's consideration. Please be
6 advised that written comments may be submitted by
7 any person within 30 days of this public hearing.

8 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
9 communication with a member of the Council or a
10 member of the Council's staff upon the merits of
11 this application is prohibited by law.

12 I wish to note that parties and
13 intervenors, including their representatives,
14 witnesses and members, are not allowed to
15 participate in the public comment session. I also
16 wish to note for those who are listening and for
17 the benefit of your friends and families who are
18 unable to join us for this remote public comment
19 session that you or they may send written
20 comments, written statements to the Council within
21 30 days of the date hereof by mail or by email,
22 and such written statements will be given the same
23 weight as if spoken at the remote public hearing
24 session itself. Please be advised that any person
25 may be removed from the Zoom remote public comment

1 session at the discretion of the Council.

2 We ask that each person making public
3 statements in this proceeding to confine his or
4 her statements to the subject matter before the
5 Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition so
6 that we may hear all of the concerns you and your
7 neighbors may have. Please be advised that the
8 Council cannot answer questions from the public
9 about the proposal.

10 A verbatim transcript of this remote
11 public hearing will be posted on the Council's
12 Docket No. 508 webpage and deposited at the City
13 Clerk's Office of the Milford, New Haven and West
14 Haven City Halls and the Town Clerk's Office of
15 the Orange Town Hall for the convenience of the
16 public.

17 Please be advised that the Council's
18 project evaluation criteria under the statute does
19 not include consideration of property values.

20 Before I call on members of the public
21 to make statements, I request the applicant to
22 make a very brief description to the public
23 describing the project. And I believe Mr. Crosbie
24 will be doing that.

25 Mr. Crosbie.

1 MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Morissette, thank you
2 very much. Good evening, members of the
3 Connecticut Siting Council, elected officials and
4 the public attending the meeting. I want to start
5 off by providing some information related to UI's
6 Milvon to West River Transmission Line Rebuild
7 Project along the Connecticut DOT corridor, give
8 some background, provide some detail about the
9 project and some other information relative to the
10 project.

11 Some history related to the railroad
12 corridor. The corridor is owned by Connecticut
13 DOT, and railroad catenaries were built within
14 that corridor in the 1910s. In the 1940s, UI
15 installed its infrastructure along that same
16 corridor at 69,000 volts and in 1980 it upgraded
17 its facilities to 115,000 volts. To date, UI has
18 conducted and completed five transmission line
19 rebuilds within this same corridor between New
20 Haven and Fairfield. This is the sixth of a total
21 of seven legs of the project. There will be one
22 further to do.

23 In 2018, UI completed an engineering
24 study between New Haven and Fairfield that showed
25 due to aging infrastructure and deterioration of

1 UI's facilities an upgrade to their facilities
2 were needed to meet current National Electric
3 Safety Code standards along with grid capacity
4 needs allowing it to withstand certain weather
5 conditions such as wind load for category 3
6 scenarios.

7 Within this engineering study UI also
8 evaluated different options for the infrastructure
9 rebuild which ranged from single circuit to
10 underground facilities. UI, in collaboration with
11 ISO New England, selected that the double circuit
12 monopoles for this leg of our project was the most
13 prudent solution to meet the transmission system
14 needs from a reliability, risk and cost
15 perspective. The project will provide efficient
16 electricity to not only UI's 350,000 customers but
17 also add resiliency to the region.

18 In 2019, UI gained approval from the
19 Regional Transmission Organization, ISO New
20 England, under its proposed plan application for
21 work between New Haven and Fairfield inclusive of
22 this segment between New Haven to Milford. UI has
23 also submitted a municipal consultation filing to
24 each one of the municipalities along the way, the
25 Connecticut Siting Council, and also as we're here

1 tonight for the application submitted in February
2 of 2022.

3 The project consists of approximately
4 158 double circuit monopole structures constructed
5 primarily on the north side of the tracks. Some
6 structures will be installed on the south side of
7 the tracks to accommodate the current substation
8 alignments. The linear distance of the project is
9 approximately 9.5 miles, and it goes through four
10 towns along the way. Those towns, starting from
11 east to west, are New Haven, West Haven, Orange
12 and Milford. All the proposed construction work
13 is predominantly within the existing Connecticut
14 DOT corridor.

15 Project work and construction is being
16 designed to be segmented between each of the five
17 UI substations along the Connecticut DOT corridor.
18 Those substations can be seen on the screen in
19 Figure 1-1. From east to west we have UI's West
20 River Substation by Elmwest Substation, Allings
21 Crossing Substation, Woodmont Substation and
22 finishing to the furthest west substation in UI's
23 territory Milvon Substation located in Milford,
24 Connecticut.

