



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 14, 2023

Stephen Ozyck  
267 South Gate Lane  
Southport, CT 06890  
[sozyck2@gmail.com](mailto:sozyck2@gmail.com)

RE: **DOCKET NO. 516** – The United Illuminating Company (UI) application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public 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 mile of existing UI right-of-way to facilitate interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV electric transmission lines at UI's existing Ash Creek, Resco, Pequonnock and Congress Street Substations traversing the municipalities of Bridgeport and Fairfield, Connecticut.

Dear Stephen Ozyck:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your recent correspondence concerning Docket No. 516.

In reaching a final decision on an application, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the applicant, parties and intervenors in the proceeding, and all of the concerns received from members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

Please note that you can view documents related to this proceeding on our website at [portal.ct.gov/csc](http://portal.ct.gov/csc) under the "Pending Matters" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter. Your letter will be entered in the public comment file related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/MP/laf

c: Council Members

To Whom It May Concern,

July 29, 2023

I am writing to express profound concern and strong opposition to the proposed construction of new monopole power lines in Fairfield, docket 516, along the Metro North Train line. As homeowners in Southport, business owners in Fairfield, commercial real estate proprietors in Fairfield, and dedicated members of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, as well as actively involved members of our community through various volunteer organizations, we hold a deep-rooted stake in the well-being and harmony of our locality.

Undoubtedly, enhancing the reliability and resilience of the power grid is of utmost importance. However, it is equally crucial that such improvements are approached with careful consideration and respect for the welfare of citizens, the environment, and the historical significance of our community. I am profoundly troubled by the apparent corporate-driven approach taken towards this delicate local issue. We are poised to utilize our considerable resources to vehemently oppose the current iteration of this project for several valid reasons outlined below.

1. **Safety Concerns:** Of paramount importance is the safety of our children and grandchildren who frequently play near our property. The potential health implications of increased exposure to EMF (electromagnetic fields) have not been adequately studied, casting doubt on the assurance of safety. Moreover, the proximity of herbicides and pesticides to private properties where children engage in outdoor activities raises legitimate concerns about potentially life-altering consequences.
2. **Inadequate Hurricane Preparedness:** The resilience of the proposed poles, designed to withstand only a Category 3 hurricane, is deeply unsettling. Given the escalating impacts of climate change, including the heightened likelihood of more powerful storms such as Category 4 and 5 hurricanes, the potential devastation posed by a fallen pole along the line cannot be underestimated. The ramifications for nearby homes and even Metro North itself, not to mention the potential loss of lives, are deeply troubling.
3. **Environmental Impact:** United Illuminating appears to dismiss the significant environmental repercussions associated with the construction of these power lines, installation of massive poles, and the increased use of herbicides and pesticides for corridor maintenance. Neglecting the potential effects on wetlands, bird nesting, migration patterns, and other environmental aspects is a grave oversight. The proven links between pesticide usage and cancer, leading to multi-billion-dollar settlements, highlight the gravity of this concern.
4. **Community Integrity:** The proposed monopoles threaten to irreparably mar the historical charm of the Village of Southport, the scenic allure of Southport Beach, and the overall aesthetic appeal of Fairfield. The visual character of our community stands as a compelling reason why countless residents have chosen to establish their homes here. Disregarding the impact of unsightly power lines could trigger a substantial decline in property values. As both a resident and business owner, I find the lack of sensitivity towards this issue deeply disheartening.

Regrettably, the approach taken by United Illuminating appears to transfer costs by implementing a cost-effective yet less resilient and insensitive project onto the shoulders of residents. This shifting of burden exacts a toll on homeowners, businesses, public health, and the environment, including our local wildlife. It is disheartening that more thoughtful consideration was not devoted to the planning of this project. We are resolute in our commitment to exhaust all available resources to halt and prevent the advancement of this ill-conceived endeavor.

Respectfully,

*Stephen Oyzek*

Stephen Oyzek 267 South Gate Lane Southport CT 06890 Cell 203-257-1519