25 Pending the CSC's approval, the final

1 design is anticipated to be completed in 2023.
2 During the course of our design with our
3 engineering team, project team and other
4 supporting departments, we've consulted and
5 performed applicable due diligence with many
6 municipal, state and federal agencies. Some of
7 these state agencies that we've worked with to
8 assist in the design of our project are the
9 Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental
10 Protection. Within that organization we've spoke
11 with the likes of the solid waste division and the
12 water resources related to wetland watercourse
13 impacts. We spoke with the State Historic
14 Preservation Office, the Audubon Society and of
15 course the owner of the corridor, the Connecticut
16 Department of Transportation. A few federal
17 agencies that we've worked with, U.S. Fish and
18 Wildlife, the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S.
19 Coast Guard and the Federal Aviation
20 Administration. During these consultations we've
21 worked with these agencies to help us minimize the
22 environmental impacts and also provide mitigation
23 measures where impacts may occur.

24 If approvals fall into place for UI,
25 the current schedule is to mobilize to perform

1 construction in the summer/fall of 2023. Some
2 activity that the public and municipal officials
3 may see during the construction, sequence of
4 construction work are survey crews, vegetation
5 clearing, E&S, erosion and sediment control, site
6 preparation, access road and work pad, drilling to
7 install our foundations, steel pole erection and
8 conductors.

9 The in-service dates of the four
10 segments will commence in the spring of 2023 and
11 are estimated to be finished in the winter of
12 2027. Following the in-service dates, restoration
13 inspections will be performed by licensed parties
14 to meet certain permit requirements and land
15 access agreements. Once in-service is performed,
16 crews will work to remove the old UI facilities
17 located on both the north and south sides of the
18 Metro-North catenaries located on the bonnets on
19 top of those catenaries.

20 Again, I want to thank the public,
21 members of the Council and elected officials for
22 coming out this evening to learn more about UI's
23 Milvon to West River Transmission Line Rebuild
24 Project, and we look forward to working with you
25 through the life cycle of our project. Thank you

1 very much.

2 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr.
3 Crosbie. Before we continue with the public
4 comment session, just a note on remote public
5 hearings. Remote public hearings are quite
6 different from in-person public hearings. For
7 in-person public hearings members of the public
8 could sign up, step up to the podium and offer
9 their comments. For remote public hearings the
10 public is required to sign up to speak well in
11 advance in order to provide Council staff with the
12 time necessary to facilitate connection
13 precautions to prevent interruptions, or in common
14 terms, bombings of the proceedings. There are
15 protocols, procedures and consistency measures
16 that are followed as part of the remote public
17 hearing process. Written comments may be
18 submitted within 30 days of this public hearing.

19 We will now continue with public
20 comment. We will call on State Representative
21 Frank Smith to make a public statement followed by
22 State Representative Kathy Kennedy.

23 State Representative Smith.

24 REP. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Morissette,
25 and thank the Council for hosting this public

1 hearing. I represent the 118th District of
2 Milford in the House of Representatives, the
3 General Assembly. In fact, I am at the Capitol
4 right now, as is Representative Kennedy, and we
5 are in the midst of voting as we speak here. So
6 we already clicked off at one point here in order
7 to vote, so please bear with us.

8 I (AUDIO INTERRUPTION) this public
9 hearing UI's Milvon to West River transmission
10 line upgrade. Without commenting on the
11 environmental or technical merits of the proposal,
12 which I have every confidence are well founded and
13 probably of some necessity, the configuration of
14 it would be, the monopoles, the size, scope and
15 intrusion that it represents along the railroad
16 corridor and that particular area from West River
17 Street impinges directly on the historic district
18 in the downtown area of Milford.

19 My objection at this point is purely
20 aesthetic, but it is something that I can't
21 understate in terms of its effect on the
22 traditional views, vistas and character of the
23 Town of Milford. Because it is on the railroad
24 corridor, DOT Railroad corridor, it naturally does
25 go through the Old Town, to use an expression, and

1 represents a fairly extensive disfiguration of
2 what we have known and appreciated as residents of
3 Milford. In fact, it is very central to our plan
4 of conservation and development. This particular
5 plan is a large imposition in terms of the scope
6 and the perspective that visitors have and
7 residents of Milford and really require, I feel,
8 further consideration of the necessity and
9 development of perhaps some alternative approaches
10 to it which I understand is not part of the agenda
11 of this meeting.

12 But I do stand in strong opposition to
13 this for the simple reason is that it undermines,
14 and to my way of thinking, and I think I share
15 this with my constituents and neighbors and fellow
16 citizens of Milford, a step in the wrong direction
17 in terms of the aesthetics and the picturesque
18 allure of Milford. These are large, extremely
19 imposing structures and are, as I said, feel to be
20 an imposition on what we understand and expect our
21 town to be in terms of planning for the future and
22 in terms of full enjoyment of our neighborhoods
23 today.

24 And with that, I will submit a written
25 summary with more detail with regard to my

1 objections to the Council in the next few days.
2 And I thank you for your time and indulgence.

3 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, State
4 Representative Smith, and thank you for coming out
5 this evening.

6 We'll now continue with public comments
7 from State Representative Kennedy.

8 REP. KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 It's a pleasure to come before you this evening.
10 I apologize, I am literally in a phone booth
11 because it's the quietest place I can find right
12 now without getting back to the Legislative Office
13 Building. Again, thank you. I am State
14 Representative Kathy Kennedy. I represent the
15 119th District which encompasses parts of Milford
16 and Orange. But I represent all of the residents
17 of -- I come before you because I represent all
18 the residents of Milford and Orange and especially
19 Milford.

20 We have our beautiful historic downtown
21 Milford. We're like a quaint little seaside
22 little town. The train station parallels our
23 downtown. My concern and the reason I come before
24 you is I'm concerned with the impact this project
25 will have on our downtown New Milford.

1 Just a little point of information.
2 Our downtown green has the tallest flag pole in
3 the State of Connecticut at 120 feet. It's my
4 understanding that the lines, stanchions, if
5 that's what they're called, are going to be
6 150-feet tall. I've seen photographs and video of
7 it, and it's quite obtrusive, quite honestly.
8 That's where my first concern lies.

9 I also understand the State Historic
10 Office reached out to you and cited five historic
11 resources in the City of Milford and a little
12 confused when it came back with, well, we're going
13 to protect Charles Island. Well, Charles Island
14 is no where near the downtown area where this
15 proposal is going. It was my understanding that
16 there would be some kind of signage to take away
17 from, but I don't see that. So when you look at
18 your notes, I was just looking at part of your
19 project notes, and that was what I had seen in
20 there.

21 So again, I come to voice my concerns,
22 my strong concerns that you look at this project
23 again and reconsider the size of the stanchions
24 that will be going up 150 feet. I understand that
25 that cuts back on the number that you have to

1 have, that by going small you'd have to have more,
2 there would be more, but I think that really needs
3 to be looked at. As I pictured it, I mean, these
4 150-foot poles are in someone's backyard, and
5 there are a lot of residential areas. We have a
6 very quaint, almost transit-oriented district
7 downtown Milford.

8 And finally, I would just say that I'm
9 just so concerned about the charm of our beautiful
10 downtown Milford and going into Orange. So I ask
11 you to take those, to consider those items that
12 I've stated. And like State Representative Smith,
13 I'll send in my comments in writing to the
14 Council. I did submit my request for testimony a
15 little late, so I really appreciate the indulgence
16 tonight and wish you all the best tonight. So
17 thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, State
19 Representative Kennedy. We appreciate you coming
20 out this evening and providing us with your
21 comments.

22 REP. KENNEDY: Thank you, sir.

23 MR. MORISSETTE: Good evening.

24 REP. KENNEDY: Thank you.

25 MR. MORISSETTE: Very good. That

1 concludes our public comments for this evening.
2 The Council announces that it will continue the
3 evidentiary session of this public hearing on
4 Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 2 p.m., via Zoom remote
5 conferencing. A copy of the agenda for the
6 continued remote evidentiary hearing session will
7 be available on the Council's Docket No. 508
8 webpage, along with the record of this matter, the
9 public hearing notice, instructions for public
10 access to this remote evidentiary hearing session,
11 and the Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
12 Procedures. Please note that anyone who has not
13 become a party or intervenor but who desires to
14 make his or her views known to the Council may
15 file written statements to the Council until the
16 public record closes.

17 Copies of the transcript of this
18 hearing will be filed at the City Clerk's Office
19 of the Milford, New Haven and West Haven City
20 Halls and the Town Clerk's Office of the Orange
21 Town Hall.

22 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned
23 for this evening. Thank you for your
24 participation. Have a good evening. Thank you,
25 everyone.

1 (Whereupon, the public comment session
2 adjourned at 6:54 p.m.)
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 21 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 before the CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL of the
7 REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION IN RE: Docket No.
8 508, The United Illuminating Company (UI)
9 application for a Certificate of Environmental
10 Compatibility and Public Need for the Milvon to
11 West River Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV
12 Rebuild Project that consists of the relocation
13 and rebuild of its existing 115-kilovolt (kV)
14 electric transmission lines from the railroad
15 catenary structures to new steel monopole
16 structures and related modifications to facilitate
17 interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV electric
18 transmission lines at UI's existing Milvon,
19 Woodmont, Allings Crossing, Elmwest and West River
20 substations along approximately 9.5 miles of the
21 Connecticut Department of Transportation's
22 Metro-North Railroad corridor traversing the
23 municipalities of Milford, Orange, West Haven and
24 New Haven, Connecticut, which was held before JOHN
25 MORISSETTE, PRESIDING OFFICER, on April 28, 2022.

Lisa Warner

Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
Court Reporter
BCT REPORTING, LLC
55 WHITING STREET, SUITE 1A
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06062